

Three Strategies to Reduce Unforced Errors



Dear In2Picklers,

Many of you have asked us how to reduce errors. Here we share three strategies to reduce your unforced errors.

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Before diving into the specific strategies, all of these are driven by one principle:

Give yourself a larger margin of error.

The smaller your margin of error, the likelier you are to make an error. Seems like a simple concept, because it is. It is the implementing of the concept that is the hard part.

No. 1 Work the middle

If you tend to hit your shots near the lines, then you are increasing the chances that your shot will go long or wide. Work the middle of your opponent's court and you will reduce the chance of the ball going out. If you choose to go for the line, give yourself a greater margin of error by aiming 2-3 feet inside the line.

No. 2 Take the net out of play

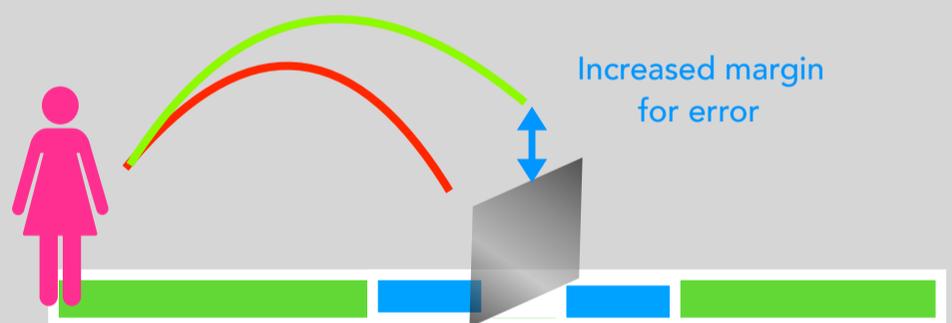
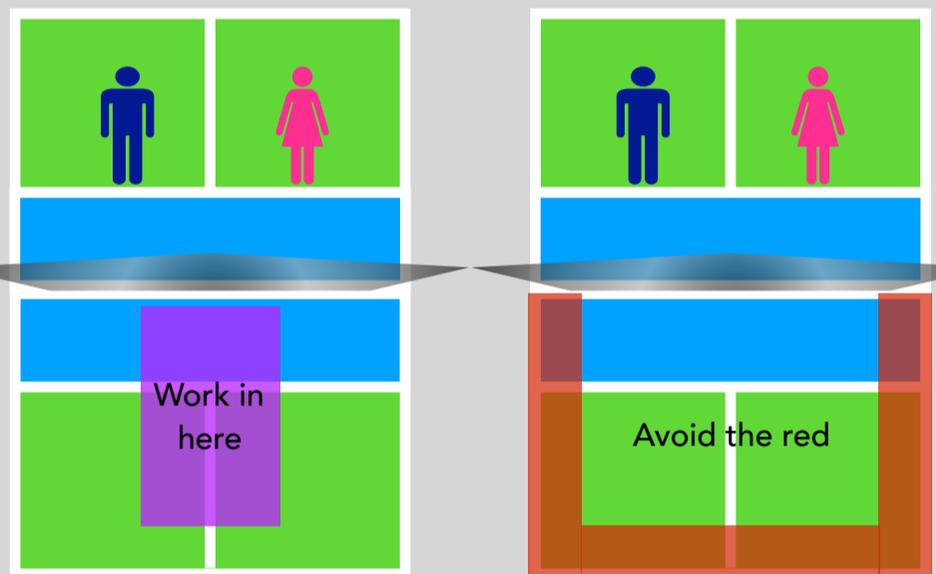
A tennis coach once told me that if I removed net errors from my game, I would be 30% better. Seems like a big number but think about how many balls end up in the net. Also, the net makes it easy on your opponents. Plenty of times when you hit a ball that is going out, your opponent will hit it and keep you in the point. If you hit it in the net, your opponent cannot help you.

If you are missing into the net, give yourself a 1-2 foot margin over the net. That will keep the ball in play and not give your opponents an easy out.

No. 3 Don't Press

This one is somewhat ephemeral and a bit hard to articulate. Each point has a rhythm to it. It is like a dance. Serve, return, shot, shot, and so on. Sometimes we press the action - force a shot that isn't there. Our pressing breaks the rhythm of the point resulting in an unforced error.

A better approach is to dance the dance. Wait for the right moment to execute the kill shot and finish the point. This will help you avoid the unforced errors that can result from pressing the point.



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