

Pickleball Rules Cheat Sheet

Plain English. Numbers in brackets are official rule numbers.

Scoring

- Only the serving team scores. Games go to 11, win by 2. [4.A]
- Before each serve, call: your score, their score, server 1 or 2. [6.B.2]
- Doubles games start at 0-0-2: only one player serves before the first side out. [6.B.2]

Calling the score: an example

- 0-0-2. Serving team wins a rally: 1-0-2, server switches sides. [5.B.5]
- Serving team loses a rally: side out. Other team serves at 0-1-1. [5.B]
- They win one: 1-1-1. They lose one: their second server serves at 1-1-2.
- They lose again: side out. The first team serves at 1-1-1. [5.B.2]

The serve

- Serve crosscourt, past the kitchen, into the opposite box. [7.E]
- Both feet behind the baseline when you hit it. [7.A.2]
- Hit below the waist with an upward swing, or use a drop serve. [7.C.3]
- A serve that clips the net and lands in the box is in play. [7.E]

Official rules: usapickleball.org | Shop: etsy.com/shop/KitchenLineCrew

The two-bounce rule

- The serve and the return must each bounce once. Then anyone may volley. [10.A]

The kitchen (non-volley zone)

- No volleys while touching the kitchen. The line is part of it. [11.A.1]
- Walk in any time, and hit any ball there after it bounces. [11.A]
- If a volley carries you into the kitchen, it is a fault, even after the ball is dead. [11.A.2]
- After stepping in, get both feet out before you volley again. [11.A.3]

10 mistakes we see every week

1. Volleying with a toe on the kitchen line. [11.A.1]
2. Letting a volley carry you into the kitchen. [11.A.2]
3. Volleying the return of serve. [10.A]
4. Calling a serve on the kitchen line in. It is out. [8.C]
5. Stepping on the baseline while serving. [7.A.2]
6. Starting the game at 0-0-1 instead of 0-0-2. [6.B.2]
7. Calling it out when unsure. If in doubt, it is in. [8.D]
8. Blocking a ball that is going out. If it hits you, you lose the rally. [10.C.3]
9. Touching the net while the ball is in play. [13.G]
10. Hitting the ball before it crosses the net. [13.F]

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