EQUIPMENT

When playing pickleball, each player will need a pickleball paddle, which is smaller than a tennis racquet but larger than a ping-pong paddle. Originally, paddles were made only from wood, however today's paddles have evolved dramatically and are primarily made of lightweight composite materials, including aluminum and graphite. Players will also need a net and a pickleball. The ball itself is unique, with holes through it like a wiffleball, and there are different ball models intended for indoor and outdoor play. The ball is usually white or yellow in color however bright color balls are also gaining in popularity.

APPAREL

Players wear just about anything comfortable... athletic shorts, sweatpants, polo shirts, t-shirts, etc. Tennis-style dresses and skirts for females are also common. Comfortable tennis shoes are also important. As for accessories, players may wear hats, visors, safety glasses, sweatbands and light jackets or sweatshirts for cold, outdoor play. Custom USAPA logo apparel items are available at usapastore.com.

THE COURT

A pickleball court is the same size as a doubles badminton court and measures 20x44 feet. In pickleball, the same court is used for both singles and doubles play. The net height is 36 inches at the sidelines and 34 inches in the middle. The court is striped similar to a tennis court with right and left service courts and a 7-foot non-volley zone in front of the net (referred to as the "kitchen"). Courts can be constructed specifically for pickleball or they can be converted using existing tennis or badminton courts.

PORTABLE NET SYSTEM

With the USAPA’s portable net system, you can play pickleball anytime, anywhere! These nets are regulation size and used in a number of USAPA sanctioned tournaments. They are very durable and quick to set up. In addition, each net includes a nylon storage bag for easy transportation. Better yet, USAPA members receive a discount! For info, go to usapa.org.
LET'S PLAY! (BASIC RULES)

Pickleball is a sport that combines elements of tennis, badminton, and ping pong. The ball is served underhand starting from the right-hand side of the court and is served diagonally to the opponent’s service zone. The service return must bounce first. Points are scored by the serving side only and occur when the opponent misses or fails to return the ball, hits the ball out of bounds or returns the ball outside the non-volley zone while in the act of volleying the ball. A player may enter the non-volley zone to play a ball that has bounced. The player must exit the non-volley zone before playing a volley. The return of service must be allowed to bounce by the server (and partner in doubles play), i.e., cannot be volleyed. Consequently, the server or server and partner usually stay at the baseline until the first return has been hit back and bounced once. The first side scoring eleven points and is leading by at least two points wins.

JOIN ONE OF THE FASTEST GROWING SPORTS IN AMERICA!

Created in 1965, pickleball began in Washington State in the backyard of former U.S. Rep. Joel Pritchard. After a day of golf, Pritchard returned home in search of a more family-friendly game. With makeshift paddles in hand, he and a friend began batting around a perforated plastic ball. Rules were set and, after a few weeks, “pickleball” was born.

Today, the number of places to play on the USAPA’s Places4Pickle.org website has more than quadrupled since 2010 to over 2,000 locations in North America. Popularity of the sport also continues to grow worldwide with many new international clubs forming and national governing bodies now established in Canada, Europe and Asia. USAPA is the best source for pickleball anywhere, providing members and the public at large with a wealth of information, including insight and assistance in the areas of:

- Locations to Play
- Official Rules
- Court Construction
- Equipment
- Learn to Play
- Tournaments
- Grants & Donations
- Juniors & Rec Play
- Refereeing
- Instruction (IPP)

For information on the above and all other items relating to pickleball, please visit our website at usapa.org.

USAPA MEMBER BENEFITS

The USAPA is a nonprofit organization that serves as the governing body of pickleball in the United States. In 1994, the USAPA was organized to perpetuate the growth and advancement of the sport on a national level.

When you join the USAPA, you receive exclusive benefits for your membership. In addition, your involvement supports USAPA initiatives such as:

- Maintaining rules and equipment standards
- Supporting community-based introductory programs for all age groups
- Providing competitive play through USAPA sanctioned events and tournaments

What Benefits Will I Receive?

- 10% off all products of ‘Pickleball Magazine’
- 50% discount on 1-year subscription of ‘Pickleball Magazine’
- $10 discount on USAPA T-shirt System
- 20% discount on USAPA Merchandise
- USAPA e-Newsletter (6 per year)
- Member Discounts (tournaments, rent courts, discounts on products)
- USAPA Annual Conference (discounts for USAPA members)
- Access to new “Look-Up” on USAPA Website
- Access to new “Partner Search” on USAPA Website
- Free download of all sanctioned tournaments
- Free download of the UP-21” on USAPA Website
- Access to new “Lesson Handbook” on USAPA Website
- Access to new “Referee Handbook” on USAPA Website

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For more information please visit our website:

usapa.org