

# Pickleball Rules Summary

## Objective:

Pickleball is a fun, fast-paced racquet sport that combines elements of tennis, badminton, and table tennis. The objective is to score points by successfully hitting the ball over the net into the opponent's court. Games are usually played to 11 points, but players must win by at least 2 points.

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## 1. Court Dimensions:

- **Size:** 20 feet wide by 44 feet long (same for both singles and doubles).
- **Net Height:** 36 inches at the ends, 34 inches at the center.

## 2. Equipment:

- **Paddle:** Solid paddles made from wood, composite materials, or plastic.
  - **Ball:** Plastic ball with holes, similar to a wiffle ball.
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## 3. Serving:

- **Serve Rules:**
  - The serve must be made underhand, with the paddle below the waist.
  - The ball must be served diagonally to the opposite side of the court.
  - **Position:** The server must stand behind the baseline, not stepping over the line.
  - **Bounce Rule:** The ball must bounce once on each side of the net before players can volley it (the "two-bounce rule").
- **Scoring:**
  - Points can only be scored by the serving side.

- Games are usually played to 11, 15, or 21 points, but must be won by at least 2 points.
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#### 4. Serving Sequence (for Doubles):

- The server starts on the right side of the court.
  - If they win the point, they serve from the left side.
  - Each player serves once before the serve switches to the opposing team.
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#### 5. Game Play:

- **Two-Bounce Rule:** After the serve, the ball must bounce once on each side before players can start volleying.
  - **Volleying:** To volley the ball (hit it before it bounces), players must stand behind the **non-volley zone** (often referred to as the "kitchen"), which extends 7 feet from the net.
  - **Non-Volley Zone (Kitchen):**
    - Players cannot step into this zone to hit a volleyed ball, though they can enter it to hit a ball that bounces inside the zone.
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#### 6. Scoring System:

- Points are scored by the serving side only.
- **Winning a Point:** A point is won when:
  - The opponent hits the ball out of bounds.
  - The opponent fails to return the ball over the net.
  - The opponent hits the ball into the net.

- **Game Points:** Games are typically played to 11 points, but players must win by 2 points.
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## 7. Faults:

A fault occurs when:

- The ball is hit out of bounds.
  - The ball does not clear the net.
  - A player steps into the non-volley zone to hit a volley.
  - The server serves incorrectly (e.g., misses the ball, serves out of bounds).
  - The ball bounces twice before it's returned.
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## 8. Winning the Game:

- A match can be played as a single game or best of three.
  - **Singles or Doubles:**
    - In **singles**, each player serves from the right or left side based on their score.
    - In **doubles**, the serve rotates between partners. The first player serves, then their partner, and so on.
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## 9. Common Terms:

- **Ace:** A serve that the opponent fails to touch.
- **Dink:** A soft shot that lands in the non-volley zone.
- **Side Out:** The loss of service by one team, resulting in the other team serving.