

# Basic Pickleball Rules

## Scoring

- A pickleball game is normally played to 11 and must be won by 2
- You can only score a point while serving & should be said aloud before each serve. The serving teams score said first
- In doubles both players on a team serve so the last number stated should be to identify which server is serving. (EX: 5-3-1 would mean the serving team is winning 5 to 3 and the server is the 1st server on the team, for the 2nd server it would be 5-3-2)

## The Serve

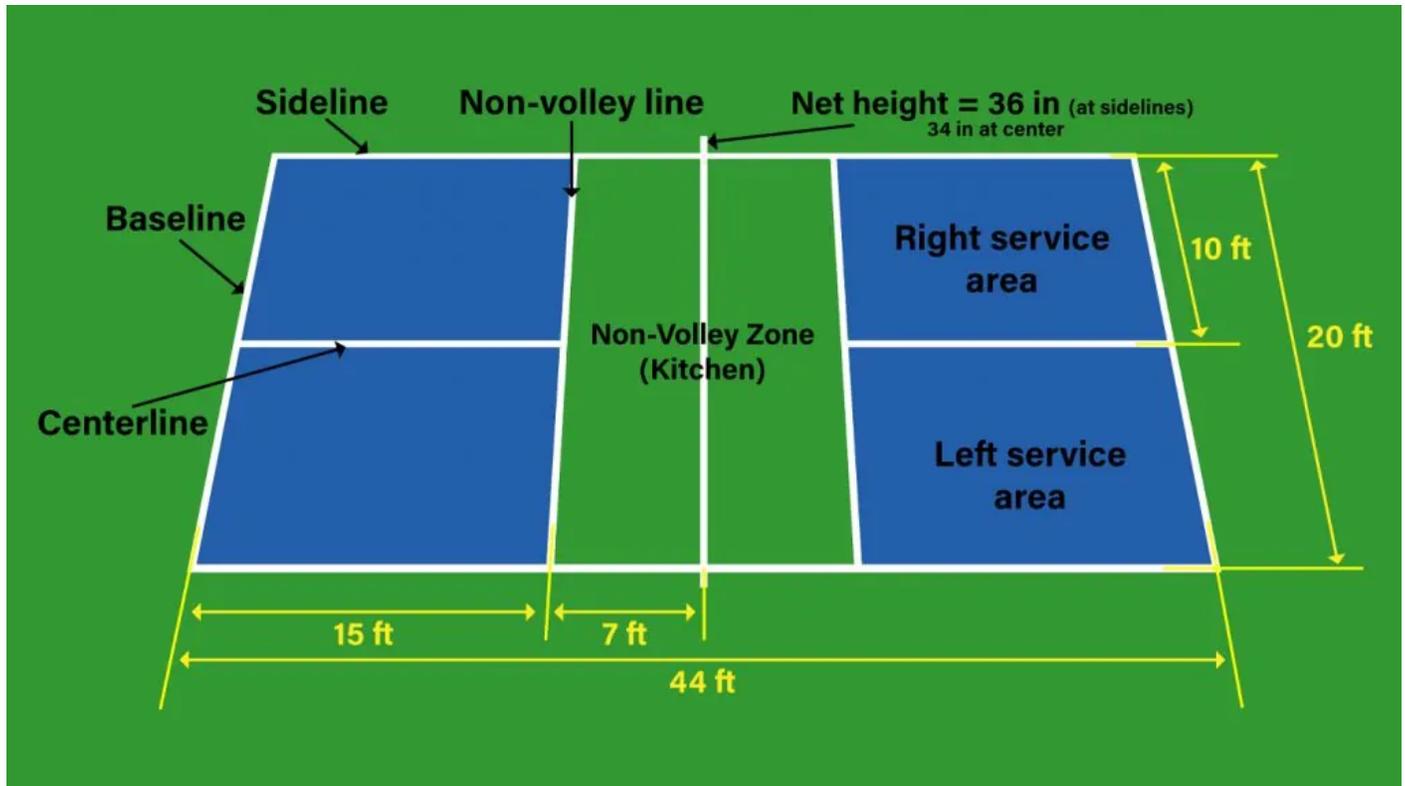
- The serve must be hit with an underhand swinging motion and the ball contacted below the hips
- When hitting the serve the server must be behind the baseline and serve diagonally like tennis
- You only get 1 serve, if the ball is hit out of the court, in the net or the non-volley zone it is a side out
- The center line/side lines/baselines are considered in. If the ball lands on the non-volley line it is a side out If the ball hits the net & goes into the service box it is a let & serves again
- In doubles each player serves until a point is lost then the other team gets the serve
- At the start of the game the team that serves first only gets 1 player to server so the score starts at 0-0-2 The 2 meaning it is already the 2nd server
- The 1st server on each side is always from the right

## Double Bounce Rule

- When the ball is served the player on the receiving side must let the ball bounce once before hitting it
- When the ball is returned to the serving side the ball must again bounce once before being hit
- After the ball has bounced once on each side the ball can be hit without bouncing as long as you aren't in the non-volley zone (7 feet from the net)

## Non-Volley Zone

- The Non-Volley Zone is 7 feet from the net on each side
- A player can't hit a ball if he is inside the Non-Volley Zone unless the ball bounces first
- If a ball hit a player in the Non-Volley zone before bouncing the point is lost
- Once a ball bounces a player can hit the ball while inside the zone
- If a player hits a ball out of the Non-Volley Zone but the momentum takes him into the zone the point is lost
- If your foot touches any part of the line you are considered inside the zone.
- You can reach over the line & hit a ball as long as your foot is behind the line.
- If a serve hits the Non-Volley line the serving team loses the point.



**Ace** – A serve that is in (and legal) and has not been hit or touched by the receiver.

**Dink** – A soft shot typically made near the kitchen line, so that it drops into the opponent’s non-volley zone and they are not able to volley it back.

**Doubles** – A pickleball game played with 4 players (2 on each team).

**Erne** – This shot is a volley hit right at the net with a player positioned outside the court. An “Erne” shot is when a player steps outside the inner part of the court and on the other side of either the right or left sideline and comes forward to be parallel with the kitchen but is, in fact, standing outside the kitchen on the other side of the sideline. The ball will be struck out of the air and very close to the net. This is a surprise shot that typically will be initiated out of dinking rally.

**Fault** – A rule violation. This ends the rally.

**Foot Fault** – Can be called at two locations on the court: Stepping on or into the non-volley zone while volleying a ball, or, while serving, failure to keep both feet behind the baseline with at least one foot in contact with the surface when the paddle contacts the ball.

**Game** – A series of points played until one team has accumulated 11 points (winning by 2 points).

**Kitchen** – A nickname for the non-volley zone. “Non-volley zone” and “kitchen” are synonymous.

**Let Serve** – A serve that touches the top of the net and lands in the proper service court. It is replayed without penalty.

**Serve (Service)** – An underhand stroke used to start the point and put the ball into play.

**Side Out** – Declared after one side loses its service and other side is awarded serve.

**Third Shot Drop** – A drop shot usually done after the service return (third shot) allowing the serving team time to get to the non-volley zone line.

**Volley** – Hitting the ball before it bounces.