

MAJOR LEAGUE PICKLEBALL · 2026 SEASON · ALL 20 TEAMS

The PKLStats Rating v2

How we rate every player, in plain English

One number per player, built from all 3,890 official MLP doubles games of 2024–2026 and 12,184 pro-tour doubles results, that separates a player from the partner beside them and the opponents across the net.

[What it is](#) · [How it works](#) · [What changed in v2](#) · [Track record](#) · [How to read it](#) · [Where it stops](#)

SCOPE

101 rated players, 189 player-disciplines,
rated on form at the end of the 2026 season
(31 August)

PREPARED BY

PKLStats · Chris Beaumont

DATE

9 October 2026

SUMMARY

One rating for every player, with partners and opponents accounted for

The PKLStats Rating is our player rating for Major League Pickleball. It reads every official MLP doubles game since 2024, asks how many points each side won by, and shares that margin out among the four players on court. Nobody is credited for a strong partner or blamed for strong opponents. **100 is the average qualifying 2026 player and every 10 points is one standard deviation.** This is version 2 (9 October 2026).

What changed in v2

Tour results as a starting point. Each player starts from their PPA/APP doubles record and MLP results move them from there.

Recent games count more. One strength per player plus a small adjustment for each discipline. Each change was kept only if it predicted later games better; the settings were chosen on 2024–25 games and tested on 2026.

The result predicts unseen 2026 games clearly better than v1, and now beats DUPR and PickleWave's Elo on our benchmark set (page 10).

WHAT THE RATING IS NOT

- Not a forecast of 2027 rosters: it describes form at the end of 2026 (no age or injury).
- Not a salary guide. Value per dollar uses published keeper prices and bids only.
- Not exact. Every rating has an 80% band; close ranks are near ties.
- Not an eligibility check: only UPA-signed players may play MLP (MLP, 5 Feb 2026).
- Not purely MLP. Tour results carry real weight, so a player who is better in MLP than on tour is rated conservatively (page 13).

The three-line version

- 1

Every game's point margin is shared among the four players on court. We find the player values that best explain all 3,890 games at once, so a partner's strength and the opponents' strength are allowed for.
- 2

Each player starts from their tour record and recent games count more. Short MLP records stay close to the tour starting value; every rating has a band and a confidence label.
- 3

The recipe was chosen by a test, not by judgement. Settings were picked by how well 2024–25 games predicted later 2024–25 games, then checked on 2026.

3,890	12,184	101	73%
official MLP doubles games, 2024–2026 (1,297 in 2026)	PPA/APP/US national doubles results, Jan 2024–May 2026 (PickleWave)	players rated (189 player-disciplines with 10+ games in 2026)	of 2026 second-half winners called from the first half (v1: 67%)
The problem with raw win rate 3			
Step by step: one game from the Final 4			
Opponent strength 5			
Starting values and small samples 6			
The 100 scale and bands 7			
How v2 was built and tested 8			
Track record: back-tests and benchmarks 9–10			
Value per dollar 11			
Player cards · Limits · Glossary 12–14			

1 · THE PROBLEM

The problem with raw win rate: a record belongs to a pair

Win rate is the number everyone quotes, but in doubles it is shared by two people. Three cases from 2026 show the ways it can mislead.

Case 1. A pair that never split: Waters and Jorja Johnson

New Jersey's women went **36–2** in women's doubles and won 404–129 on points, all 38 games together. Their WD records are identical, so **their WD games alone cannot say who did more**; v1 gave them nearly the same rating.

v2 separates them (131.5 against 117.5) using everything else it knows: their mixed games with other partners and their tour records (423 and 393 matches). That rests on an assumption, that strength carries across disciplines and from tour to MLP, and we say so.

Case 2. Same team, similar records, different players: Bar and McGuffin

In men's doubles Dekel Bar went **12–17** and Tyson McGuffin **10–17**, 41% and 37%. On records alone they look alike. The difference shows when each played with Casey Diamond:

MEN'S DOUBLES, PALM BEACH	WITH EACH OTHER	WITH CASEY DIAMOND	POINTS WITH DIAMOND	SEASON RECORD	MD RATING (RANK OF 49)
Dekel Bar	8–13	4–4	62–64 (49.2%)	12–17	102.6 (18)
Tyson McGuffin	8–13	2–3	30–49 (38.0%)	10–17	95.8 (33)

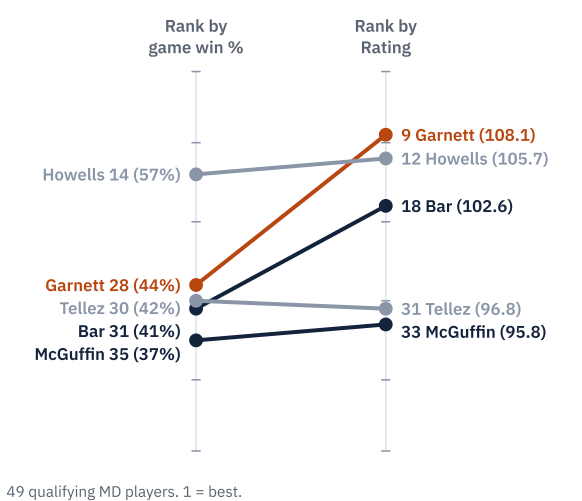
Beside the same partner, Bar broke even on points and McGuffin won 38% of them. The model also weighs who each pair faced, and their tour records. Together this puts **6.8 rating points** between two players whose records differ by four percentage points.

Case 3. A record that hides a player: Connor Garnett

Garnett went **10–13** in men's doubles (43.5%, 28th of 49 by win rate). Twenty of his 23 games were beside Tama Shimabukuro, whose own MD rating is 92.4 (42nd). Once partner and opponents are allowed for, Garnett rates **108.1, 9th of 49**.

