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.

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

SCORE
A game is usually played up to 11 points win by 2 clear points. If time constraints win by 1.

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’.

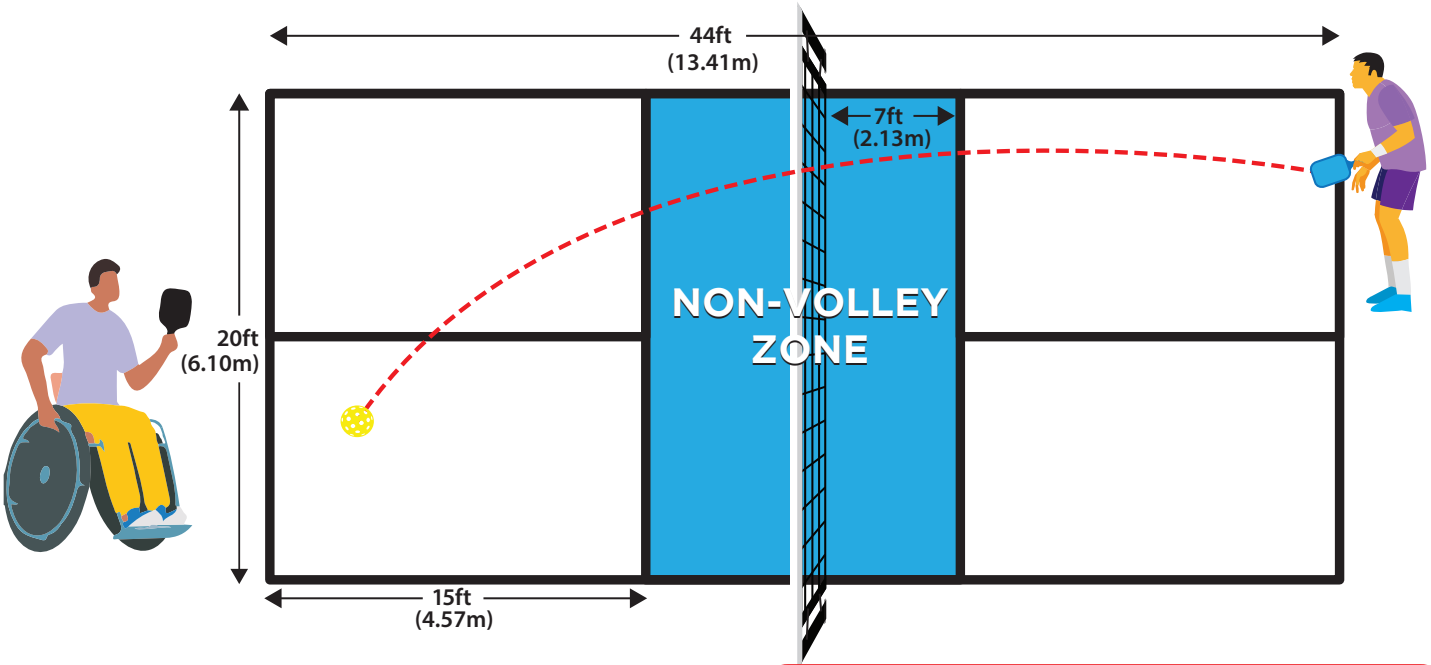
SERVICE
Serves are diagonal, like tennis, starting on the right-hand side and alternating.
The serve must
- clear the NON-VOLLEY ZONE (including the non-volley line
- be played underhand with the paddle below the wrist and below the waist

DOUBLE 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.

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 volleyer’s momentum carries the player into the NON-VOLLEY ZONE after volleying (like running into the tennis net).

WHEELCHAIR USERS
A sports wheelchair should be used for play. The ball can bounce twice before being hit, a third bounce is a fault. 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).



The server must:
- keep both feet behind the back line when serving
- serve the ball from the air without being bounced unless using a drop serve
- a drop serve is allowed. Server releases 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)
- announce the score before serving, 3 numbers: server’s score; receiver’s score; server number (1 or 2)

A server gets 1 service attempt.

At the start of a new game only 1 player in a team serves, initially after saying the score 0-0-2. When the service is lost and ‘Side Out’ occurs, then both players in the opposing pair get to be the server.

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, ...).

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