

PICKLEBALL

Pickleball can be played as a singles or doubles game, the court and rules are the same for both.

Scoring

A pickleball game is normally played to 11 and must be won by 2. You can only score a point while serving. The score should be said aloud before each serve with the serving teams score stated first, in doubles both players on a team serve so the last number stated should be to identify which server is serving. e.g. 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 into the adjacent service box as is done in tennis. You only get 1 serve, if the ball is hit out of the court, into the net or into the no-volley zone (kitchen) it is a side out. The center line, side lines and baselines are considered in on a serve but if the ball lands on the no-volley line it is a side out. If the ball hit the net and goes into the service box it is a let and the server maintains the serve. You only score points while serving.

In doubles each player serves until a point is lost then the other team gets the serve.

Exception at Beginning of Game

The only exception to both players serving is with the very first server of a game. The very first server of the game still serves from the right service court, but he or she starts as the 2nd server to not give the first team serving an unfair advantage. The very first score of the game is called out "0, 0, 2." This means that as soon as the serving team faults, side out is called, and the other team gets to serve.

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 no-volley zone.

No Volley Zone

The No-Volley Zone is 7 feet from the net on each side. A player cannot hit a ball if he is inside the No-Volley Zone unless the ball bounces first. If a ball hit a player in the No-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 while outside the No-Volley Zone and the momentum takes him/her 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 and hit a ball as long as your foot is behind the line. If a serve hits the No-Volley line the serving team loses the point.

The History of Pickleball

Humans have always been great at improvising. In today's world, improvisation can mostly be seen in the performing arts, such as music, dance, theater, and even comedy. But thanks to mankind's ability to make the most out of every situation, we've even invented some of the world's most popular sports. For example, the origins of soccer started when humans filled up pig bladders to kick around on small makeshift courts....all for the purpose of passing time. And for the history of pickleball, it all began thanks to humans' innate desire for personal entertainment.

History

Like all great stories, pickleball came about on a sunny day with little to do. In 1965, two dads named Joel Pritchard and Bill Bell arrived at Pritchard's home on Bainbridge Island, Washington, after a golf outing. They found that their families were bored with no way to pass the time. Looking to alleviate the boredom of his loved ones and close friends, Pritchard started to hatch a plan to bring an end to the group's summer time woes.

Pritchard's property had an old badminton court so they started there with hopes of playing. However, they couldn't find enough rackets for a full game so instead, he improvised by using spare ping pong paddles and a wiffle ball. With these bits and pieces lying around, a brand-new game was born. Today, you know it better as pickleball.

As the weekend went on and time flew by, they enhanced their makeshift game further with their own set of house rules. At first, the net was set at badminton's regulation height of 60", but the group found that the wiffle ball bounced well on their asphalt court so they lowered it down to 36". At this point, there weren't many rules to their game so during the following weekend, Pritchard and Bell introduced their new creation to another family friend named Barney McCullum. From there, with heavy inspiration from badminton, the three dads created new rules with the sole purpose of family play and accessibility in mind.

Two years later in 1967, Joel Pritchard constructed the first, permanent pickleball court in the backyard of Bob O'Brian, who was Pritchard's neighbor and close family friend. The decision to build a dedicated and permanent court further cemented their homemade game into a loveable pastime. As the game started to gain steam in the Pacific Northwest, a corporation by the name of Pickleball, Inc. was founded in 1972 to help interested players buy equipment to play the game. This included paddles, nets, and balls that weren't taken from other racquet games, but were created specifically for pickleball. Not only did the founding of this corporation help people find the right equipment to play pickleball, but it helped transition the game from a local pastime to a legitimate sport.

Fast forward to today, and you'll find that pickleball is the fastest growing sport in the United States with international growth gaining steam. Currently, the U.S.A. Pickleball Association lists nearly 4,000 locations where you can play nationwide. To understand how pickleball's popularity has exploded to this point over the last 50 years, let's take a look at the nature of this fast-paced, friendly, and enjoyable sport.

Need to Know Terms

Kitchen: Also known as the non-volley zone, the kitchen is the area between the net and non-volley line on both sides.

Volleying: Hitting the ball before it has bounced.

Fault: A fault occurs when the ball:

- Lands out of bounds
- Doesn't clear the net
- Doesn't clear the non-volley zone or boundary lines during the serve
- Is volleyed from the non-volley zone
- Is volleyed before it bounces once on each side

Side Out: This term is declared when service is given to the opposing team

Dink: A shot with the intention of landing the ball at the feet of your opponent or in their non-volley zone.

Pickleball Scoring Basics video = <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eMEpFipIdrk>