The pattern: the rating moves a player most when their partner was unusually strong or weak, and when they played with more than one partner. When two players only ever played together, only their other games and their tour records can separate them.

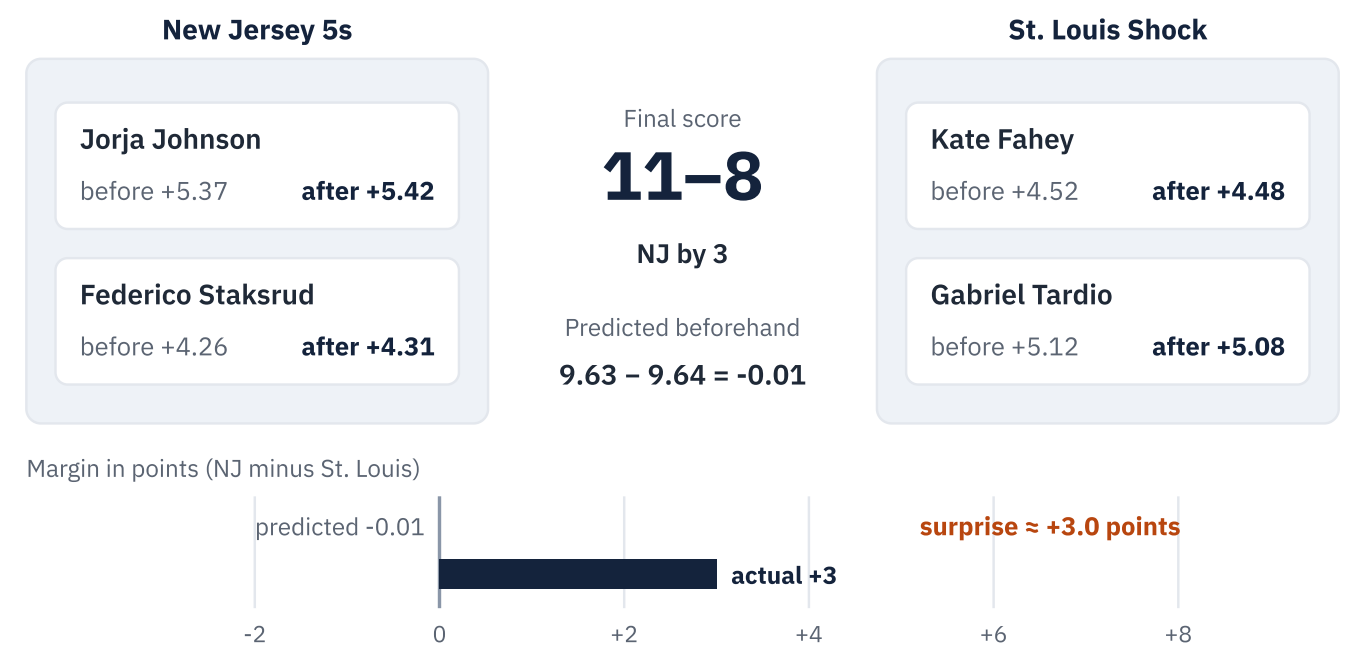
Men's doubles: rank by win rate against rank by PKLStats Rating v2



2 · HOW IT WORKS

Step by step: one game from the Final

The 2026 Final, match 1, second mixed game (MX2), New York City, 29 August. **New Jersey's Jorja Johnson and Federico Staksrud beat St. Louis's Kate Fahey and Gabriel Tardio 11–8**. This is how that one game feeds the four players' ratings.



Mixed values, points per game. “Before” = v2 fit without this game (other 3,889 MLP games + tour starts).

- 1

Take the margin
11 – 8 = **+3 to New Jersey**. Every doubles game gives one number like this. A 12–10 win counts as +2, an 11–0 as +11. (2024 games, played to 25, are scaled by 11/25.)
- 2

Give each player a value in points
The model assumes the margin is roughly *our two values minus their two*. Each value is one strength shared across WD, MD and mixed, plus a small adjustment for this discipline.
- 3

Predict the game
Rated without this game: Johnson +5.37 and Staksrud +4.26 make **9.63** . Fahey +4.52 and Tardio +5.12 make **9.64** . Prediction: **9.63 – 9.64 = -0.01** , a coin flip.
- 4

Measure the surprise
Actual minus predicted: **+3 – (-0.01) = +3.0** . New Jersey did about three points better than expected.
- 5

Share it out, all games at once
The model re-fits all 3,890 MLP games together. Adding this one moves Johnson and Staksrud up about 0.05 each and Fahey and Tardio down about 0.04. New prediction: **9.73 – 9.56 = +0.17** .
- 6

Why so little?
It is one game of 3,890, and every player is anchored to a tour starting value (page 6). Recency matters too: this game has weight 0.99; one from Dallas in May 2026 0.56, August 2025 0.12, August 2024 0.01.

