

Rules for ALL to Play Pickleball

by Wayne J. LaPointe



USAPA Ambassador Wayne J. LaPointe and USAPA Member Leo Smith
MSO 2009 Summer Pickleball Games
Photo by Stan Wilson, Jr.

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*First of all, if you recall,
The name of the game is Pickleball.
Pickleball is a weird name but garners attention
by its mere mention.*

*So what if the creator's
dog, Pickles, chased the ball,
thus created the name for us all.*

*All you need is 20 x 44 feet;
A 3 foot net and
You are ready for a treat.
Now grab a paddle
and use the wiffle ball for your battle.*

*But to avoid looking like fools
first, you must understand the rules.*

*You will have no rule troubles
with Pickleball doubles
if you take the time
to read this rhyme.*

*The proper score and server number you must state.
Until it is announced, serving the ball must wait.*

*A second time 'serving early' in that game will be at great cost,
as it could result in a point being lost.*

So, state your score first and then the score of your foe.

Whether you are the first or the second server on your team, you must also know.

3 - 2 - 1 means you are ahead and the 1st server, for that series, on your team.

That's simple enough it would seem.

But whoa!

It is important to also know

*If the very first server of the game is you,
announce yourself as server number two!*

*Serve the ball in the proper way,
Contact underhand, below wrist level, is how you play.*

*Serve to the far, opposite side,
keep it on, or inside the lines - don't serve it wide.*

*Of course, in the kitchen the serve must not go,
or the service is lost and you will have a feeling of woe.*

*Be sure the ball has bounced once on each side of the net before you volley
or all your efforts will be folly.*

Another rule that you must observe

is that the partner on the right is the first to serve.

If successful, that person next serves from the left side

and until another point is scored, that's where she/he must abide.

[In singles, serve on the right when your score is an even number for you.

Likewise, an odd score means serving from the left is what you do.]

Senior Olympics scoring varies, but is usually 15 and win by one.

However, the losers bracket is only 11 points for the game to be done.

In the finals match, the requirement is to win by two.

Note: Other leagues and tournaments may consider scoring in an entirely different view.

*The game definitely requires strategy,
Otherwise it usually ends in tragedy.*

*The kitchen area is something you must understand clearly.
Don't volley while standing in it, or it will cost you dearly.*

*Keep your opponents deep and serve to their backhand,
Plus, it's good to get up to the kitchen line and alertly stand.*

*If you are good at it, you can make the ball spin,
but the most important strategy is to simply keep the ball "in".*

*You can top spin, side spin, slam, dink or fake,
however, the best strategy is to let your opponent make the mistake.*

*Pickleball is easy to learn but hard to master,
So, just shake off those times your play is a disaster.*

*Etiquette rules are stressed in this game.
if they are compromised, Pickleball will never be the same.*

*So, do your best to call
where the ball appears to fall.*

*And if 'line call' opinions are not the same,
please remember it is just a 'fun' game.*

Don't argue nor fight;

*The possibility exists that they just might have been right!
If a 'bad call' goes against you, here's the thought that must follow
"The sun will still rise tomorrow".*

*If you cannot follow the 'Golden Rule of Pickleball', your playing career should be immediately done
That rule to remember is simply:*

"HAVE FUN!!!"

*[This was written by someone having lots of fun losing and learning,
but more victories are something I am still yearning.]*