



The SESK Party Game

STUFF EVERY PICKLEBALL PLAYER SHOULD KNOW

How to play (30 seconds)

1. The reader reads a card and its three answers out loud.
2. Everyone says "One, two, three, Goldilocks!" and holds up 1, 2, or 3 fingers.
3. The reader flips the card and reads the answer and the Why.
4. Everyone who was right takes a point.
5. The reader reads the joke with a straight face. Anyone laughs or groans? The reader takes a point. Nobody got it right? The reader takes a point.
6. Pass the deck left. Most points when the points run out wins.

What you need

These cards and the point tokens on the last two pages. No tokens? Use coins, buttons, pebbles, or marshmallows. 3 to 10 players, ages 8 and up.

Expert rule: Bet It

Before the reader flips the card, you may put one of your points on your answer. Right: take your normal point plus one extra. Wrong: your bet goes back to the pile. That's it.

Printing

Print single-sided, on cardstock if you have it. Cut on the dashed lines. Each card is a 3.5 x 5 inch index card. The answer half is upside down on purpose, so the table can't peek.

Cards 1 to 50 of 60. More cards and the free daily online game at sesk.info. Built 2026-10-13.

SPORTS & FITNESS



On a regular volley serve, which way must the paddle be moving when it hits the ball?

- A** In a clear upward arc
- B** Straight down, like a smash
- C** Flat and level, like a tennis serve

FLIP FOR THE ANSWER

#9974

SESK.INFO

STRAIGHT FACE
Why are pickleball serves so polite? They always start off on the up and up.

A In a clear upward arc
WHY Pickleball serves are underhand. On a volley serve the paddle must be swinging upward when it meets the ball, so no overhead smashes to start a point.

SPORTS & FITNESS



On a volley serve, how high can the ball be when your paddle hits it?

- A** No higher than your shoulders
- B** No higher than your waist
- C** Any height you like

FLIP FOR THE ANSWER

#9975

SESK.INFO

STRAIGHT FACE
Why did the pickleball player wear a belt to the court? To keep an eye on the serve line.

B No higher than your waist
WHY On a volley serve, the ball must be at waist level or lower when the paddle hits it. This keeps the serve underhand.

SPORTS & FITNESS



On a volley serve, the top of the paddle head cannot be above what?

- A** Your elbow
- B** The top of the net
- C** The highest part of your wrist

FLIP FOR THE ANSWER

#9976

SESK.INFO

STRAIGHT FACE
My serve broke the wrist rule. The ref said it was a handy mistake.

C The highest part of your wrist
WHY At contact, the paddle head must not be higher than the top of your wrist. This is another rule that keeps the volley serve truly underhand.

SPORTS & FITNESS



Where must a pickleball serve go?

- A** Diagonally to the opposite service court
- B** Straight ahead to the court in front of you
- C** Anywhere past the net

FLIP FOR THE ANSWER

#9977

SESK.INFO

STRAIGHT FACE
Why did the pickleball cross the court diagonally? It was taking the scenic route.

A Diagonally to the opposite service court
WHY You serve crosscourt, from your side to the service court diagonally opposite. A serve that lands in the wrong court is a fault.

SPORTS & FITNESS



What is a drop serve in pickleball?

- A** You toss it high and hit it falling
- B** You drop the ball and hit it after it bounces
- C** You bounce the ball off the net

FLIP FOR THE ANSWER

#9978

SESK.INFO

STRAIGHT FACE
The drop serve is my favorite. I am great at dropping things.

B You drop the ball and hit it after it bounces
WHY A drop serve is the second legal way to serve. You simply drop the ball, let it bounce on the playing surface, then hit it.

SPORTS & FITNESS



On a drop serve, how many times may the ball bounce before you hit it?

- A** Exactly once
- B** No more than twice
- C** There is no limit

FLIP FOR THE ANSWER

#9979

SESK.INFO

STRAIGHT FACE
My drop serve bounced five times. It was just warming up.

C There is no limit
WHY The rules put no limit on how many times the dropped ball bounces before the serve. There is also no rule about where it bounces.

SPORTS & FITNESS



On a drop serve, do the waist, wrist and upward-arc rules still apply?