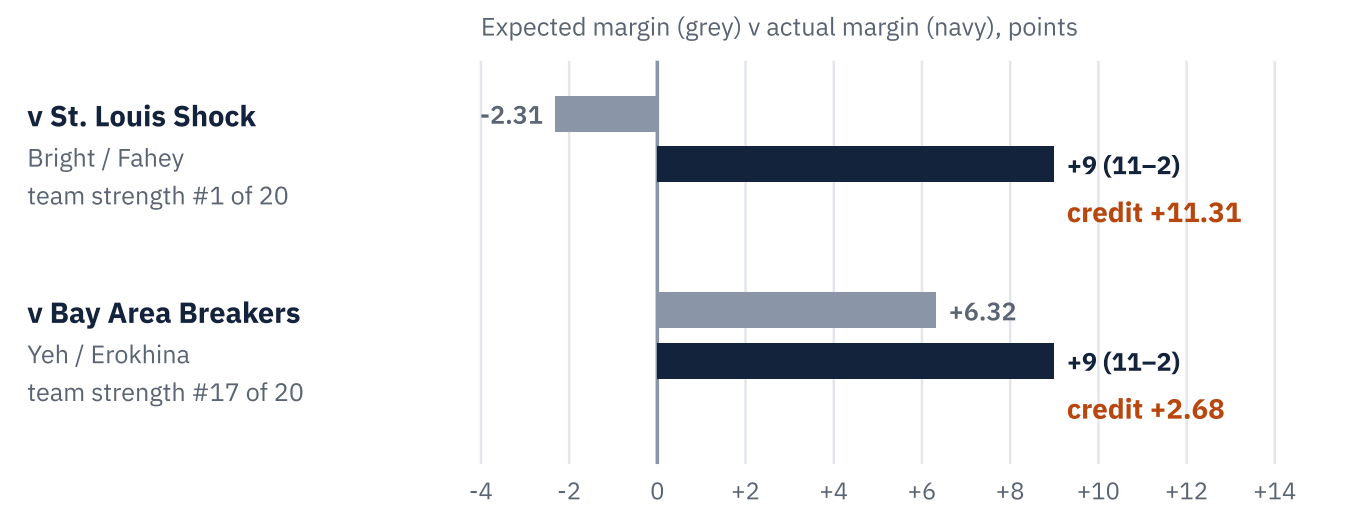
FROM POINTS TO THE 100 SCALE: JORJA JOHNSON, MIXED

Her value is a shared strength of **+5.12** plus a mixed adjustment of **+0.31 = +5.42** points a game (against an average tour player). Across all 189 qualifying 2026 player-disciplines the average value is +2.64 and one standard deviation is 1.52. So she is $(5.42 - 2.64) \div 1.52 \approx 1.83$ standard deviations above average, and her rating is $100 + 10 \times 1.83 = 118.3$, 6th of 93 in mixed.

3 • OPPONENTS

Opponent strength: the same 11–2 is worth very different amounts

Palm Beach's Sofia Sewing and Tina Pisnik won two women's doubles games by exactly the same score, 11–2. A win record counts them the same, and so does point share. The PKLStats Rating does not, because the opponents were nothing alike.



Sewing/Pisnik (Palm Beach), women’s doubles. Expected = their two values minus their opponents’ two.

GAME	OPPONENTS (THEIR VALUES)	SEWING + PISNIK	OPPONENTS' SUM	EXPECTED MARGIN	ACTUAL	ABOVE EXPECTATION
MLP St. Petersburg, group play round 1, 18 June	St. Louis Shock: Bright +6.34, Fahey +4.41	+8.44	+10.75	-2.31	+9	+11.31
MLP St. Louis, group play round 5, 5 June	Bay Area Breakers: Yeh +0.66, Erokhina +1.46	+8.44	+2.12	+6.32	+9	+2.68

Sewing +4.20, Pisnik +4.24 (v2 women's doubles values, points per game against an average tour player). Expected = Sewing + Pisnik minus the opponents' sum.

What the arithmetic says

Against St. Louis's women's pair the model says Sewing and Pisnik should **lose by about 2**. Winning by nine is about 11 points better than expected, a big, informative result. Against Bay Area they were expected to **win by about 6**, so the same 11–2 tells us only a little more than we knew.

The St. Louis win carries roughly **4 times the credit**. Losses work the other way round: a narrow defeat to the best pair in the league can raise a rating, and a narrow loss to a weak pair lowers it.

Pairs, not badges

The rating adjusts for the two people actually across the net, not the team's name. On our team-strength model (a Bradley–Terry fit to regular-season games), St. Louis were **1st of 20** and Bay Area **17th**. But a strong team's weaker pair is treated as the weaker pair, and the reverse.

The adjustment comes free with the model. Every player's opponents are in the same equation as their partners, so beating good players is automatically worth more. The same holds on tour: the starting values are opponent-adjusted too.

4 · STARTING VALUES

Starting values and small samples: start from the tour, move with MLP results

Eleven good games could be a good player or a good fortnight. v1 pulled short records towards *average*. v2 pulls them towards **each player's own tour level**, which we estimate from 12,184 PPA, APP and US national doubles results with the same opponent-adjusted model (wins and losses only). MLP results then move a player away from that start.

How strong is the pull?

The model adds a penalty for straying from the starting value; a player has to earn a big move with lots of MLP evidence. The strength of that pull, and how much the tour start counts (6 × the tour value), were **chosen by testing on 2024–25 games**, not by us (page 8).

Ben Johns starts at +6.06, the highest tour value among MLP men, and his MLP results keep him there (+6.58). **Tyson McGuffin** starts at +2.96; his MLP results pull him *down* to +2.00. **Hayden Patriquin**'s MLP results pull him *up*, from +4.18 to +4.92.

Anderson Scarpa played only 11 MLP men's doubles games in 2026, so he stays near his start (+2.07 → +2.25).

SAME HEADLINE, DIFFERENT CERTAINTY

Tyra Black, WD: 25 games, **115.8 [111.5–119.0]**, **High**.
Anna Bright, WD: 38 games, **124.4 [120.8–126.9]**, **High**.

In v1, Black's band ran from 111.6 to 125.4, too wide to tell whether she was the best WD player outside New Jersey or merely top ten. Her tour record now narrows it, and the two bands no longer overlap: on this evidence Bright is the stronger player.

