

RULES REFRESHER

There are a few misconceptions concerning some of the basic rules:

1. **FICTION** – You cannot ever go into the kitchen to play a shot.

FACT – If you choose, you can enter the kitchen at any time and you can stay in the kitchen the whole game if you wish. Obviously, this would not be wise since if the return shot comes right back at you, you would not be allowed to volley it.

The proper name for the kitchen is the No Volley Zone. The only shot you cannot make in the kitchen is volleying the ball before it hits the ground. Some players tend to take a run at a volley and their momentum takes them into the kitchen after they have hit the ball. This too results in the loss of the point. To avoid this, make sure your feet are firmly planted before you volley the ball.

2. **FICTION** – After you enter the kitchen to play the ball after it bounces, you then need to get out of the kitchen before your next shot.

FACT – See above. You can stay in the kitchen all day. Opponents will take advantage of your staying there, but it is not illegal, just unwise.

3. **FICTION** – When your partner is serving, you must stand at the back line of the court.

FACT – You can stand anywhere you want. It makes sense to be near the back of the court though, since the first time the ball comes back, you have to let it bounce.

4. **FICTION** – When you and your partner do not agree whether a ball is in or out (on your end of the court) you can replay the point.

FACT – Absolutely not – if you and your partner do not agree, the ball is ruled in and your opponents get the benefit of the doubt. The only replays allowed are when a serve hits the net and clears the kitchen, and when a ball from another court enters your court.

5. **FICTION** – When the person serving makes a terrible serve into the wrong side of the opponents' court, it is OK to catch the ball.
FACT – If an errant serve strikes the non-receiving player or is caught by that person, the point goes to the server. Although it was obvious that the ball was going to the wrong half of the court, a ball cannot be declared out until it hits the floor. (Don't waste time discussing the absurdity of this rule – just get faster at ducking the errant serve.)

6. It is the rule that you must call the score **before** you serve. This is intended to give your opponents a chance to question the score before you serve. Calling the score while starting your back swing does not accomplish this. Failing to call the score at all results in a loss of serve – don't be shy about pointing this out to your opponents – everyone needs to play by the rules

7. Finally, this is not a rule, but it should be because it is a safety issue! When a ball comes into your court, do not just bat it along the ground to get it rid of it. Pick it up, look to see who is waving to get the ball back and serve it back to them. **Everyone**, not just the hosts, needs to remind their partners and opponents to observe this common-sense rule – don't be shy – it is your safety at stake.

Note – At Cedarbrae, the kitchen line is the BLUE LINE. The green line is for badminton. Kudos to Cedarbrae for having the only indoor pickleball courts in Calgary with the proper kitchen line!