



Pickleball is a fun, competitive game played on a 20' x 44' lined court with a net which is 34" high at the center and 36" high on the ends.

Each side is divided into a left and right playing zone and the "no volley zone" – NVZ or kitchen.

It's played with a perforated plastic ball about the size of a whiffle ball which comes in several different colors and a paddle made of a variety of materials; the most advanced are versions of composites/graphites/foam/honeycomb.

Singles or doubles can be played.

Only the serving team can score points and, typically, the games are to 11, winning by 2 points.

Serves can be done in two ways with different rules appropriate for each type of serve. You can bounce it and then hit it or you may hit it underhanded, dropping the ball. Please review the rules (provided elsewhere on the website).

The serve must bounce before the opponent returns it, and that return must also bounce before the serving team hits it. From that point forward you may let the ball bounce once or take it out of the air (a volley). If you take it out of the air, please be aware that you cannot step into the kitchen in hitting the volley, nor may your momentum after hitting the shot take you into the kitchen. The NVZ or kitchen line is considered part of the kitchen and momentum, for all intents and purposes, lasts forever.

You may enter the kitchen at any time – to return a ball after it bounces, to hang out there and watch the game around you, or just to visit. You cannot take a ball out of the air and be in any part of the kitchen while you hit it or if your momentum carries you in there.

Rules regarding which side serves first can be done however you want. Local rules typically govern which side serves first. Scoring convention for the serving team is: your team's score, the opponent's score, and whether you are the first or second server. Serving always starts on the right side of the court, and the very first time in a game that you serve, only one person serves.

With no referee, faults are called by your team on the opposing team and vice versa, including fault serves, stepping into the kitchen on a volley, and out balls. In the case of a dispute, the call goes to your opponent. Pickleball is a gracious sport.

There is a ton of information regarding the rules and including the official rulebook at: [www.usapa.org](http://www.usapa.org)