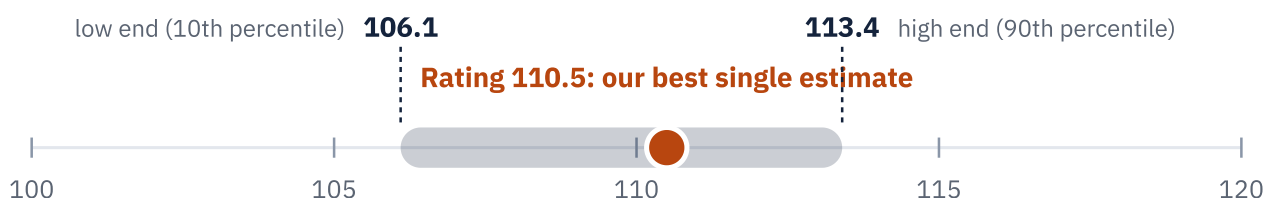
MEN'S DOUBLES	2026 GAMES	MLP GAMES 2024–26	TOUR MATCHES	TOUR START	V2 VALUE	V2 RATING [80% BAND]	V1 RATING (RANK)
Ben Johns	35	87	436	+6.06	+6.58	125.9 [121.4–128.5]	111.0 (5)
Hayden Patriquin	38	100	372	+4.18	+4.92	115.0 [111.6–117.4]	113.4 (1)
Tyson McGuffin	27	80	240	+2.96	+2.00	95.8 [91.3–99.4]	87.9 (45)
Anderson Scarpa	11	65	158	+2.07	+2.25	97.4 [93.0–101.8]	102.4 (19)

Values in points per game against an average tour player. Mean band width fell from 11.7 rating points (v1) to 7.9 (v2), and no line is now Low confidence; bands re-sample both MLP games and tour matches. A narrower band is only as good as the assumption that tour form carries into MLP (page 13). Players need at least 10 games in a discipline in 2026 to be rated in it.

5 • THE SCALE

Reading a rating: 110.5 [106.1–113.4], High confidence

That is Sofia Sewing's overall rating at the end of 2026, 17th of 101. Each of its three parts tells you something different.



Width 7.3 points (≤ 8) → High confidence. Re-running the ratings 200 times, 8 in 10 results land inside the shaded bar.

THE NUMBER: 110.5

100 is the average qualifying 2026 player. Every 10 points is one standard deviation, so 110.5 is about one standard deviation above average. 18 of 101 players rated 110 or more, 3 rated 120 or more, and 14 were below 90.

THE BAND: 106.1–113.4

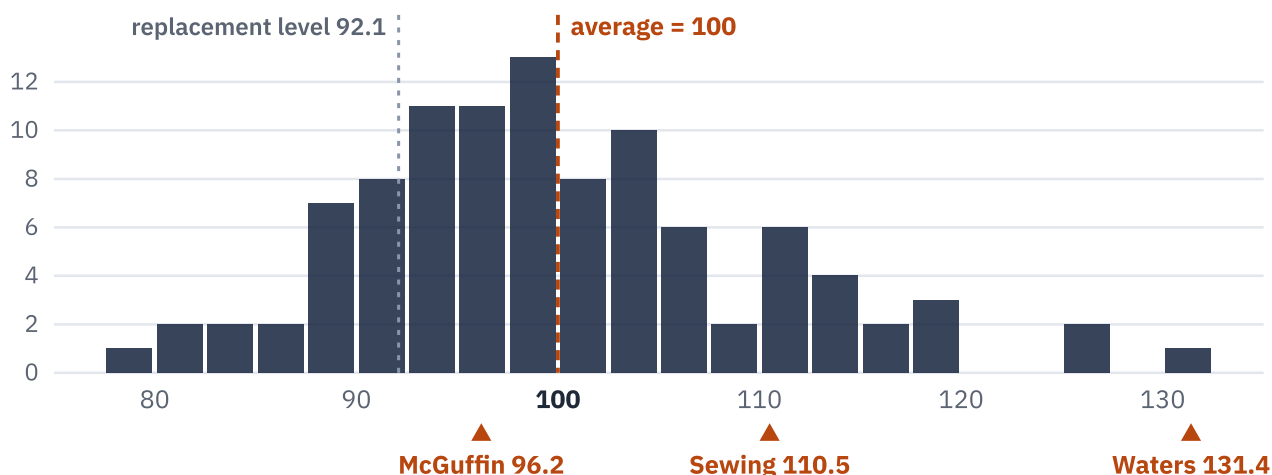
We rebuilt the ratings 200 times. Each time we drew MLP games (within each season and discipline) and tour matches at random, with replacement, and re-rated everyone from scratch. The band is the middle 80% of those 200 ratings.

THE LABEL: HIGH

The label comes from the band's width. **High** is 8 points or less, **Medium** is 13 or less, and **Low** is anything wider. Overall: 65 High, 36 Medium, 0 Low. By discipline line: 109 High, 80 Medium, 0 Low (v1: 27, 101, 61).

Overall PKLStats Rating v2, all 101 rated players (2.5-point bins)

Number of players



Discipline ratings and the overall rating

Women's doubles, men's doubles and mixed are each put on the same 100 scale, for every player with 10 or more 2026 games in that discipline. Overall is a games-weighted average of a player's qualifying disciplines, re-scaled to 100. Sewing is WD 110.3 over 35 games and mixed 109.5 over 33, which gives 110.5 overall.

Rules of thumb

- Read the band before the rank. If two bands overlap heavily, treat the order as a near tie.
- Compare within a discipline when picking pairs; use overall for squad value.
- Check how much of a rating is tour start and how much is MLP evidence (columns in the rating file).

6 · HOW V2 WAS BUILT AND TESTED

What each change did, on games the model had not seen

We tested three upgrades to v1, one at a time and together. **Every setting was chosen on 2024–25 games only:** rate players on earlier games, predict later ones (2024 → 2025, 2024 + early 2025 → late 2025, early 2024 → late 2024). We then checked the chosen model on 2026, which played no part in the choice.

