

Pickleball Rules

Overview

1. Games are played to 11 points and must be won by 2 points.

- The server's arm must be moving in an upward arc when the ball is struck.
- Paddle contact with the ball must not be made above the waist level.
- The head of the paddle must not be above the highest part of the wrist at contact.
- A 'drop serve' is also permitted in which case none of the elements above apply.
- The server's feet must be behind the baseline and not outside the imaginary extension of the sideline or centerline.
- Serves must land within the confines of the opposite diagonal court. Only one serve attempt is allowed.
- "Let" serves (ball hits net cord) are legal and should be played.
- A serve that land on the "kitchen" line is out; other lines are considered in.

2. Service return must bounce before it is struck. The serving team must also let the ball bounce.

- After that, play may include volleys.
- Balls in play that land on any court line are good.
- Players will call the lines on their side of the court.

3. A player cannot volley the ball while standing in the kitchen (non-volley zone).

- The non-volley zone (kitchen) is the court area within 7 feet of both sides of the net.
- A player may enter the kitchen to hit a ball if it bounces first.
- It is a fault if, when volleying a ball, the player steps on the non-volley zone, including the line and/or when the player's momentum causes them or anything they are wearing or carrying to touch the non-volley zone including the associated lines.
- It is a fault if, after volleying, a player is carried by momentum into or touches the non-volley zone, even if the volleyed ball is declared dead before this happens.

4. The game starting server alternates from right to left as long as points are won

- Points are scored only by serving team.
- Only on the opening serve of the game, when the server loses the point, the serve goes to the opposing team, always starting on the right side.
- This server is called server 1. When the point is lost, the serve transfers to their partner, server 2, who will continue to serve from the last position.

For complete Pickleball Rules, visit [USAPickleball.org](https://www.usapickleball.org)