

THE GAME OF PICKLEBALL – BASIC RULES

ABOUT PICKLEBALL

The game is played with a hard “paddle” and a hard, hollow plastic ball with holes in it

Even though pickleball is like tennis, there are important differences that make pickleball easier to play. The most important difference is the speed of the ball. A pickleball ball travels at about a third of the average speed of a tennis ball.

GENERAL OPEN PLAY

The struck ball, whether volleyed or hit after a single bounce, must cross to the opponent’s side of the court.

A ball that hits a line is ‘in’

POINTS, HOW SCORED

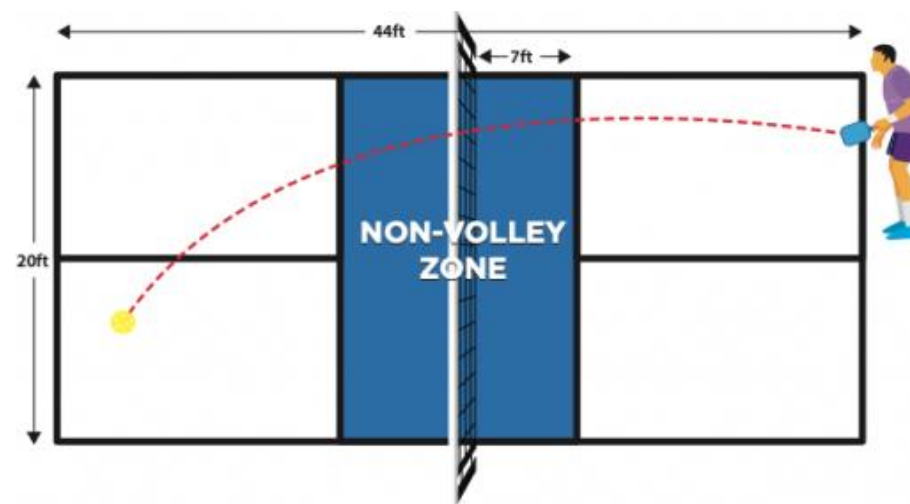
A point is won if the opponent can’t return the ball, hits the ball out, or volleys the ball in the non-volley zone.

If the serving player wins the point then they score 1. If the receiving player wins the point then nothing is scored but they receive the serve. (Note: this is slightly different in doubles)

A game is played up to 11 points and must be won by 2 clear points.

SERVE

Serves are diagonal, like tennis, starting on the right-hand side and alternating.



The serve must:

- clear the NON-VOLLEY ZONE (including the non-volley line)
- be played underhand with the paddle below the wrist and below the waist

The server must:

- announce the score before serving.
- keep both feet behind the back line when serving
- serve the ball from the air without being bounced

A server gets 1 service attempt except if the served ball touches the net and lands in the appropriate area of the receiver’s court in which case the serve is retaken.

DOUBLE BOUNCE RULE

Each team must play their first shot off of the bounce. That is, the receiving team must let the serve bounce and the serving team must let the return of the serve bounce before playing it. Once these two bounces have occurred, the ball can either be volleyed or played off the bounce

VOLLEYS

Volleys are only allowed when both of the player’s feet are behind the non-volley zone line. Also, the point is lost if the volleyer’s momentum carries the player into the NON-VOLLEY ZONE after volleying (like running into the tennis net).

DOUBLES

In doubles both players get to serve. Server 1 will continue to serve as long as the serving team win the point. If the receiving team win the point then Server 2 will serve. When the receiving team win the point from Server 2 then the serve is lost and the opposing pair get to be the server.

At the start of a match only 1 player in the serving team serves before the serve is lost and both players in the opposing pair get to be the server.