Special Olympics Pickleball Assessment

*All athletes and Unified partners must submit assessment scores with tournament registration.

The Special Olympics Pickleball Assessment consists of five tasks: Serve, Return of Serve, Volley, Rally and Dink Rally. There are two assessments: Singles Assessment and Doubles Assessment. Points from each task will be totaled and assessment information will be used in the divisioning process for fair and equitable competition.

A. Courts: Full Court 44' x 20'; All athletes and Unified partners (player(s)) will be assessed on the full court. Scoring results will dictate the appropriate level assignment in which the athlete/UP should be placed.

B. Equipment: Pickleball court, two paddles, individual assessment sheets, clip board and pencil, 18 Level balls; 18 Competition Ball

C. Roles: Recorder, Feeder, Competitor

D. Assessed Tasks
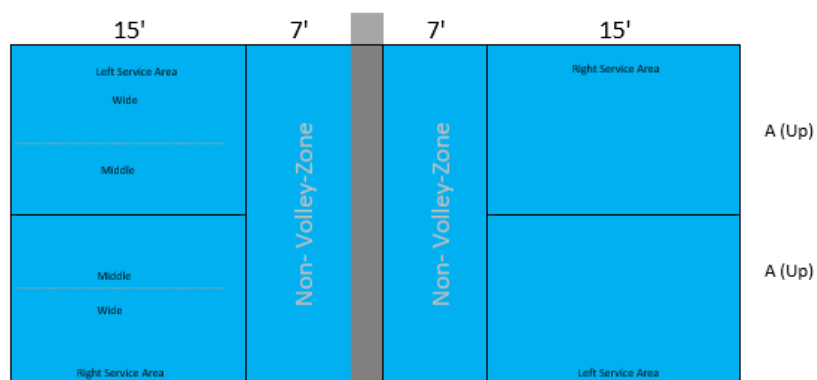
1. **Serve**: *Applicable for both Singles and Doubles Assessments*
   - The player(s) stands behind the baseline beginning on the Right Side
   - Each Service Area has two Target Zones: Wide & Middle
   - First player serves 4 balls from the Right Service Area baseline: 2 Wide & 2 Middle
   - Second, the player serves 4 balls from the Left Service Area baseline: 2 Wide & 2 Middle
   - The serve must be **diagonal** underhand serve with paddle below the waist and no higher than the highest part of the wrist
   - Serves may be hit out of the server's opposite hand or dropped (not thrown downward) from any height and hit after the ball bounces; **Accommodations for serving can be made should a competitor be restricted to the use of one hand/arm.*
   - Balls landing in the correct Target area receive 2 points or 1 point for landing in the correct Service Area
   - If player steps on or over the baseline, it is considered a foot fault and shall receive 0 points
   - Balls landing in the Non-Volley Zone shall receive 0 points
   - A missed attempt is 0 points and will not be replayed unless it was a let serve
   - Served balls landing on a line shall be considered good **except Non-Volley Zone line**
   - Coach or volunteer demonstrates the serve for Level 1 & 2
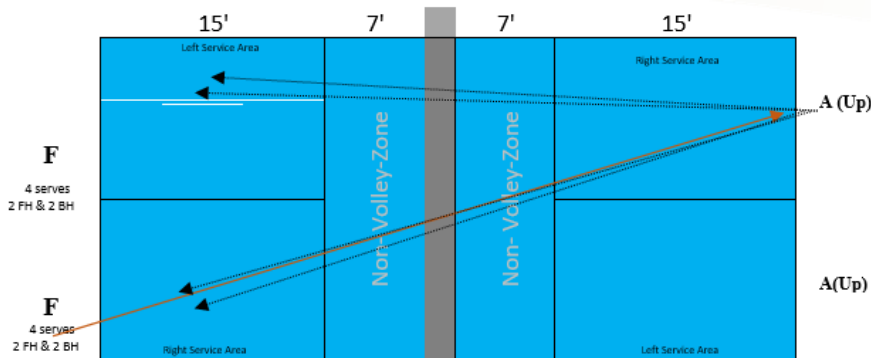
2. **Return of Serve**: *Applicable for both Singles and Doubles Assessments*
   - The Feeder/Server, using Competition balls, *stand opposite side of the diagonally across from the competitor* and shall serve 4 balls to the Right Service box – *(2 balls to the Forehand (FH) side and 2 balls to the Backhand (BH) side.*
   - The player stands in the vicinity of the baseline of the Right Service Area to return serve (4 attempts).
   - The player returns the ball alternately FH Cross Court – FH Down the Line – BH Cross Court – BH Down the Line.
   - **The point is not played out.**
   - The same process is repeated to the Left Service Box.
   - The player returns the ball alternately FH Court – FH Down the Line – BH Cross Court – BH Down the Line
   - 2 points are scored if ball lands in directed area or 1 point if the return of serve that lands over the net and within the court boundaries
   - The server's pace of serve should be appropriate for the players level.

