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## Percentage Pickleball

OMG  
Play Tips

It is a statistical fact that errors rather than outright winners determine the outcome of pickleball matches. That is why we need to learn to play the percentages when we play pickleball. Percentage Pickleball is:

1. **Not making mistakes,**
2. **Never over hitting,**
3. **Being under control,**
4. **Being patient; and**
5. **Being in the right place at the right time.**



These five points all have one thing in common. They're all about you—what you have to do to be successful. Not one point addresses how your opponents are playing.

Number 1 on the list, **not making mistakes**, really is the most crucial point of all. The team that makes the least number of mistakes is almost always, percentage-wise, the team that is going to win.

If not making mistakes is the most important point in winning, what can you do to prevent mistakes from happening? You must recognize and understand that making mistakes begins and ends by always getting and keeping the ball in play. And...you must recognize your **first two opponents**—which, by the way, are not the people across the net from you.

Your first opponent is the **NET**. You must get the ball over the net. If you don't, you have zero chance of winning the point. Even getting the ball too high over the net is far better than not at all. The next time you try to get your drop shot "too close to the net", it's not worth it!

Your next opponent is the **COURT** itself, or more precisely, the **LINES**. Not making mistakes means keeping the ball **INSIDE** the lines. Going for the lines is not Percentage Pickleball.

**Here's a great tip! Shrink the court by 18 inches all around. What is meant by that? Never aim for a line because you only have 2 inches for error (the lines are 2 inches wide). Instead, aim for 18 inches inside all lines. This way you have 20 inches for error.**

Knowing your two primary opponents—the net and the lines—will add considerably to your winning percentage!

**Never miss these two shots—the serve & the return of serve!**