

Pickleball Doubles Game: Step-by-Step Guide

1. Setting Up the Game

- The court is 20 ft wide x 44 ft long, divided by a net (34 inches at the center, 36 inches at the sides).
- Each team has two players: one on the right side and one on the left side.
- The Non-Volley Zone (kitchen) is a 7-foot area on both sides of the net where players cannot volley.

2. Deciding Who Serves First

- Use a coin toss or paddle spin to decide.
- The serving team starts from the right-hand side.
- The first server of the game only gets one service turn before side out.

3. Serving the Ball

- The serve must be underhand, below waist level, and hit diagonally crosscourt.
- The server must stand behind the baseline.
- The ball must clear the net and land past the kitchen line.

4. The Two-Bounce Rule

- The receiving team must let the serve bounce before hitting it.
- The serving team must also let the return bounce before hitting it.
- After these two bounces, players can volley or hit off the bounce.

5. Rallying & Keeping the Ball in Play

- Players can volley (outside the kitchen) or hit groundstrokes.
- Common faults: hitting out of bounds, hitting the net, volleying in the kitchen.

6. Scoring & The Serving Sequence

- Only the serving team can score.
- First server serves until a fault, then the second server takes over.
- After both servers lose a rally, it's a side out and the other team serves.

7. Calling the Score

- Score format: [Serving Team's Score] - [Receiving Team's Score] - [Server Number]
- Example: '3-2-1' means the serving team has 3 points, opponents have 2, and server 1 is serving.

8. Winning the Game

- Games are played to 11 points, win by 2.
- Some tournaments play to 15 or 21, still win by 2.

Quick Tips

- ✓ Stay at the kitchen line after the serve sequence.
- ✓ Use dinks to control the rally.
- ✓ Communicate with your partner.
- ✓ Be patient and focus on placement over power.