

Serving Rules

Is your serve legal? Do you quick serve your opponent? Keep reading to find out what constitutes a legal serve as defined by the USAPA/IFP.

To be legal, the serve:

- Must be made with an underhand stroke so that contact with the ball is made below waist level.
- May be hit with a forehand or backhand stroke, but contact with the ball must be made with the highest part of the paddle below the wrist joint.
- Must be made with an upward motion.
- Must land past the kitchen (NVZ) line and within the correct service court. Hitting the sidelines and baselines are okay.



To be legal, the server:

- At the beginning of the serve, must have both feet behind the baseline. At the time the ball is struck, at least one foot must be on the playing surface behind the baseline, and the server's feet may not touch the playing surface in an area outside the confines of the serving area.
- At contact with the ball, must have at least one foot on the ground behind the baseline and within the confines of the serving area. It is a fault if one of your feet is making contact outside of the sideline extension or the center line extension.
- Must call all three digits of the score (0, 0, 2). If the server starts the serving motion before all three digits of the score is called, it a fault on the server.

Quick serving:

- A server cannot quick serve their opponent. The server must ensure that all players are ready.
- One of the following signals must be used to indicate "not ready": 1) raising the paddle above their head, 2) raising the non-paddle hand above their head, and 3) completely turning their back to the net.

Did you know? If the serve clears the net or hits the net and then touches the receiver or the receiver's partner, it is a point for the serving term.

Click [here](#) to view AllAboutPickleball's video entitled *Explaining the Pickleball Serving Rules*.

Whether you play in tournaments or recreational play, ensure your serve is legal.