- A** No, they do not apply
- B** Yes, all three apply
- C** Only the waist rule applies

FLIP FOR THE ANSWER

#9980

SESK.INFO

STRAIGHT FACE
The drop serve has fewer rules. It is the chill cousin of the volley serve.

A No, they do not apply
WHY The waist, wrist and upward-arc rules cover the volley serve. With a legal drop serve, none of them apply, which gives servers more freedom in their swing.

SPORTS & FITNESS



When you serve, where must at least one of your feet be?

- A** On the baseline
- B** Behind the baseline, on the ground
- C** Inside the court

FLIP FOR THE ANSWER

#9981

SESK.INFO

STRAIGHT FACE
I got called for a foot fault. My feet said it was not their fault.

B Behind the baseline, on the ground
WHY When you hit the serve, at least one foot must be on the ground behind the baseline. Neither foot may touch the court, and stepping on the baseline counts as touching the court.

SPORTS & FITNESS



Can you jump into the air while hitting a pickleball serve?

- A** Yes, jump serves are allowed
- B** Only on a drop serve
- C** No, it is a fault

FLIP FOR THE ANSWER

#9982

SESK.INFO

STRAIGHT FACE
I tried a jump serve. The ref said my idea never got off the ground.

C No, it is a fault
WHY At least one foot must touch the serving area when you hit the serve. If both feet are off the ground at contact, it is a fault against the server.

SPORTS & FITNESS



Your serve lands right on the kitchen line. Is it in or out?

- A** In, because lines are in
- B** Out, it is a fault
- C** It is replayed

FLIP FOR THE ANSWER

#9983

SESK.INFO

STRAIGHT FACE
My serve landed on the kitchen line. Guess it was hungry.

B Out, it is a fault
WHY The kitchen line is part of the kitchen. A serve must clear the whole non-volley zone, so a serve that touches that line is short and a fault.

SPORTS & FITNESS



A serve clips the top of the net, then lands in the right service court. What happens?

- A** Replay the serve
- B** It is a fault
- C** The ball is in play

FLIP FOR THE ANSWER

#9984

SESK.INFO

STRAIGHT FACE
My serve clipped the net and kept going. Talk about a net positive.

C The ball is in play
WHY Under current rules, a serve may touch the net as long as it clears the kitchen and lands in the correct service court. Play just continues.

SPORTS & FITNESS



Can the receiver hit the serve out of the air before it bounces?

- A** No, it is a fault
- B** Yes, if they are behind the baseline
- C** Yes, in singles only

FLIP FOR THE ANSWER

#9985

SESK.INFO

STRAIGHT FACE
The receiver tried to volley the serve. The ref said, bounce back from that one.

A No, it is a fault
WHY The serve must bounce before it is returned. If the receiver volleys the serve, it is a fault against the receiver.

SPORTS & FITNESS



After the return of serve, what must the serving team do?

- A** Volley it right away
- B** Let it bounce before hitting it
- C** Let it bounce twice

FLIP FOR THE ANSWER

#986

SESK.INFO

STRAIGHT FACE
The two-bounce rule is so fair. Everybody gets a turn to wait.

B Let it bounce before hitting it
WHY The two-bounce rule works both ways. The receiving team lets the serve bounce, then the serving team lets the return bounce. After that, volleys are allowed.

SPORTS & FITNESS



What is the main reason pickleball has the two-bounce rule?

- A** To make the game faster
- B** To give the server an advantage
- C** To stop the serve-and-volley advantage

FLIP FOR THE ANSWER

#987

SESK.INFO

STRAIGHT FACE
The two-bounce rule keeps things fair. It is a real bounce of power.

C To stop the serve-and-volley advantage
WHY Without it, a server could rush the net and smash the return. Making both sides wait for a bounce keeps points longer and fairer.

SPORTS & FITNESS



How far from the net does the non-volley zone reach?

- A** 5 feet
- B** 7 feet
- C** 10 feet

FLIP FOR THE ANSWER

#988

SESK.INFO

STRAIGHT FACE
The kitchen is 7 feet deep. That is a lot of room for snacks.

B 7 feet
WHY The non-volley zone covers the court within 7 feet of the net on both sides. It runs the full 20-foot width of the court.

