

Simple Summary of Pickleball Rules

Players serve the ball underhand and cross court as with badminton.

Once the ball is served, the returning team must let it bounce before hitting it. Further, when it is subsequently hit back over the net, the serving team must ALSO let the ball bounce once before hitting it. After that point, players are free to let it bounce or hit it right of the air without bouncing.

Games are played to 11 points. Teams must win by two points. Only the serving team can win a point. When a server gains a point, he continues to serve until he loses serve. His team mate then begins to serve until such time as they lose serve and the opponents gain serve (and both opponents get to serve)

EXCEPTION: When starting the game ONLY, the player in the NW corner gets to serve first. Once that person loses serve, the opponents then gain serve (ie to start the game, the serving teams only gets one serve)

Serves are made cross court and must land in the back square. They can not land in the kitchen (the area between the net and the first line). That is a fault and loss of serve.

As play goes back and forth, players are NOT allowed to stand in the kitchen to hit the ball, UNLESS the ball has already bounced in the kitchen. (ie can not block like in volleyball)

That's all the main rules. Have fun !!