

PICKLEBALL SCORING CHEAT SHEET

Basic Scoring Rules

- **Point System:** Pickleball is usually played to 11 points, but games can also be played to 15 or 21. The team that reaches the target score first and is at least 2 points ahead wins the game.
- **Scoring Opportunity:** A team can only score a point when they are serving. If the serving team wins the rally, they score a point. If the receiving team wins the rally, no point is scored, but they become the serving team.

Serving Sequence

- **Initial Serve:** At the start of the game, only one player from the serving team gets to serve before the serve passes to the other team. This player is the first server for the rest of the game.
- **Subsequent Serves:** After the first point, both players on each team will serve in turn until they commit a fault. The first server will serve until they lose a point, then the second server will serve until they lose a point. After both servers have lost a point (two faults), the serve passes to the other team.

Server Identification

- **Even Score:** If the serving team's score is even, the player who started the game serving (first server) will be on the right side of the court when serving or receiving.
- **Odd Score:** If the serving team's score is odd, the first server will be on the left side of the court when serving or receiving.

Common Faults Affecting Scoring

- Serving before the score is called.
- Not serving diagonally across the court.
- Stepping on or over the baseline while serving.
- Hitting the ball out of bounds or into the net.
- Volleying the ball (hitting it without letting it bounce) in the non-volley zone (the 7-foot zone on both sides of the net).
- Violating the double-bounce rule (each team must play their first shot off the bounce).



Calling the Score:

The score should be called before each serve with three numbers: the serving team's score, the receiving team's score, and either a 1 or 2 to indicate whether the server is the first or second server for their team. For example, "4-2-1" means the serving team has 4 points, the receiving team has 2 points, and the server is the first server of the team.