

# Saratoga Springs Recreation Pickleball Rules

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SARATOGA  
SPRINGS  
RECREATION

**Overview: The purpose of this program is a recreation program. Saratoga Springs recreation supports the belief that all recreational programming and experiences should be positive and safe, with sportsmanship and enjoyment as the primary goal. To achieve this goal, Saratoga Springs Recreation will hold all participants and spectators accountable for their behavior and zero tolerance will be given for intentional violations of the Code of Conduct.**

- Pickleball is a paddle sport played using a special perforated ball on a 20-foot-by-44-foot court with a tennis-type net. The court is divided into right/even and left/odd service courts and non-volley zones. See Figure 2-1. The ball is served diagonally across the net to the opponent's service court using an underhand motion. The ball is struck back and forth across the net until a player fails to return the ball in accordance with the rules. Points are scored only by the serving side, when the server or the server's team wins the rally, or the opposing side commits a fault. The server continues to serve, alternating service courts, until the serving side loses the rally or commits a fault.

## **Eligibility:**

- All players must be 14 years or older to participate, and be registered through Saratoga Springs recreation to play.
  - There can be no "drop-in" players during league play.

## **Officiating and league format:**

- The league is set up as round robin mixer, which means, each player will rotate through partners and rotate through opponents. Each player will play 5-6 games a night, and each league night will be 1.5 hours long.
- Leagues will run for 6 weeks.
- All games will be self-officiated. Each player will be asked to be honest in calling hits in or out. If a player is found to be intentionally cheating consistently they will forfeit the game they are in, and may be asked to leave the league.
  - If a discrepancy occurs please take the following steps:
    - Check the rule book
    - Ask other players who are playing on a court next to you to help clarify rules.
    - As a last resort, call the recreation coordinator, Courtney Crockett at 801-766-9793 ext. 194
- Saratoga Springs will provide balls; we encourage players to bring their own paddles, but will have paddles if needed.

## Game play:

### **1. Determining Serving Team:**

- a. Players use a coin toss to determine who will serve first. The winner of the coin toss will have the option to choose side or to serve or receive.

### **2. The Serve:**

- a. Serves should always be done underhand with the paddle below the waist, and the server must keep one foot behind the baseline when serving. The ball should be hit into the air without being bounced.
- b. Serves are to be made diagonally, starting with the right-hand service- square and alternating each serve. The serve is made diagonally and must land within the confines of the opposite diagonal court.
- c. Only one serve attempt is allowed, except in the event of a let (the ball touches the net on the serve and lands on the proper service court; let serves are replayed)

### **3. Service Sequence:**

- a. Both players on the serving doubles team have the opportunity to serve and score points until they commit a fault
  - i. Exception: at the beginning of each new game only one partner on the serving team has the opportunity to serve before faulting, after which the service passes to the receiving team.
- b. If a point is scored, the server switches sides and the server initiates the next serve from the left-hand court.
- c. When the first server loses the serve the partner then serves from their correct side of the court (except for the first service sequence of the game)
- d. The second server continues serving until their team commits a fault and loses the serve to the opposing team.
- e. Once the service goes to the opposition (at side out), the first serve is from the right-hand court and both players on that team have the opportunity to serve and score points until their team commits two faults.

### **4. Scoring:**

- a. Points are scored only by the serving team.
- b. Games are played to 11 (must win by 1)

### **5. Double- bounce rule:**

- a. When the ball is served, the receiving team must let it bounce before returning, and then the serving team must let it bounce before returning it, thus two bounces.
- b. After the ball has bounced once in each team's court, both team may either volley the ball (hit the ball before it bounces) or play it off a bounce (groundstroke)

### **6. Non-Volley Zone:**

- a. The non-volley zone is the court area within 7 feet on both sides of the net.
- b. Volleying is prohibited within the non-volley zone.

- c. It is a fault if, when volleying a ball, the player steps on the non-volley zone, including the line and/or when the player's momentum causes them or anything they are wearing or carrying to touch the non-volley zone including the associated lines.
- d. It is a fault if, after volleying, a player is carried by momentum into or touch the non-volley zone even if the volleyed ball is declared dead before this happens.
- e. A player may legally be in the non-volley zone any time other than when volleying a ball
- f. The non-volley zone is commonly referred to as the "the kitchen"

**7. Line Calls:**

- a. A ball contacting any line, except the non-volley zone line on a serve, is considered "in".
- b. A ball contacting the playing surface outside of the baseline or sideline, even though the edge of the ball overlaps the line, is considered out of bounds.
- c. Players will call the lines on their side of the court.
  - i. Exception: Players from either team may call non-volley zone faults
- d. No player should question an opponent's call unless asked. A player should ask the opponent's opinion if the opponent was in the better position to see the call. An opponent's opinion, if requested, shall be accepted. The opinion of a player looking down the line is more likely to be accurate than one looking across the line.
- e. A serve contacting the non-volley zone line is short and a fault.
- f. Players are responsible for all line calls.

**8. Faults:**

- a. A fault is any action that stops play because of a rule violation.
- b. A fault by the receiving team results in a point for the serving team.
- c. A fault by the serving team results in the server's loss of serve or side out.
- d. A fault occurs when:
  - i. A serve does not land within the confines of the receiving court
  - ii. The ball is hit into the net on the serve or any return
  - iii. The ball is volleyed before a bounce has occurred on each side
  - iv. The ball is hit out of bounds
  - v. A ball is volleyed from the non-volley zone
  - vi. A ball bounces twice before being struck by the receiver
  - vii. A player, player's clothing, or any part of a player's paddle touches the net or the net post when the ball is in play
  - viii. There is a violation of a service rule
  - ix. A ball in play strikes a player or anything the player is wearing or carrying
  - x. A ball in play strikes any permanent object before bouncing on the court