

# Pickle Ball

## History

Pickle-Ball was started by Joel Pritchard, Bill Bell, and Barney McCallum when improvising a game using only what equipment was available to them. It started out as family fun, but soon developed rules, was spread by word-of-mouth, and had a corporation formed which copyrighted the rules. It spread to high schools, junior colleges, and youth athletic programs. There is even a United States Pickle-Ball Association (U.S.P.A.). Interesting Fact: The game was named after the Pritchard's dog, Pickles.

## Basics of the Game

The main objective of Pickle-Ball is to keep the ball in play over a net that is three feet off the ground, while utilizing placement and pace. Pickle-Ball can be played as either singles (2 people) or doubles (4 people) on a court the size of a doubles badminton court. Equipment consists of oversized Ping-Pong type paddles and a plastic perforated ball. Hitting strokes are similar to those used in tennis.

## The Court

The size of the court is 20' x 44' for both doubles and singles. The net is hung 36" on the ends, and hangs 34" in the middle. Pickle-Ball courts are identical to a doubles badminton court.

## Serve

Players must keep one foot behind the back line when serving. The serve is an underhand serve that must be hit in the air; it may not be bounce first. The serve is made diagonally cross-court and must clear the non-volley zone. Only one serve attempt is allowed except if the ball touches the net on the serve and lands in the proper service court. Then the serve may be taken over. At the start of each game, the first serving team is allowed only one fault before giving up the ball to the opponents. Thereafter both members of each team will serve and fault before the ball is turned over to the opposing team. The player in the right hand court will always start first.

## Volley

To volley a ball means to hit it in the air without it first bouncing. All volleying must be done with the player's feet behind the non-volley zone line. It is a fault if the player steps over the line on his volley follow through.