3. **Volleys**:
   A. Singles Assessment
   - The player receives 8 volley attempts
   - The player stands 1 meter behind the Non-Volley Line near the center line.
   - The feeder stands on opposite side of net, on or near baseline with a basket of Competition balls
   - Feeder paddle feeds groundstrokes to athlete and the athlete volleys return toward target area in the following progression
     - 1 forehand cross court
     - 1 backhand cross court
     - 1 forehand down the line
     - 1 backhand down the line
     - 1 forehand cross court
     - 1 backhand down the line
     - 1 forehand down the line
     - 1 backhand cross court
   - Any ball landing on a line is considered good
   - If the feeder makes an error in feeding, the feeder is allowed only one volley refeed per athlete.
   - A missed attempt (swing and miss, ball out of bounds, stepping on or over the non-volley line) shall receive **0** points.

- Scoring: 2 points if ball lands in target area or 1 point if the ball lands inbounds over the net.

B. Doubles Assessment

- Each doubles player receives 8 volley attempts each (4 in Right Service Area and 4 in Left Service Area).
- Double Teams may choose which side they will volley from.
- The players stand 1 meter behind the No-Volley Line. One in the Left Service Area and one in the Right Service Area.
- The feeder stands on opposite side of net, on or near baseline with a basket of Competition balls
- Feeder **alternates** paddle fed groundstrokes to first player in Right Service Area
  - o 1 forehand cross court   Right Service Area
  - o 1 backhand cross court   Right Service Area
  - o 1 forehand cross court   Left Service Area
  - o 1 backhand cross court   Left Service Area
  - o 1 forehand down the line   Right Service Area
  - o 1 backhand down the line   Right Service Area
  - o 1 forehand down the line   Left Service Area
  - o 1 backhand down the line   Left Service Area
- Player 1 volleys the return toward target area
- *Player 2 repeats above progression.*
- Any ball landing on a line is considered good.
- If the feeder makes an error in feeding, the feeder is allowed only one volley refeed per athlete.
- A missed attempt (swing and miss, ball out of bounds, stepping on or over the non-volley line) shall receive 0 points.
- Scoring: 2 points if ball lands in target area or 1 point if the ball lands inbounds over the net.

4. **Rally**: *(8 attemps) Singles Shown*

Full court 44' x 20'

