

## MORE TIPS TO IMPROVE YOUR GAME

“I really want to improve my game!! More tips, please!” Well, OK, then...here you are.

1. SERVE DEEP. This does two things
  - a. It keeps your opponent away from the kitchen line
  - b. It makes their return serve shot harder because it's further away.
2. RETURN SERVES as deep as possible.
3. DON'T BE A VICTIM OF THE PICKLEBALL PANICS. It's easy to lose control over your body when you play. We've all been there. To help with this, *focus on your footwork*. When you panic, your feet tend to shut down. Keep your feet relaxed!
4. ALWAYS BE READY. What do infield baseball players look like when the pitch is being thrown? They're not standing up straight with their hands at their sides! They're crouching slightly with their glove and hands ready. Do the same in Pickleball. It doesn't really matter how you do it, but just getting in your stance is important.
5. MAKE SURE YOU STRETCH. It will help you prevent injury and help you on the court.
6. BLOCK POWER SHOTS THE RIGHT WAY. If your opponent sends the ball screaming over the net, stop the power shot by NOT swinging at it. Instead, stick your paddle out and just let it collide. It works! 😊
7. KNOW THE RULES, at least the non-obvious ones. For example, did you know that touching the net is a fault? Or that it's also a fault if you and your partner disagree on a line call on your side of the court?
8. IF THE BALL GOES OUT, SAY IT QUICKLY! It's not just common courtesy, but it's a rule as well. When you're judging whether a ball is in or out, you have to make your judgement nearly instantly. (OOPS, yours truly is guilty of not doing this) Make sure you say it LOUDLY so all can hear you. “OUT!”

**MEMBERS:** Please sign up online for our fun May 21 - May 22 tournament! Have a great week and keep smiling!!