

# THINK DIGNITY

## PICKLEBALL SKILL RUBRIC

**Tournament Date:** Sunday, June 28, 2026

**Location:** Coronado Cays Park, Coronado



	<b>ADVANCED BEGINNER / LOW INTERMEDIATE</b>	<b>INTERMEDIATE</b>	<b>ADVANCED</b>
<b>Serve</b>	Consistent underhand serve, mostly in play	Consistent, purposeful placement; occasionally adds spin	High-percentage serve with spin, depth, and placement
<b>Return</b>	Returns land in play but are usually not deep or directional	Returns land deep with some directional intent; transitions smoothly to the NVZ after most returns	Return is consistently deep, angled, or targeted at feet; reaches NVZ after every return
<b>Groundstrokes</b>	Forehand more reliable than backhand; can sustain short rallies at medium pace	Both forehand and backhand are reliable; handles medium to fast pace	Both sides are powerful, accurate, and consistent; controls pace, spin, and trajectory
<b>Dinking</b>	Understands the kitchen rule and can engage in brief dink exchanges; often pops the ball up unintentionally	Comfortable in extended dink rallies; controls depth and angle; recognizes and attacks pop-ups from opponents	Patient and precise; manipulates the kitchen rally to create attackable opportunities; rarely gives up unforced errors
<b>Net Play</b>	Reaches the NVZ inconsistently; struggles with resets and volleys under pressure; prone to unforced errors at the net	Executes resets under moderate pressure	Reliably executes speed-ups, rolls, resets, and ATPs; comfortable in fast-paced NVZ exchanges
<b>Strategy</b>	Aware of the third shot concept but execution is inconsistent; play is mostly reactive	Executes third shot drop somewhat consistently; understands transition zone and constructs points with purpose	Reads play and anticipates opponents; controls tempo; adapts game plan mid-match based on opponent tendencies
<b>Movement &amp; Court Sense</b>	Reactive footwork; limited court coverage; beginning to understand positioning relative to partner	Communicates and covers with partner; anticipates some opponent shots	Seamless partner coordination; elite footwork; rarely out of position or caught in the transition zone

Think Dignity's second annual Dink for Dignity Tournament is proudly sponsored by Elevate Commercial.

