

Basic Rules of Pickleball

- The serve must be hit underhand and each team must play the first shot off the bounce.
- After the ball has bounced once on each side, both teams can either volley the ball in the air or play it off the bounce.
- To volley a ball means to hit it in the air without letting the ball bounce.
- No volleying is permitted within the 7-foot non-volley zone, preventing players from executing smashes from a position within this 7-foot zone on both sides of the net.
- Both players on the serving team are allowed to serve and a team scores points only when serving.
- A game is played to 11 points and a team must win by at least 2 points.
- Points are lost by hitting the ball out of bounds, hitting the net, stepping into the non-volley zone and volleying the ball, or by volleying the ball before the ball has bounced on each side of the net.

Specific Rules of Pickleball

The serve

- Players must keep both feet behind the back line when serving.
- The serve is made underhand.
- The paddle must pass below the waist.
- The server must hit the ball in the air on the serve; he or she is not allowed to bounce it, then hit it.
- The serve is made diagonally cross-court and must clear the non-volley zone.
- Only one serve attempt is allowed, except in the event of a "let".
- At the start of each new game, the first serving team is allowed only one fault before giving up the ball to the opponents.
- Thereafter, both members of each team will serve and fault before the ball is turned over to the opposing team.

Double-Bounce Rule

- Each team must play its first shot off the bounce.
- The receiving team must let the serve bounce, and the serving team must let the return of the serve bounce before playing it.
- After the two bounces have occurred, the ball can be either volleyed or played off the bounce.

Doubles Play

- If the receiving team faults, then a point is scored by the serving team.
- When the serving team makes its first fault, players will stay in the same court and the second partner will then serve.
- When the serving team wins a point, its players will switch courts and the same player will continue to serve.
- When the serving team makes its second fault, it will stay in the same court and turn the ball over to the other team.
- Players switch courts only after scoring.
- A ball landing on any line is considered good.