



Advancement Process

Assessment Overview

Club members who are interested in advancing into a doubles group that has a required skill level may request an assessment for placement. Candidates will participate in a structured doubles skills evaluation session. During this session, they will play alongside three current members of the target group, selected by the group coordinator. These group members will observe the candidate's performance and provide skill-based assessments to help determine appropriate placement.

This process was created to ensure that advancement decisions are fair, consistent, and based on demonstrated playing skills. The steps are outlined below.

Scoring and Advancement Process

For a club member wishing to advance to a doubles group with skill-based entry criteria:

- **Automatic Advancement:** Granted to any current, participating USTA member for more than one year with a verified NTRP rating that should range between 3.5 and 4.0 depending on the playing group they wish to join.
- **Assessment Required:** All other candidates will be invited to participate in an on-court assessment consisting of 12 games played with three Group members selected by the group's coordinator. Partners will rotate after six games.
- **Scoring:** Each assessor observes skills using the attached Skill Assessment Form. The average score from all three assessors determines the outcome, and the candidate will be notified within approximately two days.
- **Eligibility:** Candidates who achieve an average total score of 15 or higher, with no single category average below 3, will be eligible for placement in the Advanced-Intermediate group.
- **Feedback and Re-assessment:** Candidates who do not meet the criteria for advancement will receive constructive feedback highlighting specific areas to work on. They are encouraged to continue developing their skills and may request a follow-up assessment after a minimum of three months.
- **Re-assessment:** Each year, the group leader may conduct a re-assessment of candidates within their group. If a candidate's performance or skill level has decreased, the group leader may recommend reassigning that candidate to a lower-level group to ensure appropriate placement and continued development.



Assessment Form

Player Name: _____

Assessor: _____

Instructions to Assessor:

Player is scored in each of the five skill categories using a 1–5 scale, where 5 represents strong Advanced-Intermediate level performance and 1 represents well below that level.

1. Serve & Return Reliability

Ability to consistently start points with reliable serves and returns; avoids frequent double faults or missed routine returns.

(Examples: First serve lands in 60–70%, double faults occur but rarely in clusters, returns most moderate serves, can block or chip returns)

Score: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5

2. Rally & Ball Control

Keeps the ball in play under moderate pace, limits unforced errors, and sustains rallies.

(Examples: Rallies 4–10 balls at moderate pace, may struggle with heavy spin or well-placed pace, directional control exists but is inconsistent)

Score: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5

3. Court Positioning & Movement

Understands basic doubles positioning, moves appropriately with partner, covers assigned court areas.

(Examples: Maintains proper doubles spacing, closes the net when appropriate, moves well enough to stay in points, can recover after wide balls)

Score: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5

4. Net Play & Shot Selection

Comfort at the net, effective volleys, chooses high-percentage shots rather than forcing winners.

(Examples: Comfortable volleying when set, reflex and low volleys still developing, chooses high percentage points, occasionally goes for low-percentage winners)

Score: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5

5. Doubles Awareness & Communication

Communicates with partner, shows awareness of opponent's position, adjusts strategy during play.

(Examples: Knows basic formations, poaches occasionally with intent, can serve and volley sporadically)

Score: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5

Total Score: _____