THE GAME OF PICKLEBALL
BASIC RULES

THE DOUBLES GAME

Pickleball is played on a court with the same dimensions as a badminton court.

THE GAME, HOW PLAYED
Played by 2 pairs using pickleball paddles and a pickleball ball.

SCORE
A game is usually played up to 11 points and must be won by 2 clear points.

POINTS, HOW SCORED
A point can only be won by the serving player/team
A ball that hits a line is ‘in’, unlike in squash when a ball hitting a line is ‘out’.

SERVICE
Serves are diagonal, like tennis, starting on the right-hand side and alternating.

The server must:
- clear the NON-VOLLEY ZONE (including the non-volley line)
- be played underhand with the paddle below the wrist and below the waist

GENERAL OPEN PLAY
The struck ball, whether volleyed or hit after a single bounce, must cross to the opponents side of the court in the same manner as a tennis shot (i.e. without bouncing on the strikers side of the net or hitting a ceiling etc).

VOLLEYS
Volleys are only allowed when both of the player’s feet are behind the non-volley zone line. Also, the point is lost if the volleys momentum carries the player into the NON-VOLLEY ZONE after volleying (like running into the tennis net).

DOUBLE BOUNCE RULE
Each team must play their first shot off of 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. Once these two bounces have occurred, the ball can either be volleyed or played off the bounce.

THE SINGLES GAME

THE GAME, HOW PLAYED
Played by 2 players.

SERVER
Before serving the server calls out the score, the server’s score first and then the receiver’s score.

THE SERVICE
The server’s score determines the side from which to serve. Serves are executed on the right side of the court when the server’s score is an even number (0, 2, 4, ...), the left side when the server’s score is odd (1, 3, 5, ...).

https://www.pickleballengland.org