**Basic Pickleball Rules**

**Serving:**

* The serve must be made underhand
* Paddle contact with the ball must be made below the severs waist (navel level)
* The serve must be made behind the baseline
* The serve must be made diagonally crosscourt and must land within the area of the opposite diagonal court
* Only one serve attempt is permitted, except in the event of a let (the ball hits the net on a serve and lands on the opposite court, the serve is replayed).

**Serving Sequence:**

* In Doubles
* The first serve of each side-out is made from the right/even court
* If a point is scored, the server switches sides and the server initiates the next serve from the left/odd court
* As points are scored, the server continues switching back and forth until a fault is committed or the first server loses the serve
* When the first server loses the serve, the partner then serves from their correct side of the court
* The second server continues serving until his team commits a fault and loses the serve to the opposing team
* Once the serve goes to the opposite team, the first serve is made from the right/even court and both players on that team have the opportunity to serve and score points until their team commits two faults
* \*At the beginning of each new game, only one partner on the serving team has the opportunity to serve before faulting, after which the service is passed to the receiving team.
* In singles, the server serves from the right/even court when his or her score is even and from the left/odd when the score is odd

**Scoring:**

* Points are only scored by the serving team
* Games played to 11 points and have to win by 2

**Two-Bounce Rule:**

* When the ball is served, the receiving team must let it bounce before returning, and then the serving team must let it bounce before returning, thus two bounces
* After the ball has bounced once in each team’s court, both teams may either volley the ball (hit the ball before it bounces) or play it off a bounce (ground stroke)

**Non-Volley Zone:**

* The non-volley zone is the court area within 7 feet on both sides of the net
* Volleying is prohibited within the non-volley zone
* It is a fault if, when volleying a ball, the player steps on the non-volley zone, including the line and/or when the player’s momentum causes them or anything they are wearing or carrying to touch the non-volley zone including the associated lines
* It is a fault if, after volleying, a player is carried by momentum into or touches the non-volley zone, even if the volleyed ball is declared dead before this happens

**Line Calls:**

* A ball contacting any line, except the non-volley zone line on a serve, is considered “in”
* A serve contacting the non-volley zone line is short and a fault

**Faults:**

* A fault is any action that stops play because of a rule violation
* A fault by the receiving team results in a point for the serving team
* A fault by the serving team results in the server’s loss of serve or side out
* A fault occurs when:
	+ The ball is hit into the net or out of bounds
	+ A serve does not land within the confines of the receiving court
	+ The ball is volleyed before a bounce has occurred on each side after the serve
	+ A ball is volleyed from within the non-volley zone
	+ A ball bounces twice before being struck by the receiver
	+ A player, player’s clothing, or any part of a player’s paddle touches the net or the net post when the ball is in play
	+ A ball in play strikes a player or anything player is wearing or carrying
	+ A ball in play strikes any permanent object before bouncing on the court

**Determining Serving Team**

* Any fair method can be used to determine which player or team has first choice of side, service, or receive (Flip a coin, Heads/Tails, write 1 or 2 on back of score sheet)