Pickleball Rules Guide

PICKLEBALL SCORING CHEAT SHEET

Call the score: three numbers

5-3-1

1. **5**: the serving side's score
2. **3**: the receiving side's score
3. **1**: first or second server

Call all of it before you serve. Singles: two numbers (server, receiver).

Start at 0-0-2

The side that serves first gets **one** server on its first turn, so it starts as server 2. Lose that rally and the serve goes straight over.

Scoring

Only the **serving** side scores. Games to **11, win by 2**.

Who serves next

Serving side wins the rally	+1 point. Partners **switch sides**. Same server.
Server 1 loses the rally	Partner serves (server 2), from where they stand.
Server 2 loses the rally	**Side out.** Other side serves, from its player on the right.

Where to stand

Your side's **starting server** is on the **right when your score is even** (0, 2, 4…) and on the left when it's odd, serving or receiving.

Singles: serve from the right on an even score, the left on an odd one.

Serve **diagonally**: right to right, left to left.

Let it bounce twice

The **serve** bounces before it's returned. The **return** bounces before the serving side hits it. Then volley away.

The kitchen

No **volleys** while touching the 7-foot zone or its line, and no stepping in from a volley's momentum. Stand in it any time to play a ball that bounced.

A serve on the kitchen line is short.

✂ Cut out and keep in your bag

PICKLEBALL SCORE CALL

Your score – their score – server 1 or 2. Start at 0-0-2.

Win a rally serving: point, switch sides, same server. Lose: partner serves, then side out.

Starting server on the **right on an even score**.

Serve and return must bounce. No volleys in the kitchen.

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Current as of Nov 1, 2026. Follows the USA Pickleball Official Rulebook, 2026 edition. Rules change: the latest version is always at **pickleballrulesguide.com/printables/scoring-cheat-card**.

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