

Pickleball Basic Rules

Starting a Game:

- The first team that serves only one person has the opportunity to serve.
- Once the serving team loses the point, the other team begins to serve and from then on, both players serve on each side.

Serving:

- The serve must be made underhand.
- The server must stand behind the baseline and hit the ball into the diagonal service court of the opposing team.
- The serve must clear the non-volley zone and land within the boundaries of the service court.
- Each player serves one time, starting with the right-hand service court, and then rotates to the left-hand service court after scoring a point.
- Once the serving team loses the point, the 2nd person on the team serves. The serving team stops serving once each person loses a point during their serve.
- If a serve hits the net, but still lands in the correct service court, play continues without interruption.

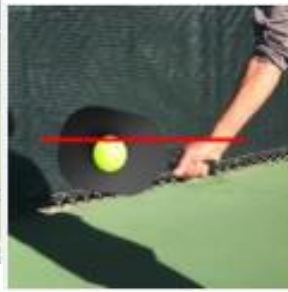
LEGAL SERVE



LEGAL SERVE



ILLEGAL SERVE



Scoring:

- Score should be called before each point. Scoring can get confusing which is why score should be called before each serve. Games start with a score of 0-0-2.
 - Three numbers should be called before each serve:
 - The Serving Team Score
 - The Receiving Team Score
 - The Server number in the sequence (1 or 2)
 - Games are typically played to 11 points, but players can agree on a different point limit if desired.
 - Only the serving team can score points.
 - If the serving team wins a rally, they score a point and continue serving.
 - If the receiving team wins a rally, the second server serves. After the next point the receiving team wins, they become the serving team. Repeat process until game ends.
 - If the score reaches 10-10, the game goes into "win by 2" mode, a team must win by a margin of two points.
- **Double Bounce Rule:**
 - After the serve, each team must let the ball bounce once on their side before hitting it.
 - After the ball has bounced once on each side, both teams can hit the ball either in the air or after a bounce.
 - **Non-Volley Zone (NVZ) Rule:**
 - The non-volley zone, also known as the "kitchen," is the area within 7 feet on both sides of the net.
 - Players cannot volley (hit the ball in the air without letting it bounce) while they are inside the non-volley zone.
 - It is allowed to step into the non-volley zone after the ball has bounced outside of it.
 - If a player volleys the ball while their feet are inside the non-volley zone, it results in a fault, and the opposing team is awarded a point.