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## Explanation from Kelme Padel World Press (forgive any "literal translations" I may have missed) that matches the British Padel rating system very closely

- Levels range from 1.0 to 7.0
- Level 1.0 For people who have started to play padel
- Level 1.5 Players with little experience, whose level is limited to trying to keep the ball in play
- Level 2.0

The forehand stroke is incomplete, and backhands are avoided. Double faults on the serve are still common. This group includes all players who avoid going to the net because they feel safer at the back of the court. They still have trouble returning the ball after it bounces off the glass.

• Level 2.5

The speed of the ball and the forehand have improved. Although the backhand is still 'avoided', players are will to attempt it from time to time. Returns of serve on the backhand are improving a little. While the net continues to be a challenge, players are advancing more and attempting volleys, even if often playing forehand and backhand with the same face of the racket. In this phase some rebounds off the glass start to be returned, new shots like lobs and finishes are attempted. In short: players start to have fun.

- Level 3.0: Players already hit consistent flat and slice forehand shots, and while the backhand is no longer avoided, it is not yet totally under control. The serve and the rest of the game is taking shape, return of serve is generally consistent, the volleys are acceptable, especially the forehand while the backhand is still a little erratic, rebounds off the glass are improving and specialist shots start to become consistent.
- Level 3.5: Very similar to the previous level. The main differences are that the direction given to the different shots is better controlled and that the control of ball speed is much greater. In addition, players start to develop a style of play, and are better able to position themselves in relation to their partner.
- Level 4.0: From this point on, we are dealing with experienced players who are very reliable in most of the so-called basic strokes (right hand, backhand, both volleys, serves, return of serve and lobs) and who are developing strokes such as the *bajada* on both sides, and the *bandeja*. The aerial game ceases to be a problem because the shots start to come out with the correct power and direction. One of the most common causes of losing points is lack of patience and the poor reading of bounces off the back glass, often on the backhand.
- Level 4.5: Listed below are the aspects that players are already able to do with each shot, as well as the facets of the game they have mastered:
  - Forehand: very reliable. Use speed, control and variety of strokes with depth.
  - Backhand: You can control direction and depth, but struggle when blocking difficult shots
  - Serve and return of serve: Serve with positioning and control, committing few double faults, aggressive and well controlled return of serves

- Volleys: Good foot positioning, controls flight of rallies, has power, control and depth on the forehand side, but still makes mistakes when playing with power
- Rebounds: good shots from the forehand side. On the backhand, good depth and placement
- Other strokes: Attacking shots with decent power, good court coverage, can smash such that ball exits court, angled volley wide, adapts game depending on opponent, aggressive play at the net, good anticipation.
- Level 5.0: Able to consolidate and strengthen all the previous points, only makes mistakes with return of serve or volleys. The *bajadas* are very aggressive. More intelligent and disciplined on the court.
  Prepares points by aiming them at safest area, more aware of when to take risks. Takes advantage of, and better sees the opponent's weak points, so that they can be attacked.
- Level 5.5: Differences between levels, relative to level 5.0, are already minimal. In this case, players are better prepared physically and mentally.
- Level 6.0 7.0: These players do not need categorisation, they are specialized professionals, World Padel Tour Players.

Note: these and most other levels are not consistent with Playtomic which, while useful for organising local and some international social matches, is prone to error or manipulation (such as initial ranking, players posting selectively etc), and the algorithm is difficult to understand. Please do not use Playtomic but the descriptions above.

## COMPARISON BETWEEN RANKING SYSTEMS IN UK AND EUROPE





Levels 1 to 3 are broadly equivalent, and represent the beginner level, including in Spain and Portugal (which uses a variation of the French system above).

Level 3.5 BPRS broadly equivalent to level 4

Levels 4 and 4.5 BPRS broadly equivalent to level 5. These two European levels are often termed intermediary or confirmed level

Level 5 BPRS broadly equivalent to level 6. This level and level 7 are termed the advanced level.

Level 5.5 BPRS is equivalent to level 7 and 8 in the French/European system. Level 8 is a specialist level

Levels 6 and 7 BPRS are deemed elite players and correspond broadly to levels 9 and 10, which are elite players.