MODEL	CHOICE SCORE, 2024–25	2025 → 2026	2026 1ST → 2ND	2025 + 2026 1ST →
	SHARE OF MARGIN EXPLAINED	BRIER CHANGE VS V1 [90%]	HALF	2ND HALF
v1 method (2026: re-run on the same games)	0.118	—	—	—
+ tour starting values	0.232	-0.024 [-0.030, -0.019]	-0.023 [-0.031, -0.016]	-0.014 [-0.020, -0.008]
+ recent games count more	0.118	+0.002 [+0.001, +0.003]	-0.001 [-0.002, -0.000]	+0.001 [-0.000, +0.003]
+ one strength per player	0.157	-0.007 [-0.011, -0.002]	-0.007 [-0.013, -0.001]	-0.005 [-0.010, +0.001]
All three: v2	0.244	-0.028 [-0.034, -0.021]	-0.022 [-0.031, -0.015]	-0.013 [-0.020, -0.007]

Brier score: average squared error of the win probability (lower is better). Negative = better than v1. Intervals: 2,000 bootstrap re-samples of matchups. The "choice score" is the share of variation in later point margins explained, averaged over the three 2024–25 tests; each row uses its own best settings.

What the test found

Tour starting values did most of the work, above all for players new to MLP: on 2026 second-half games involving a player with no earlier MLP games, Brier fell from 0.277 to 0.161 (53 games).

One shared strength helped modestly and consistently: a player's mixed results now inform their WD or MD rating and vice versa.

Recency weighting did not help. We kept the best half-life (120 days) because it scored highest, but anything from 60 to 365 days scored within 0.0014, and on its own it was no better than v1 on 2026 (slightly worse on 2025 → 2026). Plainly: this upgrade did not earn its place; we kept the setting the 2024–25 test chose, and its effect is negligible.

SETTINGS CHOSEN ON 2024–25 (1,260 COMBINATIONS)

Half-life 120 days (score by half-life: 60 0.243, 120 0.244, 180 0.244, 365 0.243, 730 0.242, none 0.241).
Tour start weight 6 × tour value (score rises to 0.244 at 6 and falls to 0.228 at 8). Pull strengths 16 (shared strength) and 64 (discipline adjustment). Tour model: 2-year half-life, chosen on tour matches alone.

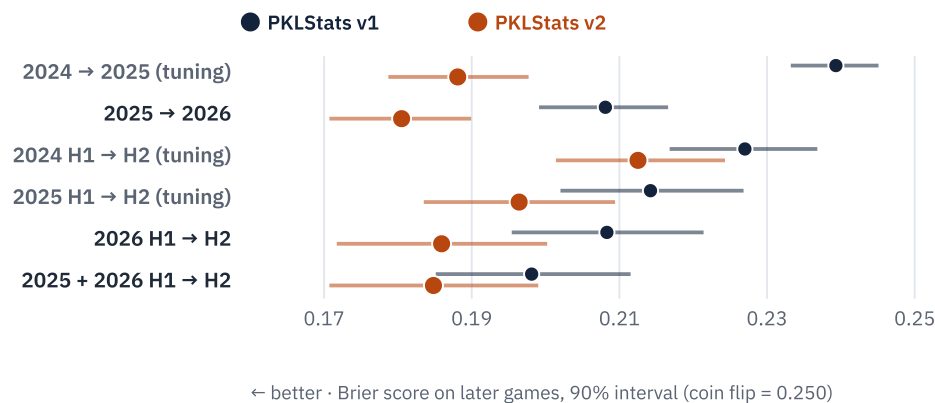
INPUTS TESTED AND NOT USED

We tested Real Clear Stats' Player Impact+ ratings as an input; they did not improve out-of-sample predictions, so they carry no weight in the PKLStats Rating. A blend with DUPR and Elo was also tested (page 10).

7 · TRACK RECORD

Does it predict games it has not seen? Three seasons of back-tests

We rebuilt the rating on earlier games only and predicted later ones: every official MLP doubles game of 2024 (1,248, game scores from PickleWave's public pages, checked against MLP's event pages), 2025 (1,345) and 2026 (1,297, both from MLP's scores feed). Tour starting values use only tour matches played before each test. **v2 beat v1 in every test.** The 2026 rows are the fair test: v2's settings were chosen on 2024–25.



TEST (TRAINED ON → PREDICTS)	GAMES	PKLSTATS V2 R · CALLED · BRIER	PKLSTATS V1	BRIER V2 – V1 [90%]	LOG LOSS V2 / V1
2024 season → 2025 season (tuning)	1,248 → 1,345	0.55 · 71% · 0.188	0.25 · 58% · 0.239	-0.051 [-0.060, -0.042]	0.554 / 0.671
2025 season → 2026 season	1,345 → 1,297	0.57 · 72% · 0.180	0.45 · 66% · 0.208	-0.028 [-0.034, -0.021]	0.536 / 0.601
2024 first half → second half (tuning)	649 → 599	0.43 · 67% · 0.212	0.34 · 61% · 0.227	-0.015 [-0.023, -0.006]	0.611 / 0.643
2025 first half → second half (tuning)	620 → 725	0.53 · 69% · 0.196	0.44 · 67% · 0.214	-0.018 [-0.024, -0.011]	0.572 / 0.616
2026 first half → second half	684 → 613	0.54 · 73% · 0.186	0.44 · 67% · 0.208	-0.022 [-0.031, -0.015]	0.550 / 0.602
2025 + 2026 first half → 2026 second half	2,029 → 613	0.55 · 73% · 0.185	0.49 · 68% · 0.198	-0.013 [-0.020, -0.007]	0.548 / 0.578

r: link with the later game's point margin (0 none, 1 perfect). **Called**: winners backed correctly (coin = 50%). **Brier**: average squared error of the win probability; lower is better and a coin scores 0.250. **Log loss**: like Brier but punishes confident misses harder (coin 0.693). (tuning) = these test games were used to choose v2's settings, so they flatter v2. v1 is re-run on the same games, so its numbers can differ slightly from the v1 brief.