| 15' | 7' | 7' | 15' |

Singles Shown
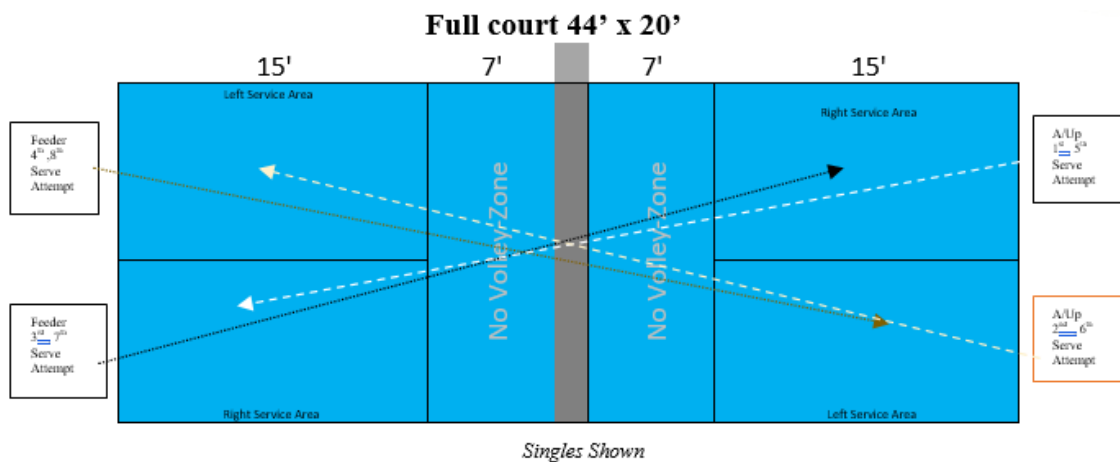
Singles & Unified Doubles

- Player serves the 1st and diagonally from behind Right Service Area baseline.
- The two-bounce rule is in effect. *(When the ball is served, the receiving team must let it bounce before returning, and then the serving team must let it bounce before returning, thus two bounces.)*
- If the two-bounce rule is not fulfilled, athlete receives 0 points for that attempt
- After the two-bounce rule is fulfilled, every hit thereafter counts until an error is made, ending the rally
    - Player serves, after the ball bounces, the receiver (Feeder) returns the ball.
    - The player must let the ball bounce before hitting the returned ball
    - After the player hits the returned ball, rally shall continue, with each hit counting until an error *(out of bounds, missed ball, etc.)* is made.
    - Score is recorded *(See table below)*
- The player then serves the 2nd ball from behind the Left Service Area baseline
- Subsequent attempts follow the same rally pattern

Singles Attempt	Server	Serve Side	Receive Side	Doubles Attempt	Server	Serve Side	Receive Side
1st	A	Right	Right	1st	A1/Up	Right	Right
2nd	A	Left	Left	2nd	A1(Up1)	Left	Left
3rd	Feeder	Right	Right	3rd	Feeder1	Right	Right
4th	Feeder	Left	Left	4th	Feeder1	Left	Left
5th	A	Right	Right	5th	A2(Up2)	Right	Right
6th	A	Left	Left	6th	A2(Up2)	Left	Left
7th	Feeder	Right	Right	7th	Feeder2	Right	Right
8th	Feeder	Left	Left	8th	Feeder2	Left	Left

Scoring

# Hits per attempt (continuous)	Score Recorded
0	0
1	1
2-3	2
4-5	3
6+	4

**Scoring:** *See scoresheet for rally details*
- All balls must land inbounds.
- Stepping on or over the baseline on serve is a fault = 0 pts
- Stepping on or over the Non-Volley Line before the ball bounce in the NVZ= 0pts

Doubles/Unified
- Athletes (Up) will switch sides after 4 rallies. *See chart above*
- Each rally is considered a team score, so each athlete (Up) will get the same rally assessment score.

