

INTRODUCTION TO PICKLEBALL

Pickleball originated at the home of Joel Pritchard in the Seattle, Washington, area in 1965. The game began as a family activity when Mr. Pritchard and his houseguest, Bill Bell, discovered that there wasn't enough good badminton equipment for the two families to play. After modifying rules and replacing rackets with wooden paddles, they developed this new game. The name came from the Pritchard's cocker spaniel, "Pickles", who kept running off with the ball whenever it landed off the court. Slowly, pickleball spread among neighbors and friends, and in 1972 a corporation was formed to protect the new game. During the 1970s the popularity of the game grew in the Seattle area, where it was used in high school and college physical educational programs and the park and recreation association. Though it has been around for about twenty years, the last five has seen tremendous growth. The United States of America Pickleball Association is the official promoter and governing body for the game.

WHAT IS PICKLEBALL

- ❑ Pickleball is a simple paddle game, playing a special perforated slow-moving ball over a tennis type net, on a badminton-sized court. The ball is served underhand, without bouncing it from the court, and is served diagonally to the opponent's service zone.
- ❑ Points are scored by the serving side only and occur when the opponent faults (fails to return the ball, hits the ball out of bounds, etc.). The server continues to serve, altering service courts, until the server faults.
- ❑ A game is won by the first side to reach eleven (11) points but will continue until won by a two point margin.

TERMINOLOGY

Fault - infringements of the rules that end the rally.

Rally - consecutive hits without a fault between players on opposing teams.

Volley - to hit the ball in the air without first letting it bounce.

RULES AND REGULATIONS

Service Rules

1. The player must keep one foot behind the back line when serving.
2. The serve is made underhand and the paddle must pass below the waist.
3. The serve is made diagonally cross-court and must clear the non-volley zone.
4. Only one serve attempt is allowed except if the ball touches the net on the serve and lands in the proper service court. Then the serve may be taken over.
5. At the start of each new game, the 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.
6. When the receiving team wins the serve, the player in the right hand court will always start play.
7. Captains toss a coin to determine the serving team.
8. A player who is serving shall continue to do so until his team makes a fault.

General Rules

1. All volleying must be done with the player's feet behind the non-volley zone line. It is a fault if the player steps over the line on the volley follow through.
2. Double Bounce Rule - each team must play their first shot off 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. After two bounces have occurred, the ball can be either volleyed or played off the bounce.
3. A ball landing on any line is considered good.
4. The hand below the wrist is considered part of the paddle and shots off any part of it are good.

It is a fault when:

- The ball is hit out of bounds.
- The ball does not clear the net.
- The player steps into the non-volley zone and volleys the ball.
- The ball is volleyed before it has bounced once on each side of the net as outlined in the double bounce rule.

Scoring

1. A team shall score a point only when serving.
2. The game is played to 11 points; however, a team must win by 2 points.
3. The serving team scores a point when the receiving team makes a fault.
4. In doubles when the serving team wins a point, its players will switch courts and the same player will continue to serve.
5. In doubles, when the serving team makes its first fault players will stay in the same court and the second partner will then serve.

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7. In singles, each player serves from the right-hand court when her/his score is zero or an even number, and from the left-hand court when her/his score is an odd number.

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