

# THE GAME OF PICKLEBALL

## BASIC RULES



**Pickleball  
ENGLAND**

### THE DOUBLES GAME

#### COURT

Pickleball is played on a court with the same dimensions as a badminton court. The central net height is 36"(.914m) at both ends and 34"(.86m) in the middle.

#### HOW TO PLAY

Played by 2 pairs using pickleball paddles and a pickleball ball over a central net. A game is usually played up to 11 points win by 2 clear points. If time constraints win by 1.

#### HOW TO SCORE

A point can only be won by the serving player/team. A server gets 1 service attempt. There are no lets. At the start of a new game only 1 player in a team serves, initially after saying the score 0-0-2. If the serving team wins the rally the server continues, serving from alternate sides, until the rally is lost. When the service is lost and 'Side Out' occurs, then both players in the opposing pair can be the server.

#### LINE CALLS

A ball that hits a line is 'in', unlike in squash when a ball hitting a line is 'out'. Players make all calls on their end of the court. Any disagreement between partners will be decided to benefit the opposing team.

#### SERVICE

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

The serve must

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

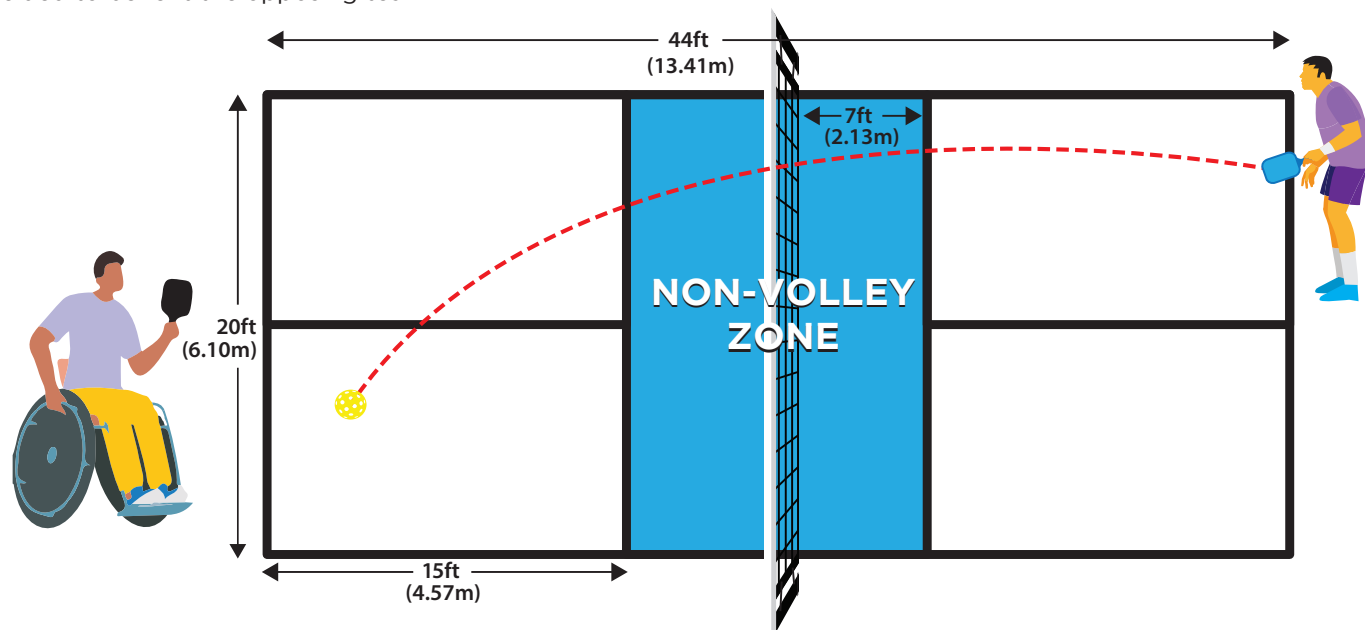
The server must:

- announce the full score before serving. 3 numbers: server's score; receiver's score; server number (1 or 2)
- keep both feet behind the back line when serving
- use only one hand or the paddle to release the ball
- not spin with the hand or paddle on the release/toss

A drop serve is allowed. Server releases (not bounces) the ball from a height and strikes the ball with either a forehand or backhand motion after the ball bounces.

The ball can bounce more than once before being struck.

The release of the ball must be visible to the receiver (and referee if there is one).



#### TWO BOUNCE RULE

Each team must play their first shot off 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 struck ball, whether volleyed or hit after a single bounce, must cross to the opponents side of the court (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 rally is lost if the volleyer's momentum carries the player into the NON-VOLLEY ZONE after playing the volley.

#### WHEELCHAIR/ADAPTIVE PLAY

A sports wheelchair should be used for play. The ball can bounce twice before being hit, a third bounce is a fault (valid for adaptive play as well as wheelchair users). The smaller front wheels of the chair can be in the NVZ when

a volley is played. If the larger rear wheels have touched the NVZ, a volley cannot be played until both rear wheels have made contact with the playing area outside the NVZ. (These rules also apply to the singles game). Seated wheelchair users must have one buttock in contact with the seat when striking the ball.

#### THE SINGLES GAME

Played by 2 players only.

#### 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, ...).