



3280 Redstone Park Circle

Highlands Ranch, CO 80129

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www.highlandsranch.org

Pickleball League Rules

All pickleball leagues promoted by the Highlands Ranch Metro District are recreational. ***It is essential for all players to play the game with an understanding that this is a recreational activity.***

SCHEDULES/SCORES/STANDINGS- All league information can be found online at the following site:
www.quickscores.com/hrmd

Game Rules

The International Federation of Pickleball (IFP) rulebook will be used to govern all pickleball play unless otherwise stated by the Highlands Ranch Metro District. Please visit the following website for more rule clarifications: <http://www.usapa.org/ifp-official-rules/>

Basic Overview

Pickle-ball® is played on a badminton-sized court: 20' x 44.' The ball is served diagonally (starting with the right-hand service-square), and points can only be scored by the side that serves.

Players on each side must let the ball bounce once before volleys are allowed, and there is a seven-foot no-volley zone on each side of the net, to prevent "spiking." The server continues to serve, alternating service courts, until he or she faults. The first side scoring eleven points and leading by at least two points wins. Pickle-ball® can be played with singles or doubles.

The Serve

Serves are to be made diagonally, starting with the right-hand service-square and alternating each serve. The serve must clear the seven-foot non-volley-zone in front of the net and land in the diagonal service court.

Serves should be done underhand with the paddle below the waist, and the server must keep one foot behind the back line when serving. However, **drop serves are allowed**. The serving side will continue to serve until there is a fault on the service, at which point the service will be given to the opposing side.

Volleys

To volley means to hit a ball in the air without first letting it bounce. In Pickle-ball®, this can only be done when the player's feet are behind the non-volley zone line (seven feet behind the net).

Double-Bounce Rule

Each team must play their first shot off of the bounce. That is, the receiving team must let the serve bounce and the serving team must let the return of the serve bounce before playing it. Once these two bounces have occurred, the ball can either be volleyed or played off the bounce.

Fault

A fault is committed when the ball:

1. Is hit out of bounds
2. Does not clear the net
3. Is volleyed from the non-volley zone
4. Is volleyed before a bounce has occurred on each side

Determining Serving Team

The team listed on top on the schedule website will serve first the first game of the match (and third game if necessary). The team listed on the bottom will serve first the second game of the match.

Scoring

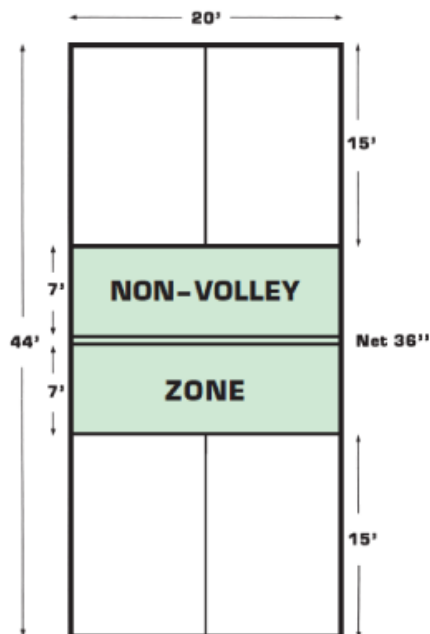
1. Only the serving team can score
2. Each game will be played to 11 points (must win by two points or a game is over when a team reaches 15 points)
 - a. If a 3rd game is necessary to determine the winner of the match, it will be played to 7, win by two, with a max score of 11.
3. The player who is serving should declare the score before each serve, saying their team's score first and the opposing team's score second
4. A team wins the match when they have won two games (best two-out-of-three format)
5. **Reporting Scores:** After the day's matches are done, every team should mark their scores down on the scorecard provided in the league binders. The standings on www.quickscores.com/hrmd will be updated as soon as possible.

Court Dimensions

The Makings of a Pickle-ball Court

Pickle-ball® courts should be 20' x 44' for both singles and doubles play. The net is lowered from the standard badminton height to 36" on the ends and 34" in the middle.

When laying out the court, it is ideal to allow adequate space outside the end and side lines for player movement. For this reason, we recommend the full court (including out-of-bounds areas) measure 22' x 56.' However, Pickle-ball® can still be played without extra side and back space.



Game Equipment

1. The net, pickle balls and paddles will be provided. Players are welcome to use their own paddle.
2. The nets and paddles are located in the equipment box next to the courts. The code to get in the equipment box will be given to each team before the season starts.

League Play and Postseason Tournament

LEAGUE PLAY-The regular season will last 5 weeks (weather dependent). Each team will play two matches per week (generally) and a total of 10 matches. Teams will be seeded for postseason play by their regular season record. Tiebreakers will be determined by head-to-head results and then a flip of a coin, if necessary.

All league play will be self officiated. There will be no official or court supervisor on site. It is essential that the league rules be followed during game play. If a discrepancy occurs, please take the following steps:

1. Check the rule book.
2. Ask other players who are playing on a court next to you to help clarify rules.
3. As a last resort, call the recreation coordinator, Luke Ruter at 720-240-5912.

Player Eligibility: All players must be registered through the Highlands Ranch Metro District in order to play in the league. Subs may be used during the regular season but must complete an HRMD registration/waiver before taking the court. A sub during the regular season must play in the appropriate league (ie. An advanced league player cannot sub in the beginner league). Subs are not allowed for the postseason tournament.

POSTSEASON TOURNAMENT-A postseason tournament will be held the week following the regular season. The team with the “better” seed will decide which team serves first to start each match. This will be a single-elimination tournament. All regular season rules will be followed.

DIVISIONS – The Highlands Ranch Metro District will offer three divisions for each pickleball season as defined below:

1. **Beginner Division (0-1.5)** – Consists of players who are new or relatively new to the sport of pickleball.
2. **Intermediate Division (2.0-3.0)** – Consists of players who have played before but have not mastered the game. Players can sustain rallies but don’t cover the court very well and are not proficient in multiple types of shots
3. **Advanced Division (3.5+)** - Consists of players with multiple years of experience. Players can sustain long rallies using multiple types of shots and can anticipate opponent’s shots and play aggressively at the net.

ROTATING COURTS – Teams must rotate court sides in between each game. If a match goes to a third game, then teams should rotate sides once a team reaches 4 points.

Weather

INCLEMENT WEATHER-The Weather Hotline Number is a recorded message which will inform teams of the status of that day's games. If there is any inclement weather in the area, please call the weather line before heading out for your game. The weather line will be updated as necessary throughout the day. It is every manager and player's responsibility to call the weather hotline one hour before game time for weather information. If there isn't a new message regarding weather for that day it means that the day's games are being played as scheduled.

WEATHER HOTLINE NUMBER:

720-348-6970

Please listen to the full message. Listen to the message and hang up. ***DO NOT WAIT FOR THE BEEP AND DO NOT LEAVE A MESSAGE!***

Make-Up Information will be provided as soon as possible following cancelled matches. Make-ups will be scheduled at the end of the season, as a double or triple-header, or on a different day (if necessary). Continue to follow the scheduled games for each week until a new schedule is distributed. The make-up schedule will be emailed to each player and can also be found online at www.quickscores.com/hrmd. The Highlands Ranch Metro District will only reschedule games that **WE** have cancelled. No matches will be rescheduled due to a team not being able to play their scheduled match. These matches will be considered forfeits. Substitute players are allowed during the regular season so please try to find a substitute player for your team, when needed, so the match can proceed as scheduled.