WHAT IT SHOWS

- v2 is better than v1 everywhere, and the intervals exclude zero. On 2025 → 2026 it calls 72% of winners against 66%.
- The biggest gain is for players new to MLP, who v1 had to treat as average.

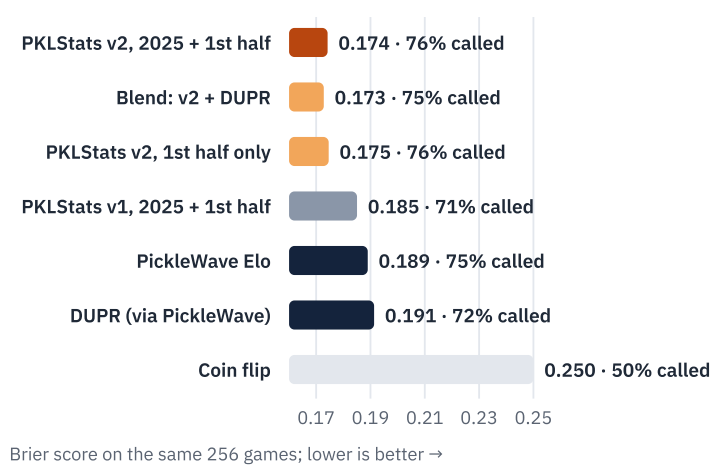
WHERE IT IS WEAK

- Carrying last season forward gains less than it did for v1: v2's tour starting values already contain most of what 2025 MLP games add.
- Tour data stop in early May 2026 (page 13), so tour form during the 2026 MLP season is missing.

7 · TRACK RECORD (CONTINUED)

Against DUPR and PickleWave's Elo, a blend, and predictions locked in advance

We took public, dated values from PickleWave's ranking pages as archived by the Internet Archive: men's and women's doubles Elo, and each player's DUPR as PickleWave showed it, all "updated July 10, 2026". We then predicted the 2026 second half on the **256 games where all four players have both values** (mostly the league's strongest players). No log-ins were used. **v2 now beats both** on Brier and log loss; v1 did not.



The differences, with 90% intervals

- v2 minus Elo: Brier -0.015 [-0.026, -0.005], log loss -0.039 [-0.063, -0.016]. Winners called +0.8 points [-2.6, +4.5]: **not a clear win on winners called.**
- v2 minus DUPR: Brier -0.017 [-0.031, -0.003]; winners called +4.3 [+0.3, +8.7].
- After 10 July only (225 games): v2 0.178, Elo 0.194, DUPR 0.194.

Does a blend help?

A stacked logistic model fitted on first-half games: v2 + DUPR was marginally better than v2 (Brier -0.001 [-0.003, -0.000]); v2 + Elo (+0.0052) and all three (+0.007 [+0.000, +0.015]) were worse, and a version fitted on the other half also lost to v2 (0.1754 against 0.1742). **Forecasts use v2 alone.** That choice was made after seeing 2026 results.

PREDICTOR (SAME 256 GAMES)	R	CALLED	BRIER	LOG LOSS	AFTER 10 JUL ONLY
					CALLED · BRIER (225 GAMES)
PKLStats v2, 2025 + 2026 first half	0.56	76%	0.174	0.524	75% · 0.178
PKLStats v2, 2026 first half only	0.55	76%	0.175	0.525	75% · 0.178
Blend: v2 + DUPR	0.56	75%	0.173	0.520	75% · 0.176
PKLStats v1, 2025 + 2026 first half	0.51	71%	0.185	0.550	71% · 0.186
PickleWave Elo	0.48	75%	0.189	0.563	74% · 0.194
DUPR (as shown by PickleWave)	0.48	72%	0.191	0.563	70% · 0.194

THE 2027 PREDICTION TRACKER

Before each event, the tracker turns v2 rating gaps into win probabilities for every game and matchup, saves them with a timestamp and a SHA-256 fingerprint, and scores them against official results afterwards. It is calibrated on 5,917 out-of-sample v2 predictions: when it says 70–75%, the favourite won 73% of the time; at 80–90%, 85%. **Dry run on the 2026 playoffs and Finals** (only earlier data, written after the event): v2 Brier 0.205 against v1 0.216 (difference -0.012 [-0.021, -0.003]), but v2 called fewer winners: 67% of 91 games against 69%, and 16 of 24 matchups against 20. Small samples: read these as a check, not a verdict.

8 · VALUE PER DOLLAR

Value per dollar: rating above replacement, per \$100k

A rating says how good a player was. Clubs also need to know what that cost. Where a 2026 price is published, we divide the rating a player adds above a **replacement-level** player by their price.

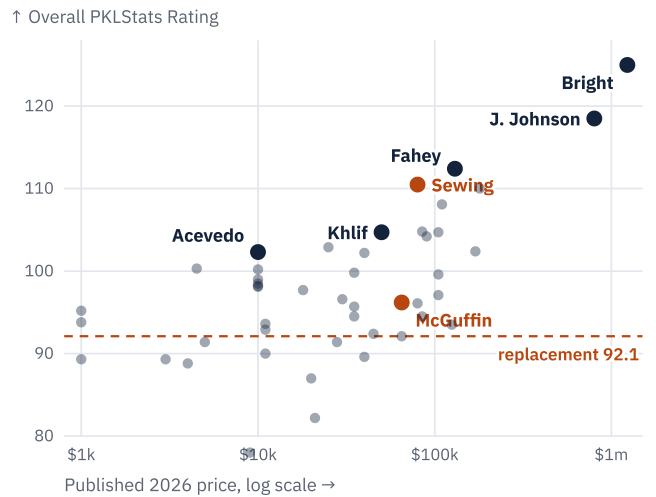
Value per \$100k = (overall rating - 92.1) ÷ (price ÷ \$100,000) . Replacement level (92.1) is the 20th percentile of overall v2 rating: the kind of player a team can usually find cheaply.

