

Basic Rules Overview

Pickleball is played either as doubles (two players per team) or singles; doubles is most common

The same size playing area and rules are used for both singles and doubles

The Serve

The serve must be made underhand.

Paddle contact with the ball must be below the server's waist (navel level).

New for 2022: A Drop Serve is allowed where a serve can be made after it is bounced anywhere on the playing surface, without being forced downwards, or tossed upwards before the ball is struck. No restriction on service motion for the Drop Serve.

The serve is initiated with at least one foot behind the baseline; neither foot may contact the baseline or court until after the ball is struck.

The serve is made diagonally crosscourt and must land within the confines of the opposite diagonal court.

Only one serve attempt is allowed per player.

A let, when the ball touches the net on the serve and lands on the proper service court, is a legal serve and no replay.

Service Sequence

Both players on the serving doubles team have the opportunity to serve and score points until they commit a fault *(except for the first service sequence of each new game).

The first serve of each side-out is made from the right/even court.

If a point is scored, the server switches sides and the server initiates the next serve from the left/odd court.

As subsequent points are scored, the server continues switching back and forth until a fault is committed and the first server loses the serve.

When the first server loses the serve the partner then serves from their correct side of the court (except for the first service sequence of the game*).

The second server continues serving until his team commits a fault and loses the serve to the opposing team.

Once the service goes to the opposition (at side out), the first serve is from the right/even court and both players on that team have the opportunity to serve and score points until their team commits two faults.

In singles the server serves from the right/even court when his or her score is even and from the left/odd when the score is odd.

*At the beginning of each new game only one partner on the serving team has the opportunity to serve before faulting, after which the service passes to the receiving team.

Scoring

Points are scored only by the serving team.

Games are normally played to 11 points, win by 2.