SPORTS & FITNESS



What do most players call the non-volley zone?

- A** The Kitchen
- B** The Pantry
- C** The Garden

FLIP FOR THE ANSWER

#989

SESK.INFO

STRAIGHT FACE
Why do pickleball players stay out of the kitchen? They do not want to get cooked.

A The Kitchen
WHY The no-volley area near the net is nicknamed the kitchen. You will hear players shout "stay out of the kitchen!" all the time.

SPORTS & FITNESS



You volley the ball with your toe touching the kitchen line. Is that legal?

- A** Yes, the line is outside the kitchen
- B** Yes, if your other foot is outside
- C** No, the line counts as the kitchen

FLIP FOR THE ANSWER

#9990

SESK.INFO

STRAIGHT FACE
My toe touched the kitchen line. Now it is grounded.

C No, the line counts as the kitchen
WHY All the lines around the non-volley zone belong to the zone. Touching the kitchen line while you volley is the same as standing in the kitchen: a fault.

SPORTS & FITNESS



Can you step into the kitchen to hit a ball that has already bounced?

- A** Yes, any time you are not volleying
- B** No, never
- C** Only on the serve

FLIP FOR THE ANSWER

#9991

SESK.INFO

STRAIGHT FACE
The kitchen is open for business, as long as you let the ball bounce first.

A Yes, any time you are not volleying
WHY The kitchen rule is about volleys, not about standing there. You can walk in to play a ball after it bounces, then get out before your next volley.

SPORTS & FITNESS



You volley a winner, then your momentum carries you into the kitchen after the ball is dead. Is it a fault?

- A** No, the point was already over
- B** Yes, it is a fault
- C** Only if you touch the net

FLIP FOR THE ANSWER

#9992

SESK.INFO

STRAIGHT FACE
My momentum carried me into the kitchen. I blame gravity, it always pulls me toward food.

B Yes, it is a fault
WHY If your volley carries you into the kitchen, it is a fault even when the ball is already dead. You must stop yourself before you touch the zone.

SPORTS & FITNESS



You were just in the kitchen. Before you volley, what must be outside it?

- A** Just one foot
- B** Only your paddle
- C** Both feet

FLIP FOR THE ANSWER

#9993

SESK.INFO

STRAIGHT FACE
Getting out of the kitchen is like leaving a party. Both feet out the door, please.

C Both feet
WHY After touching the kitchen, you need both feet back on the ground fully outside it before you can volley. One foot out is not enough.

SPORTS & FITNESS



Can you volley a ball that is in the air above the kitchen, if your feet are outside it?

- A** No, the kitchen goes up to the sky
- B** Yes, the kitchen is only on the ground
- C** Only with a backhand

FLIP FOR THE ANSWER

#9994

SESK.INFO

STRAIGHT FACE
The kitchen has no ceiling. It is a very open floor plan.

B Yes, the kitchen is only on the ground
WHY The non-volley zone is two-dimensional. What matters is where you are standing, not where the ball is when you hit it.

SPORTS & FITNESS



During a rally, the ball lands on the baseline. Is it in or out?

- A** In
- B** Out
- C** Replay the point

FLIP FOR THE ANSWER

#9995

SESK.INFO

STRAIGHT FACE
The ball landed on the baseline. It was just keeping things in line.

A In
WHY In pickleball, a ball that touches a line is in. The only exception is a serve that touches the kitchen line, which is short.

SPORTS & FITNESS



When can you call a ball out?

- A** When you see space between the ball and line
- B** Whenever you are not sure
- C** When your partner thinks it was close

FLIP FOR THE ANSWER

#9996

SESK.INFO

STRAIGHT FACE
I only call it out when I see daylight. My eyes need a little space too.

A When you see space between the ball and line
WHY You must clearly see a gap between where the ball lands and the line. If you cannot, the ball is in.

SPORTS & FITNESS



How big is a pickleball court?

- A** 20 by 44 feet
- B** 27 by 78 feet
- C** 30 by 60 feet

FLIP FOR THE ANSWER

#9997

SESK.INFO

STRAIGHT FACE
A pickleball court is 20 by 44. Small enough to walk, big enough to brag.