Worked example: Sewing against McGuffin (both Palm Beach)

	SOFIA SEWING	TYSON MCGUFFIN
Overall PKLStats Rating v2	110.5	96.2
Points above replacement	110.5 - 92.1 = 18.4	96.2 - 92.1 = 4.1
Published price	\$80,000	\$65,000
Price in \$100k	0.80	0.65
Value per \$100k	18.4 ÷ 0.80 = 23.0	4.1 ÷ 0.65 = 6.3

Both prices are keeper prices from pickleball.com's 1 September 2026 review. For \$15,000 more, Sewing delivers about **4 times as much rating per dollar** (v1 rated McGuffin 92.3, about replacement level; v2 rates him 96.2). The bands do not change the verdict: Sewing is worth 17.5 to 26.6 per \$100k at the ends of her band, McGuffin -0.5 to 11.7.

Overall PKLStats Rating v2 against published price, 47 priced players



OTHER PRICED PLAYERS	TEAM (2026)	RATING	PRICE	TYPE	VALUE PER \$100K
Kate Fahey	St. Louis Shock	112.4	\$130,000	keeper price	+15.6
Jorja Johnson	New Jersey 5s	118.5	\$800,000	draft bid	+3.3
Anna Bright	St. Louis Shock	125.0	\$1,230,000	draft bid	+2.7
Nicolas Acevedo	Miami Pickleball Club; Texas Ranchers	102.3	\$10,000	keeper price	+102.0

READ VALUE WITH CARE

- **Only published prices.** 47 of 101 players have one: keeper prices or 2026 draft bids, each with its source. Everyone else is "unknown", and nothing is estimated. Prices are not salaries, and cash in trades was not published.
- **Tiny prices make the ratio explode.** Liz Truluck (93.8 at \$1,000) scores +170, and Brandon French (89.3 at \$1,000) scores -280. Always read value next to the rating and its band.
- **2026 prices only.** 2027 prices are unknown until the auction.

9 · ACROSS THE LEAGUE

Player cards: five players, five teams

Overall PKLStats Rating v2 with band, confidence and rank of 101, then each discipline. Dot = rating, bar = 80% band, dashed line = 100.

A. L. Waters

New Jersey 5s

75 games in 2026 · v1 overall 126.9 (1st)

131.4

[127.8–133.9]

High · 1 of 101

WD

Mixed

80

100

120

WD 131.5 [128.2–133.9] High, 1 of 47 · Mixed 129.9 [126.4–133.0] High, 1 of 93

The best player in the league on this evidence. She and Jorja Johnson played every WD game together (36–2); v2 rates Waters higher (131.5 against 117.5) because of her tour record and her mixed results with Noe Khlif. That split rests on the model's assumptions, not on their shared WD games.

Ben Johns

Los Angeles Mad Drops

69 games in 2026 · v1 overall 113.1 (10th)

125.2

[120.6–127.4]

High · 2 of 101

MD

Mixed

80

100

120

MD 125.9 [121.4–128.5] High, 1 of 49 · Mixed 123.2 [118.3–125.4] High, 3 of 93

The biggest riser at the top: MD 1 of 49 (v1 5) and 2nd overall (v1 10th). His 2026 MLP record (28–7 in MD) was good rather than dominant, but his tour start is the highest of any MLP man (436 tour matches), and his MLP results did not pull him down.

Christian Alshon

Brooklyn Pickleball Team

64 games in 2026 · v1 overall 115.4 (8th)

118.3

[115.3–120.7]

High · 6 of 101

MD

Mixed

80

100

120

MD 116.3 [112.8–118.9] High, 4 of 49 · Mixed 119.3 [115.9–121.6] High, 4 of 93

Top five in both disciplines with High confidence, as in v1. He rates above his regular partners, Riley Newman in MD (107.5) and Rachel Rohrabacher in mixed (112.6). Winning beside a weaker partner is exactly what the model rewards.

Tyra Black

Columbus Sliders / Dallas Flash

46 games in 2026 · v1 overall 116.8 (6th)

116.1

[112.2–119.5]

High · 8 of 101

WD

Mixed

80

100

120

WD 115.8 [111.5–119.0] High, 4 of 47 · Mixed 115.2 [111.2–118.4] High, 9 of 93

Elite in women's doubles (4 of 47) from only 25 WD games for Columbus and Dallas. Her tour record narrows the band to 111.5–119.0 (v1: 111.6–125.4). Mixed (13–8) is good rather than great.

Dekel Bar

Palm Beach Royals

57 games in 2026 · v1 overall 105.6 (30th)

104.0

[99.1–107.1]

High · 33 of 101

MD

Mixed

80

100

120

MD 102.6 [97.7–106.0] Medium, 18 of 49 · Mixed 104.4 [99.7–107.4] High, 30 of 93

His men's doubles record (12–17, 31st of 49 by win rate) undersells him: about an average MD player (18 of 49). v2 lowers his mixed (30 of 93; v1 19): with one shared strength, his mixed record with Tina Pisnik no longer stands apart from his MD form.

Reading a card

Records are game win–loss in 2026 official doubles games. Team "/" means the player appeared for more than one team in 2026. v1 = the first version of the rating (2026 games only), kept for comparison.

Ranks are within the 189 qualifying discipline lines: 47 WD, 49 MD, 93 mixed. Overall ranks are of 101. Biggest rank moves v1 → v2: John Lucian Goins Mixed 74→40; Max Freeman MD 8→35; Layne Sleeth Mixed 21→47; Judit Castillo Mixed 49→73.

PKLStats · Rating methodology (v2) · 9 October 2026

12

10 • LIMITS

Limits and caveats: what the rating cannot do

The PKLStats Rating v2 is a careful reading of three MLP seasons and two and a half years of tour results. These are the places where it is weakest, and how to allow for them.

