

Pickleball Rules

Teams & Match

Each team consists of 2 (two) players. You may sign up to 5 (five) players on the roster. Teams must have 2 players to start. Game time is forfeit time. The doubles team plays three games and each singles player plays one game. Teams earn a point for each game win during the match.

Court

Games will be played indoors at the Small Gym. The (yellow) badminton courts are 44 ft x 20 ft for doubles play and 39 ft x 17 ft for singles play. A ball landing on any line is considered inbounds.

Equipment

Pickleballs are the size of a baseball. The paddle used in pickleball is made of hardwood or plywood. The head of the paddle is squared off and should not exceed 8 inches wide or 15 1/2 inches in length. A net is hung 36 inches high at the posts and 34 inches high in the center of the net.

All players must dress in athletic clothing for safety and maintenance of the wood floor. Players should wear tennis shoes; jeans, boots, sandals and bare feet are examples of unacceptable apparel.

Serve

The home team serves first. The visiting team chooses sides. Player must keep one foot behind the back line when serving. The serve is made underhand. The paddle must pass below the waist. The server must hit the ball in the air on the serves. He is not allowed to bounce it to then serve. The service is made diagonally cross court and must clear the non-volley zone. Only one serve attempt is allowed, except if the ball touches the net on the serve and lands in the proper service court (let serve). Only then may the serve be taken again. When receiving team wins the serve, the player in the right hand court will always start play. Players switch courts (right and left hand sides) only after a point has been scored.

Volley

To volley a ball means to hit it in the air without first letting it bounce. All volleying must be done with player's feet behind the non-volley zone line. NOTE: It is a fault if the player steps over the line on his volley follow through.

Double Bounce Rule

Each team must play their first shot on the bounce. That is, the receiving team must let the serve bounce in the appropriate box, and the serving team must also let the return bounce before playing it. After the two bounces have occurred, the ball can be either volleyed or played off the bounce.

Faults

1) Hitting the ball out of bounds; 2) Not clearing net; 3) Stepping into the non-volley zone and volleying the ball; 4) Volleying the ball before it has bounced once on each side of the net

Scoring

A team shall score a point only when serving. A player who is serving shall continue

to do so until a fault is made by his team. The game is played to 15 points; however, a team must win by 2 points

Doubles Play

Player in RIGHT HAND court serves diagonally across court to receiver in opposite RIGHT HAND court. The ball must clear the non-volley zone and land in the RIGHT HAND serving court.

If the fault is made by the receiving team, a point is scored by the serving team. When the serving team wins a point, its players will switch courts on their side and the same player will continue to serve. Players switch courts only after scoring.

Singles Play

All rules apply with the following exception: When serving in singles, each player serves from the RIGHT HAND court when his score is 0 or an even number, and from the LEFT HAND court when his score is odd numbered.

Role of IM Sports Staff

Pickleball is scored on the honor system. The IM sports official or supervisor on duty will settle rule infraction issues and issue judgment on poor sportsmanship.

