

| Tips for the "C" and "B" Players – submitted by Pete Scondras Sr.

When to take the non-aggressive (smart) shot.

When you're receiving the serve and have a **"difficult"** shot. Make your opponent earn the point during the rally. Don't give it away. Keep the ball in play and let your opponent make the mistake. How? Example: Your opponent hits a good drive serve to your backhand or forehand - But you feel you can return it.

DON'T go for the low percentage pinch or kill. Go for a cross-court or down the line pass. Why? By selecting these shots you must hit the ball higher, avoiding the dreaded "skip" and ending the rally. The down the line shot should bounce just after the short line and well before the receiving line without hitting the side wall. This shot is hard to get, hopefully passing them or making your opponent hit the ball off the back wall. This shot must be practiced and is not beyond a C or B player. Stand a foot or two from the side wall, and about 3 feet from the back wall. Hit the ball about a foot high off the front wall. See where the ball lands on the first bounce. Depending on how hard you hit the ball, you'll have to adjust the height to your satisfaction to it lands between the short and receiving lines. Try not to let the ball bounce off the back wall if possible. If it does come off the back wall, it shouldn't be by much and be a tough shot for a "C" or "B" player. Basically, the cross-court shot should be hit at least 1 foot high and in the middle of the court to create the pass.

Important - Even during the rally these shots should be used.

Question – You're receiving the ball, you get into the rally and have a setup. What do you do? The setup is not the **"difficult"** shot. You must practice the kill first in this situation. But if you feel off balance, use the pass.

When to hit a ceiling ball

Whenever you're in doubt. Whenever you're moving backwards to return a ceiling shot. It's as easy as that. As a C or even B player, you should have the basics on how to hit the ceiling ball. Try not to be tempted to kill the chest-high ball, especially if you're off balance or moving backwards. Hitting a chest high ball for a kill is not recommended - yet. Keep the ball in play! Hit the ceiling shot.

When to take to smart aggressive play:

The kill and pich shots must be attempted on your serve. When you have the setup, DON'T go to the ceiling. You must hit the kill or use the pinch shot. If you miss them you haven't lost a point, only the side out. Get the serve back and remember, pinch 80% of the time or more when your opponent is in back of you, pass when they are in front of you. The kill shot is a necessity of the game. To get to the next level you will need it. It just takes time to be consistent at it.

Racquetball is easy to play, difficult to master.