A 20 by 44 feet
WHY A pickleball court is 20 feet wide and 44 feet long. It is the same size for singles and doubles.

SPORTS & FITNESS



How tall is a pickleball net at the sidelines?

- A** 32 inches
- B** 36 inches
- C** 42 inches

FLIP FOR THE ANSWER

#9998

SESK.INFO

STRAIGHT FACE
The net is 36 inches at the sides. That is three feet of pure drama.

B 36 inches
WHY The top of the net is 36 inches high where it crosses the sidelines. It sags a little lower in the middle.

SPORTS & FITNESS



How tall is a pickleball net at the center?

- A** 34 inches
- B** 36 inches
- C** 30 inches

FLIP FOR THE ANSWER

#9999

SESK.INFO

STRAIGHT FACE
The net dips in the middle. It is just taking a little bow.

A 34 inches
WHY The net is 2 inches lower in the middle than at the sides. A center strap can hold it at the right height.

SPORTS & FITNESS



During a rally, your shot touches the top of the net and goes over. What happens?

- A** It is a fault
- B** The ball stays in play
- C** The point is replayed

FLIP FOR THE ANSWER

#10000

SESK.INFO

STRAIGHT FACE
My shot rolled over the net. It just needed a little support.

B The ball stays in play
WHY Touching the net does not stop a rally. If the ball clips the net and lands in, the other side must play it.

SPORTS & FITNESS



The ball hits your paddle hand, below the wrist, while you are holding the paddle. Is it a fault?

- A** Yes, any touch of the body is a fault
- B** Only in doubles
- C** No, it is legal

FLIP FOR THE ANSWER

#10001

SESK.INFO

STRAIGHT FACE
The ball hit my hand. It was a hands-on shot.

C No, it is legal
WHY If the ball hits you, it is usually a fault. But the hand holding the paddle, below the wrist, counts as part of the paddle, so play goes on.

SPORTS & FITNESS



How many times may the ball bounce on your side before you must hit it?

- A** Once
- B** Twice
- C** As many as you need

FLIP FOR THE ANSWER

#10002

SESK.INFO

STRAIGHT FACE
The ball bounced twice. It was just double checking.

WHY You must return the ball before it bounces a second time on your side. If it bounces twice, you lose the rally.
A Once

SPORTS & FITNESS



How many bounces may players using wheelchairs allow before returning the ball?

- A** Only one, like everyone else
- B** Three
- C** Two

FLIP FOR THE ANSWER

#10003

SESK.INFO

STRAIGHT FACE
Two bounces? That ball is getting double the workout

WHY Players using wheelchairs, and some players with disabilities, may let the ball bounce twice. The first bounce must be in the court; the second can be anywhere on the playing surface.
C Two

SPORTS & FITNESS



In regular scoring, what happens when the receiving team commits a fault?

- A** The serving team scores a point
- B** The receiving team gets the serve
- C** The rally is replayed

FLIP FOR THE ANSWER

#10004

SESK.INFO

STRAIGHT FACE
The receivers faulted. The servers said thanks for the point, we will take it

WHY When the receivers lose the rally, the serving team wins a point. When the servers lose a rally, they lose the serve instead.
A The serving team scores a point

SPORTS & FITNESS



In traditional side-out scoring, who can score points?

- A** Either team, every rally
- B** Only the receiving team
- C** Only the serving team

FLIP FOR THE ANSWER

#10005

SESK.INFO

STRAIGHT FACE
In pickleball, you have to serve to deserve a point

WHY In standard pickleball, you only score when your side is serving and wins the rally. Losing a rally on serve passes the serve along instead.
C Only the serving team

SPORTS & FITNESS



In rally scoring, which team scores a point?

- A Only the serving team
- B Whoever wins the rally
- C Only the receiving team

FLIP FOR THE ANSWER

#10006

SESK.INFO

STRAIGHT FACE
Rally scoring is great. Every point is a party.

B **Whoever wins the rally**
WHY Rally scoring gives a point after every rally, no matter which team served. USA Pickleball allows it as a provisional option.

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In doubles rally scoring, how many players on a team serve before a side out?

- A Both partners
- B One
- C Three, then rotate

FLIP FOR THE ANSWER

#10007

SESK.INFO

STRAIGHT FACE
Rally scoring doubles: one server, no waiting.