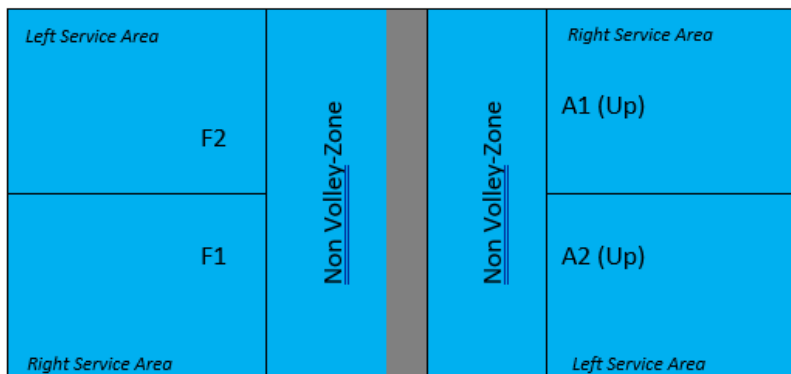**5. Dink Rally**: *(8 attempts)*

Singles
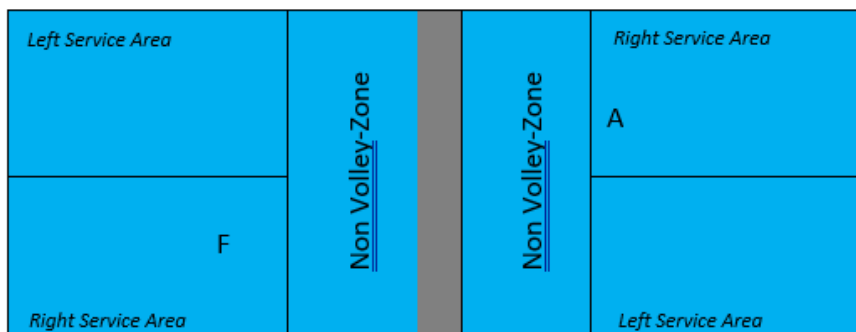
- Goal: See how many consecutive dink hits are made per attempt
- All players begin 3' behind the Non-Volley Line on opposite sides of the net first on the Right Service area *(A his to F)*
- Player and feeder will each begin 4 rallies for a total of 8 attempts *(See chart below)*
- Player's 1st attempt is from Right Service are and for the 2nd attempt, athlete moves to the Left Service Area (See chart below)
- Each ball is started with a drop hit over the net *(ball is dropped, the ball bounces and then hit with underhand motion).*
- After the ball is in play, ball may bounce anywhere within the Non-Volley Zone.
- Errors:
  - Ball bounces in NVZ on drop hit   0 pts recorded
  - Either person steps on or over the NVL before rally is begun   0 pts recorded
  - Ball bounces outside of the Non-Volley Zone   Rally ends
  - Any player volleys the ball instead of letting the ball bounce   Rally ends

o   Any player steps on the NVL, when not hitting the bounced ball Rally ends

Singles Attempt	Starter	Start Area	Receive Area	Doubles Attempt	Starter	Start Area	Receive Area
1st	A	Right	Right	1st	A1(Up)	Right	Right
2nd	A	Left	Left	2nd	A2(Up)	Left	Left
3rd	Feeder	Right	Right	3rd	Feeder1	Right	Right
4th	Feeder	Left	Left	4th	Feeder2	Left	Left
5th	A	Right	Right	5th	A2(Up)	Right	Right
6th	A	Left	Left	6th	A1(Up)	Left	Left
7th	Feeder	Right	Right	7th	Feeder2	Right	Right
8th	Feeder	Left	Left	8th	Feeder1	Left	Left

Doubles

- Goal: See how many consecutive dink hits are made per attempt
- All players begin 3' behind the Non-Volley Line on opposite sides of the net *(see diagram)*
- Players (A/UP) and feeders will each begin 2 rallies for a total of 8 attempts *(See chart page 11)*
- After 4 Dink Rallies, players switch Service Areas with their partner
- Player 1 starts ball from Right Service Area diagonally toward Feeder 1
- Each ball is started with a drop hit over the net *(ball is dropped, the ball bounces and then hit with underhand motion).*
- Rally continues until an error is made
- Player 2 (Up) starts 2nd attempt from the Left Service Area (See chart page 11)

- After the ball is in play, the ball may bounce anywhere within the Non-Volley Zone and any player may hit the ball.

- Errors:
  - Ball bounces in NVZ on drop hit   0 pts recorded
  - Any player steps on or over the NVL before rally is begun   0 pts recorded
  - Ball bounces outside of the Non-Volley Zone   Rally ends
  - Any player volleys the ball, instead of letting the ball bounce   Rally ends
  - Any player steps on the NVL, when not hitting the bounced ball   Rally ends

Scoring: *See scoresheet for rally details*

# Hits per attempt (continuous)	Score Recorded
0	0
1	1
2-3	2
4-5	3
6+	4

Doubles/Unified:

- Each rally is considered a team score, so each player will get the same rally assessment score

E. Assessment Scoring Scale Table

*Total scores chart allows for variance in players skills scoring.

Levels	Rally	Volleys	Serves	Return of Serves	Dink Rally	Mobility	Total Score
ISC	0-2	0-2	0-2	0-2	0-2	0-2	0-15
1 Indoor Ball	3-8	3-5	3-5	3-5	3-8	3-4	18-35
2 Indoor Ball	9-16	6-8	6-8	6-8	9-16	5-7	41-65
3 Competition Ball	17-21	9-12	9-12	9-12	17-21	7-9	68-87
4 Competition Ball	25-32	13-16	13-16	13-16	25-32	9-42	98-154+