**Pickle-Ball Rules**

**Serve**

Server must keep both feet behind the back line when serving. The serve is made underhand. The paddle must pass below the waist. The server must hit the ball in the air on the serve. The server is not allowed to bounce it and then hit it. Only one serve attempt is allowed, except if the ball touches the net on the serve and lands in the opponent’s court. Then the serve may be re-taken (Let Serve). At the start of each new game, the 1st serving team is allowed only one fault before giving up the ball to their opponents. Thereafter both members of each team will serve and fault before the ball is turned over to their opponents. The server must say their score first then their opponents score. The 6th thru 8th grade students serve on the right hand side if their score is even and the left hand side if their score is odd. The 5th grade students serve anywhere behind the service line.

**Double Bounce Rule**

Each team must play their first shot off 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. After the two bounces have occurred, the ball can either be volleyed or played off the bounce.

**Fault**

1. Hitting the ball out of bounds (landing on the court line is IN).
2. Volleying the ball before it has bounced on each side of the net after the serve (Double Bounce Rule).
3. Hitting the ball more than once.

**Scoring**

**Side-out:** **5th thru 8th graders** score a point only when serving and win the rally.

A player who is serving shall continue to do so until a fault is made by their team. The game is played to 11 points; however a team must win by 2 points.

**Start the Game**

To start a Pickleball game you need to rock-paper-scissors. The winner has the option of serving first or not to serve first.

**General Tips**

1. Both teams should stand back near the service line at the time of the serve so that neither will forget to let the first returned ball bounce before they return it (Double Bounce Rule).
2. A ball landing on any line is considered good.
3. It is **NOT** a fault when the ball is hit by the hand that is holding onto the paddle.
4. Serving team’s score is even; serves on the right side. Serving team’s score is odd; serves on the left side (Only applies to **6th thru 8th grade**). **5th Graders** will serve anywhere behind the service line.