1. The tour weight is large

Each player starts from $6 \times$ their tour value, and MLP results move them slowly. That is what makes v2 predict better, but a player who is genuinely better (or worse) in MLP's format than on tour is rated conservatively. The tour model sees only wins and losses, not scores.

2. Pairs who never split are separated by assumption

6 2026 pairs played every game of a discipline together. v2 separates them through their other disciplines and tour records: A. L. Waters and Jorja Johnson (WD: 131.5 / 117.5); Anna Bright and Kate Fahey (WD: 124.4 / 111.6); Gabriel Tardio and Hayden Patriquin (MD: 116.3 / 115.0); Andrei Daescu and CJ Klinger (MD: 113.1 / 101.9); Augustus Ge and JW Johnson (MD: 103.2 / 118.3); A. L. Waters and Noe Khlif (Mixed: 129.9 / 105.4). v1 rated each pair almost identically. The split assumes strength carries across disciplines and from tour to MLP; treat such pairs partly as one unit. (Patriquin's one mixed game without Bright, an 11–0, no longer matters: without it the two are +4.49 and +6.41.)

3. Tour data are incomplete

PickleWave lists 139 PPA/APP/US national events for 2024–26 but shows results for 96. Nothing after 3 May 2026, so tour form during the 2026 MLP season is missing; the 2025 US Open and some 2024 events are missing too. Eight name spellings were matched by hand (one, Joey Wild, is an assumption).

4. Bands still make close ranks near ties

In women's doubles, places 3 to 9 span 7.2 points (117.5 to 110.3). A gap smaller than the bands is not a real ranking.

5. Prices are often unknown

54 of 101 players have no published 2026 price, so no value-per-dollar figure. We do not estimate one.

6. What the data leave out

- **DreamBreakers are excluded.** The feed names only the first player in the singles rotation.
- **Recent games count more** (half-life 120 days), but otherwise group play and the Final count alike, and only the margin counts: an 11–9 and a 12–10 are both +2. No home or away, no rally or shot data.
- **Values add up.** No separate chemistry term; in the v1 tests chemistry added nothing.
- **Age and 2027 rosters** are not modelled.
- **A live feed.** MLP scores were captured on 8 October 2026 and tour results on 9 October 2026; a later re-run could pick up corrections.

7. How it was chosen

Settings were chosen on 2024–25 and tested on 2026, but the decision to forecast with v2 alone rather than a blend with DUPR/Elo was made after seeing 2026 results. The 2026 benchmark set has only 256 games, and the dry run 91.

How to use the PKLStats Rating well: lead with the band and confidence, compare within a discipline, check how much of a rating is tour start and how much MLP evidence, treat inseparable pairs partly as one unit, and use the rating to sharpen questions for scouting and film, not to replace them.

11 · GLOSSARY

Glossary

PKLStats Rating v2	A player's rating at the end of the 2026 season on a scale where 100 is the average qualifying 2026 player and 10 points is one standard deviation. Given per discipline (WD, MD, mixed) and overall. v1 (2026 games only) is kept for comparison.
Point margin	Points won minus points lost in one game, e.g. 11–8 = +3. 2024 games (to 25) are scaled by 11/25.
Player value	Points per game a player adds to their pair's margin, against an average tour player: one shared strength plus a small adjustment for the discipline.
Tour starting value	The same opponent-adjusted model fitted to PPA/APP/US national doubles wins and losses before the rating date (PickleWave), times 6. A player's MLP value is pulled towards it.
Recency weighting	Each game's weight halves every 120 days before the rating date. It made almost no difference in testing.
Ridge regression (shrinkage)	The fitting method. It penalises values far from the starting value, so short records stay close to it until the evidence is strong.
80% band	The middle 80% of ratings across 200 re-runs with MLP games and tour matches drawn at random, with replacement (a <i>bootstrap</i>).
Confidence	High (band 8 points wide or less), Medium (13 or less), Low (wider).
Qualifying	At least 10 games in a discipline in 2026. 189 player-disciplines and 101 players qualified.
Out-of-sample test	Rating players on earlier games and checking predictions on later games the model has not seen.
Holdout	Data kept out of every choice of settings: here, all of 2026.
r · Winners called · Brier · Log loss	How closely predictions track margins (0–1); share of games where the favourite won (coin 50%); average squared error of the win probability (coin 0.250, lower is better); a version that punishes confident misses harder (coin 0.693).
90% interval	The range holding the middle 90% of 2,000 bootstrap re-samples of matchups. If it excludes zero, the difference is unlikely to be luck.
Blend (stacked logistic)	A model that combines v2, PickleWave Elo and DUPR into one win probability, with weights fitted on earlier games. Tested; not adopted.
Replacement level	92.1, the 20th percentile of overall rating: a player a team can usually find cheaply.
Value per \$100k	(Overall rating – 92.1) ÷ (published price ÷ \$100,000). Only for players with a published 2026 keeper price or draft bid.

SOURCES AND REPRODUCIBILITY

MLP results: MLP's public scores feed behind majorleaguepickleball.co event pages, captured 8 October 2026 (data/results/; 2025 in data/backtest/; 2024 from PickleWave, checked against MLP's pages). Tour results: PickleWave public tournament pages, fetched 9 October 2026 (data/tour/, coverage in tour_coverage.json). Benchmarks: PickleWave pages archived 10 July 2026 (data/benchmarks/). Rating code and outputs: data/rating/v2/ (pklv2.py, rating_v2.py, v2_config.json, v2_backtest_results.json) and data/rating/pkl_v2_*.csv; v1: data/rating/mar_*.csv. Tracker: data/tracker/. Prices: pickleball.com keeper prices (1 Sep 2026) and 2026 draft bids. Every figure is computed by explainer/facts.py, charts.py and build_html.py from those files.