

IMPROVING YOUR GAME

What?! **More** tips?! Yes, indeed! I will be writing a few more upcoming articles on ways to make your awesome game even more awesome.

1. **Use Court or Tennis shoes.** At the Villages, this is a requirement, even for our guest players. If you're not wearing the proper kind of shoe, then you're at risk for rolling your ankle, or worse! Don't risk it. The right shoes will protect you and the court surface and there are benefits in terms of traction and footwork.
2. **The kitchen rules concern volleys only.** Kitchen rules can be confusing. The kitchen rules do **not** apply to groundstrokes.... only to volleys. If the ball has bounced, the kitchen rule is no longer in play.... meaning you can step in the kitchen to return the ball.
3. **Don't get angry on the court.** It's easy to become super passionate about pickleball. But occasionally players let that passion turn south. If anger and frustration come bursting out of you, there are negative outcomes: It doesn't help you any and it makes the other players uncomfortable.
4. **Don't forget to laugh.** For some players, playing is all about **winning**, which is ok...but don't let it get in the way with what's important at Villages Pickleball. Our pickleball here has the effect of bringing people together for community-building and good old-fashioned fun. **Have fun!!**
5. **Hit to their feet.** In the wonderful world of pickleball, nothing is more difficult than returning a ball hit to your feet. So, if you have the opportunity, aim for the feet.
6. **Play to the percentages.** Only use the shots that you're the most comfortable with. For example, the success rate of a crazy spin shot aimed for the kitchen sideline may be 10%. But a simple dink up the middle is probably around 85%. Go for high percentage!

That's all for now! Have a happy week!

It was wonderful to see so many members play in and watch at our first Drop-In Pickleball event last Friday!

Members: please check our YourCourts website to sign up for the May 21 (9 am-6 pm) Tournament. Members can also sign up to come and watch.