

## **S.M.A.R.T. Job Aid for Feeding Balls**

### **Situation**

Use this job aid whenever you need to feed pickleballs to one or more players in instructional, drilling, or skill rating sessions.

### **Materials**

Make sure you have enough pickleballs on hand to meet objectives of your session.

### **Actions**

Follow these five tips to assure high-quality ball feeds:

1. Make sure you are ready to deliver accurate ball feeds:
  - Is your cart or hopper of balls off to the side? You do not want to let equipment or yourself become a distraction.
  - Are you presenting the ball and your paddle in front so the player can visually see and track the ball?
  - Do you know where you need to aim your feed on the court?
  - Is your ball landing in front of the player so they have time to setup and execute the shot?
  - Are you feeding moderately paced balls to the strike zone?
2. Make sure you communicate the type of ball feed (single or continuous) and where the ball is going to land.
3. For advanced players, you need to add more pace and spin to your ball feeds in order to simulate the gameplay environment at that skill level.
4. In all cases, your job as a ball feeder is to assure quality of the feeds. Do not allow your ball feeding skills to become a hindrance to player improvement or demonstration of skills.
5. If you hit a bad ball feed, own it. And if you are in a skill-level rating environment, allow the player to reject your ball feed with no penalty.

### **Result**

The result is high quality ball feeds that set players up for success.

### **Total Quality Check**

Your work is done as expected when:

- ✓ Balls land in front of players within their strike zone
- ✓ Balls are consistently and accurately fed to the target area
- ✓ Players have time to execute shots or demonstrate required skills