

# The Pickleball Scoring Cheat Sheet

MIRABAY PICKLEBALL CLUB • BEGINNER CLINIC HANDOUT

## THE THREE-NUMBER CODE (DOUBLES PLAY)

Before every single serve, the server must loudly call out three numbers in this exact order:

**1st**

**Your Score**

The current score of the team that is serving.

**2nd**

**Their Score**

The current score of the team receiving the serve.

**3rd**

**Server Number**

Identifies if you are Server **1** or Server **2** for this turn.

## 4 CORE SCORING RULES EVERY PLAYER MUST KNOW

- You Can Only Score When Serving:** If your team wins a rally while *receiving* a serve, your score does not go up. Instead, you win the rally and earn the opportunity to serve or move closer to standard service.
- Both Partners Get a Turn to Serve:** In standard gameplay, when a serving team loses a rally, service passes from Server **1** to Server **2**. If Server **2** loses a rally, a "**Side Out**" occurs, and the ball goes to the opponents.
- The Start-of-Game Exception (0-0-2):** To minimize the opening serving team's structural advantage, the team that serves first at the beginning of a game only gets *one* server turn. Therefore, the very first score called to start a match is always **0-0-2**. If they lose that initial rally, it immediately results in a Side Out.
- Play to 11 (Win by 2):** Games are normally played until a team reaches **11** points. However, you cannot win **11-10**; play continues until one team leads by at least **2** clear points.

## MOVING AROUND THE COURT

### THE EVEN / RIGHT RULE

The player who starts the game on the **Right Side** of the court will always stand on the right side whenever their team's score is an even number (**0, 2, 4, 6...**). They stand on the left side when their score is odd.

### WHEN TO SWITCH SIDES

You and your partner **only switch sides** (Left vs Right) when *your team is serving and wins a point*. The server moves to the alternate court side for the next serve. Receiving teams never switch sides.

## STEP-BY-STEP MATCH SEQUENCE

- Step 1: Locate Your Side:** Check your team's score. If it is even, the player who started on the right must be on the right. If it is odd, they must be on the left.
- Step 2: Announce:** Call the score out loudly so all four players on the court can hear it before making contact with the ball.
- Step 3: Serve Diagonally:** Hit the ball from behind the baseline cross-court into the receiver's square, ensuring it clears the non-volley line (the "Kitchen").