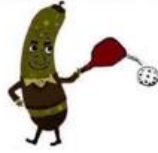


PICKLEBALL



Pickle's Tip of the Month – 5 ***Cut Down on Your Mistakes!***

If you have watched any pickle ball on You Tube, you will see the same unforced errors we all make. Even the best 5.0 players in the country put shots into the net...out of bounds deep or on either side...serves and return of serves...just like you and me! The only difference between a 3.5 or 4.0 player and a 5.0 player is the 5.0 players make very few unforced errors! While you and I are running around the court trying to hit that winner shot, the 5.0 players are focused on playing safe and not making a mistake...waiting for the opponent to make a mistake first.

I've said it many times and I'll say it again, ***"Find time to drill or practice your shots!"*** Even if it is 15 to 20 minutes before you play, pick a shot or two and practice that shot over and over and over.

You can try to practice while playing a game...it's tough but it can be done. Begin by deciding that *"This game I'm not going to worry about the score, I am going to work on (pick a shot)"*. Maybe it's your serve, or return of serve...it might be your backhand. Work on it for that game, and then the next game play to win. Try it a few times and if you see improvement on that shot, try another one in future games.

Another way to improve your play while playing a game is to identify the stronger and weaker opponents you are playing. If you want to improve your play, hit as many balls as possible to the stronger player. Do it enough games and it will help to make you a better player. Of course, if your goal is to win the game, hit as many balls to the weaker player.

Remember the better you play, the longer your games last, and you'll have a lot more fun, win or lose!