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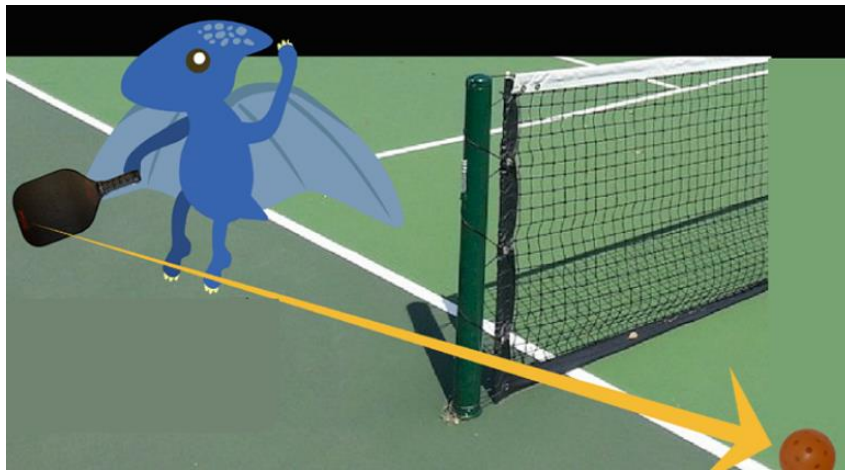
OMG Play Tips

Around the Post Shot (the ATP)

You're dinking with your opponents, and they swing you out wide. You hit a shot that goes around the post—not over the net. The ball lands inbounds on your opponents' side of the court, and your opponents cannot hit it. Is this a legal shot?

Yes, it is a legal shot. It is called the "around the post" shot (or ATP shot).

The "around-the-post" opportunity frequently presents itself in pickleball during sharp-angle dink rallies when the ball can be struck beyond the sideline. As the ball drops from its apex (its peak), it continues to move away from the court and creates a better angle for the around the post shot.



So, here is how to hit an around the post shot:

[1] First, you must allow the ball to get wide enough outside of the court before attempting this shot. This occurs after receiving a very wide crosscourt dink from your opponent.

[2] Let the ball ascend before hitting it, hitting it as low as 2 inches off the ground. Do not hit the ball at the apex of the bounce. The longer you wait to take the ball, the easier it will be to hit the ball around the post.

[3] Push the ball around the net post and down the line.

Try hitting the around the post shot. You'll likely be surprised how easy it can be executed during sharp angle dink rallies.

Watch these videos on how to hit the around the post shot.

- Click here to view the video by Mark Renneson from Third Shot Sports.
- Click here to view the video by Brian Staub from PoachPB.
- Click here to view PrimeTime Pickleball's video.

Remember, if you dink someone wide, you may be a victim of the ATP.