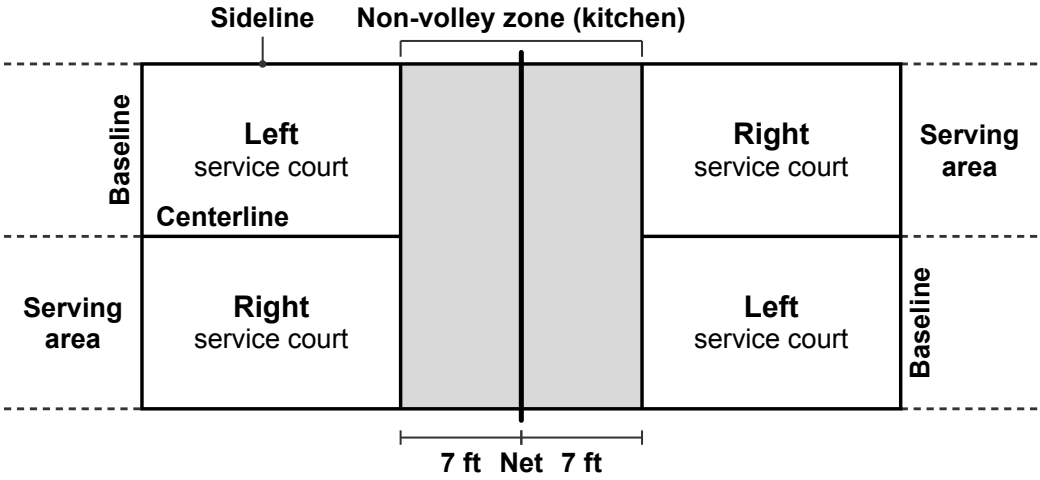
Pickleball rules in one page

Right and left as each end faces the net



Lines are part of the zone

The court is 20 feet wide and 44 feet long for singles and doubles. The net is 36 inches high at the sidelines and 34 inches at the center. (Rules 3.A.1, 3.B.6 and 3.B.7)

1 Serve with an upward swing, the ball no higher than your waist and the paddle head no higher than your wrist, or hit a dropped ball after it bounces. (Rules 7.C.1, 7.C.2, 7.C.3 and 7.D)

2 When you serve, keep at least one foot on the ground behind the baseline, with neither foot on the court or the baseline, inside the sideline and centerline extended. (Rules 7.A.1, 7.A.2 and 7.A.3)

3 Serve to the service court diagonally opposite. The ball must clear the kitchen and land in that court; touching the net on the way is allowed. (Rule 7.E)

4 Let the serve bounce before you return it, and the serving side must let the return bounce too. After those two bounces, volleys are allowed outside the kitchen. (Rules 10.A and 11.A)

5 Return the ball before it bounces a second time. (Rule 10.B)

6 Don't volley while touching the kitchen or its lines. You may stand in it at any other time. (Rules 3.A.4.c, 11.A and 11.A.1)

7 A ball that lands on a line is in, with one exception: a serve that lands on the kitchen line is out. (Definitions and Rules 3.A.4.c, 3.A.4.f, 8.B and 8.C)

8 In standard scoring you win a point only when you or your team is serving. (Rule 4.A)

9 It's a fault against you if your shot lands out or fails to cross the net, or if the ball touches you, except your paddle or the hand holding it. (Rules 10.C.1, 10.C.2 and 10.C.3)

10 Call the lines on your own end. Call a ball out only when you clearly see space between it and the line; if in doubt, it's in. (Rules 8.A, 8.D and 8.E)

From the 2026 USA Pickleball Official Rulebook. Rule numbers in brackets.
picklecrew.net/guides/pickleball-rules-for-beginners