



Pickleball Rules

Object of the Game

Pickleball is a sport played using paddles and a perforated ball. This game is played on a tennis-type court measuring 20 feet by 44 feet. There are two halves of the court and four quadrants making up the right/even and left/odd service courts and non-volley zones. The Rice University Recreation Center pickleball courts can be found on Rec Center Tennis Courts #13 and #14 or Rec Center Outdoor Basketball Courts.

Scoring

The ball is served diagonally across the net to the opponent's receiving court using a non-overhand serve. The ball is struck back and forth across the net until a player fails to return the ball in accordance with the rules.

Points are scored only by the serving side when the server or the server's team wins the rally, or the opposing side commits a fault. The server continues to serve, alternating service courts, until the serving side loses the rally or commits a fault.

A team wins once they have 11 points with a 2-point margin against the opponent. Each game matchup will be the best of 3 sets and playoff games will be the best of 5 sets.

The Players

All players must have proper athletic attire (i.e. closed toed shoes and athletic pants/shorts). Protective eyewear and sunglasses are allowed as well as hard brim hats.

In pickleball doubles, 2 players from each team are required to play on the court at all times. In pickleball singles, 1 player is required to play on the court from each team. If a team does not have minimum players for their game then the game is considered a forfeit and an automatic win is awarded to the eligible opponent.

All matches are self-officiated, so it is the responsibility of each player to make fair calls throughout the entire match.



Serving

The side a player must serve from will be decided by the team's score. If a team has an even score (0, 2, 4...) then they must serve from the right/even side of the court. If a team has an odd score (1, 3, 5...) then they must serve from the left/odd side of the court. The serve must be made diagonally. For example, if you serve from the right side then the ball should land on the receiving team's right service area.

Tournament Format

All games will be played in a single elimination format and will be schedule on IMleagues.com/rice. It is up to the captains to inform their teams of the game day/time. In the event that a team does not attend the tournament after they've registered and are scheduled to play, the captain will be assessed a \$40 fee.

Play-By Date Format

Pickleball is a play-by date sport, so all participants will be required to submit their own score reports in IMleagues. See the separate instructions on how to self-report your scores.

All scores are required to be submitted no later than the date the game is scheduled, but all games can be played prior to the game date on IMleagues. So, for example, if you have a game scheduled each week on Mondays at noon, then your team is required to play and report the score of that weekly matchup prior to the end of each Monday. You may play multiple games in a single week and submit your scores early, but your scores cannot be submitted after the scheduled game date. Once all games are played, the bracket for playoffs will be created and updated for those who are eligible to participate.

Please Note: All final decisions to eligibility and game rules will be at the discretion of the competitive sports staff.

FURTHER QUESTIONS OR COMMENTS MAY BE DIRECTED TO:

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