B **One**
WHY With rally scoring in doubles, only one player serves per turn. As soon as the serving team loses a rally, the other team gets the serve.

SPORTS & FITNESS



In doubles using traditional side-out scoring, what three numbers are in the score call?

- A Receiver score, server score, server number
- B Server score, faults, receiver score
- C Server score, receiver score, server number

FLIP FOR THE ANSWER

#10008

SESK.INFO

STRAIGHT FACE
Why did the doubles team bring a calculator? The score call had three numbers.

C **Server score, receiver score, server number**
WHY The server announces the score before serving. In traditional doubles, the third number tells whether the current server is server 1 or server 2.

SPORTS & FITNESS



In singles pickleball, how many numbers are in the score call?

- A One number
- B Two numbers, server score then receiver score
- C Three numbers with server number

FLIP FOR THE ANSWER

#10009

SESK.INFO

STRAIGHT FACE
Why do singles players love short score calls? Two numbers and no partner to argue with.

B **Two numbers, server score then receiver score**
WHY Singles has no server number because only one player serves per side. The server states their own score first, then the receiver's score.

SPORTS & FITNESS



In doubles scoring, what do server numbers 1 and 2 indicate?

- A** Which team is serving
- B** How many faults the server has
- C** Whether the current server is first or second for that side

FLIP FOR THE ANSWER

#10010

SESK.INFO

STRAIGHT FACE
Why did server 2 stay calm? It knew its turn was coming.

C **Whether the current server is first or second for that side**
WHY After each side out, the player on the right starts as server 1 and the partner is server 2. When server 1 loses a rally, the serve passes to server 2.

SPORTS & FITNESS



Under standard side-out scoring, what is the first server exception at the start of a doubles game?

- A** Only the starting server serves before first side out
- B** Both partners serve before side out
- C** The receiving team serves first

FLIP FOR THE ANSWER

#10011

SESK.INFO

STRAIGHT FACE
Why did the first server bring a backpack? It was a solo trip.

A **Only the starting server serves before first side out**
WHY At the start of each game, the starting server is designated as server 2. When that team loses its first rally, the serve goes straight to the other team.

SPORTS & FITNESS



In standard pickleball, how many points win a game?

- A** 10 points
- B** 15 points
- C** 11 points, win by 2

FLIP FOR THE ANSWER

#10012

SESK.INFO

STRAIGHT FACE
Why did the game go to 13? It could not bear to lose by one.

C **11 points, win by 2**
WHY If the score reaches 10-10, play goes on until one side leads by 2. So a game can end 12-10, 13-11 or later.

SPORTS & FITNESS



In a USA Pickleball tournament, when do teams switch ends between games?

- A** After each game
- B** After every 6 points
- C** Only in the final game

FLIP FOR THE ANSWER

#10013

SESK.INFO

STRAIGHT FACE
Why did the players switch ends? To give the sun a turn watching them.

A **After each game**
WHY Tournament teams change ends before the next game. In a deciding game to 11, they also change ends when one team reaches 6.

SPORTS & FITNESS



In a USA Pickleball tournament, when do teams switch ends in a deciding game to 11?

- A** At 4 points
- B** When one team reaches 6 points
- C** At 11 points

FLIP FOR THE ANSWER

#10014

SESK.INFO

STRAIGHT FACE
Why did the score hit 6 and switch? It was halfway there.

B When one team reaches 6 points
WHY In a single-game match or a deciding game to 11, players change ends when the first team reaches 6. Games to 15 change at 8, and games to 21 at 11.

SPORTS & FITNESS



What is a dink in pickleball?

- A** A hard drive past the baseline
- B** A serve that bounces twice
- C** A soft shot landing in the opponent's kitchen

FLIP FOR THE ANSWER

#10015

SESK.INFO

STRAIGHT FACE
Why did the dink cross the net softly? It did not want a smashing reception.

C A soft shot landing in the opponent's kitchen
WHY A dink is hit softly from the kitchen line and bounces in the other kitchen. Because the opponent must let it bounce, a good dink is hard to attack.

SPORTS & FITNESS



What is the third shot drop in pickleball?

