

Pickle primer

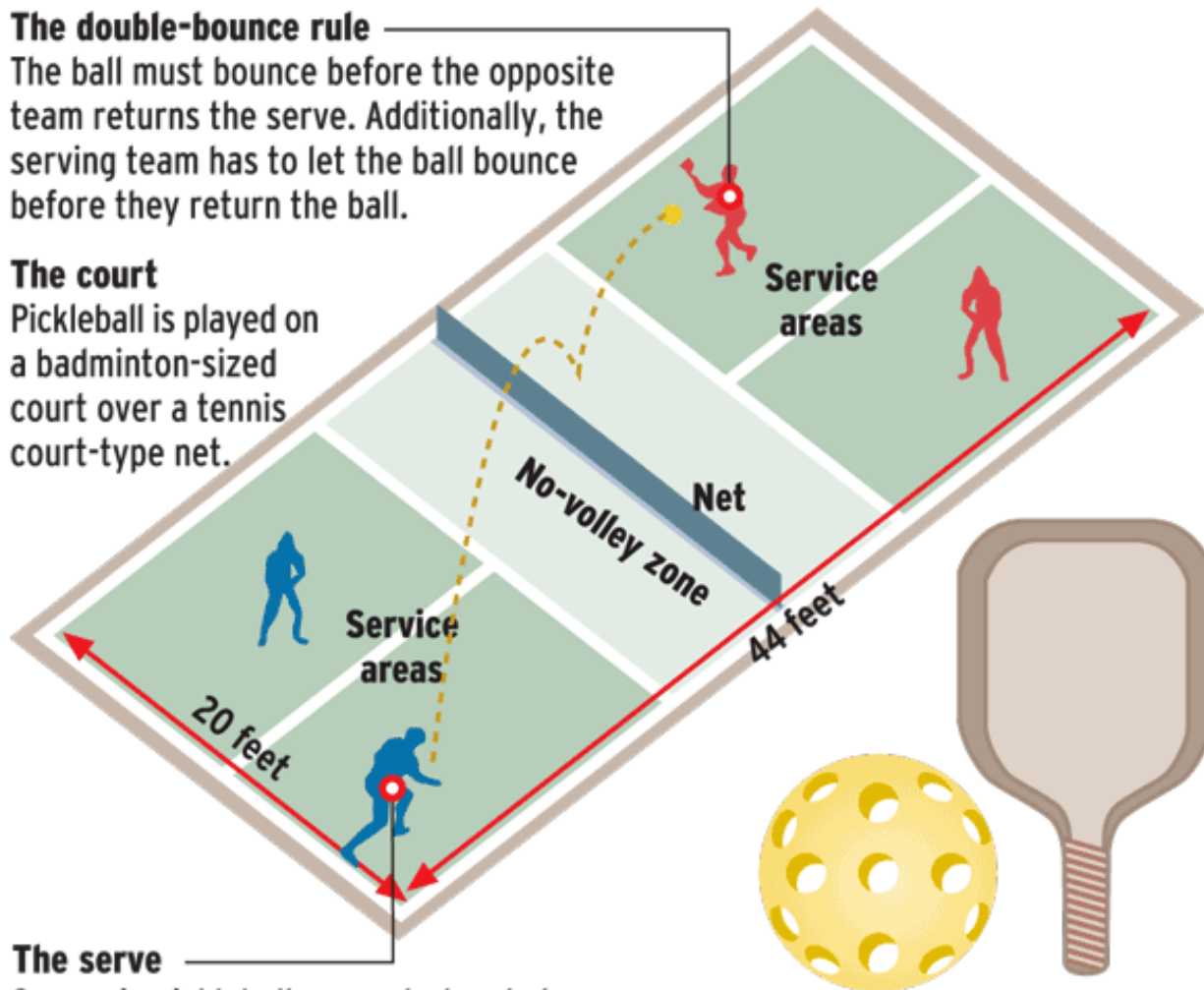
Created in Washington state in 1965, pickleball was named after the pet dog of one of its originators, who used to take the ball and run off with it when it was hit near him. Pickleball borrows from badminton in its rules and playing field:

The double-bounce rule

The ball must bounce before the opposite team returns the serve. Additionally, the serving team has to let the ball bounce before they return the ball.

The court

Pickleball is played on a badminton-sized court over a tennis court-type net.



The serve

Serves in pickleball are underhanded and must contact the ball below the player's waist. Serves have to land in the diagonally opposite court from the server.

Scoring

Only the serving team can score points. Points are earned by serving a ball that the opposing team does not touch, or if the opposing team faults during play. The game is played to 11 points; however, a team has to win by two points.

The equipment

Pickleball is played with a wiffle ball and a solid paddle, usually 8 inches wide and 15 inches long.

Faulting

Faulting occurs when the ball is hit out of bounds, if the ball doesn't clear the net, if a ball is returned by a player inside the no-volley zone or if the double-bounce rule is violated.

Source: USA Pickleball Association

Brian Moore / The Register