

Introduction



Reaching the 3.5 level in pickleball is a big milestone.

Some may think it's just a number and doesn't reflect a strong player—but a 3.5 player is considered an *advanced intermediate*.

You understand the rules very well, know the core strategies for attacking, defending, and

court positioning, and have a solid sense of when to use each shot. You communicate with your partner and avoid many of the common mistakes seen at lower levels.

You've moved beyond just hitting the ball back—you're playing with purpose. Your game is a mix of power and intentional soft play. You see the court well and understand how to attack and defend through smart positioning and shot selection.

You're even starting to use more advanced tactics like stacking, resetting, and switching.

At this level, you may not be executing everything as consistently as you'd like, but you understand the game.

Now, moving forward isn't about learning what to do or what to avoid—it's about bridging the gap between what you know and how you execute.

This guide will help you reach the 3.5 level if you aren't quite there yet. And if you are, it will reinforce what you've learned and highlight the areas to focus on as you continue advancing.

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