- A** A drop serve on the third point
- B** A hard third serve
- C** A soft serving-team shot into the kitchen after the return

FLIP FOR THE ANSWER

#10016

SESK.INFO

STRAIGHT FACE
Why did the third shot drop quietly? It wanted to sneak into the kitchen.

C A soft serving-team shot into the kitchen after the return
WHY After the serve and return, the serving team hits a soft shot into the other kitchen. This takes away the other team's net advantage and buys time to move up.

SPORTS & FITNESS



In doubles, may partners switch sides during a rally after the serve and return?

- A** Yes, players can stand anywhere on their side
- B** No, they must stay on their side all game
- C** Only after the ball has bounced three times

FLIP FOR THE ANSWER

#10017

SESK.INFO

STRAIGHT FACE
Why did the stackers need a seat map? They kept sitting on the same side.

A Yes, players can stand anywhere on their side
WHY The rulebook fixes positions only while serving and receiving. After that, players may move anywhere on their end. This is the rule that lets teams stack and switch sides.

SPORTS & FITNESS



Who calls the lines in recreational pickleball?

- A** A referee makes every call
- B** Players call lines on their own side
- C** The server calls all lines

FLIP FOR THE ANSWER

#10018

SESK.INFO

STRAIGHT FACE
Why did the line call create doubt? The line was fine, the eyes were not.

B **WHY** Players call lines on their own side
Without a referee, players call the lines on their own end of the court. Close calls go to the opponent; if you cannot clearly call it out, it is in.

SPORTS & FITNESS



Where and when did pickleball begin?

- A** Naples, Florida, in 1975
- B** Bainbridge Island, Washington, in 1965
- C** Seattle, Washington, in 1985

FLIP FOR THE ANSWER

#10019

SESK.INFO

STRAIGHT FACE
Why did the bored kids love the new game? It was a real pickle-me-up.

B **WHY** Bainbridge Island, Washington, in 1965
Joel Pritchard, Bill Bell and Barney McCallum made up the game at the Pritchard home on Bainbridge Island, using ping-pong paddles and a plastic ball, so the whole family could play together.

SPORTS & FITNESS



According to USA Pickleball, what inspired the name pickleball?

- A** The family dog, Pickles
- B** Pickle boat crew races
- C** A jar of pickles used as a net weight

FLIP FOR THE ANSWER

#10020

SESK.INFO

STRAIGHT FACE
Why did Pickles the dog love pickleball? Every point ended with a run to fetch.

B **WHY** Pickle boat crew races
Joan Pritchard named the game in 1965 after "pickle boat" races, where leftover rowers were thrown together. The popular dog story is a myth: Pickles was born in 1968.

SPORTS & FITNESS



How do indoor and outdoor pickleballs generally differ?

- A** Outdoor balls usually have smaller holes
- B** Indoor balls have no holes
- C** Outdoor balls are bigger and softer

FLIP FOR THE ANSWER

#10021

SESK.INFO

STRAIGHT FACE
Why did the outdoor ball work in wind? It had small holes but big confidence.

A **WHY** Outdoor balls usually have smaller holes
USA Pickleball says balls with larger holes are customarily used indoors and balls with smaller holes outdoors. Any approved ball is still legal in either place.

SPORTS & FITNESS



What is the maximum combined length and width of an official paddle?

- A** 24 inches
- B** 20 inches
- C** 27 inches

FLIP FOR THE ANSWER

#10022

SESK.INFO

STRAIGHT FACE
Why did the paddle measure itself? It wanted to stay under the limit.

WHY USA Pickleball limits the sum of a paddle's length and width to 24 inches. This keeps paddle sizes within a fair range.

A 24 inches

SPORTS & FITNESS



Which tendon can tear when you land from a jump or make a quick cutting move?

- A** Rotator cuff
- B** Ulnar collateral ligament
- C** Achilles tendon

FLIP FOR THE ANSWER

#10023

SESK.INFO

STRAIGHT FACE
Why did the calf muscle cheer for the heel? They were attached to each other.

WHY The Achilles tendon joins the calf muscles to the heel bone. It can tear when the calf is stretched too quickly, such as on a jump landing or sharp cut. See a doctor for sudden heel or calf pain.

C Achilles tendon



