

## THE SERVE

Pickleball serving is very important since it starts the rally that will allow you to gain points. When you're not serving, you can't score points!

By developing a variety of serves, your opponents will have a more difficult time getting accustomed to your serve and will be left guessing what's coming next.

### TYPES OF SERVES:

1. The Power Serve - A powerful serve can force a weak return. Conversely, if you're playing against a hard hitter, they'll use the power from the serve to generate more power on their return.
2. Lob Serve—has the trajectory of an upside-down U... hit high, soft, and lands in the back 1/3 of the court. The high bounce after it lands makes it challenging for some players to return.
3. Topspin serve - When the paddle moves up the back of the ball... so the ball rotates end over end toward the returner. When the ball bounces, the spin makes it hop toward the player. If they don't see the spin, they'll likely set up too close to the ball and hit a weak return.
4. Soft Short Serve- This shot is useful if the player isn't very mobile, is standing deep or slightly out of position behind the baseline. Since it's short, the player will have to hit the return on the run.
5. Backhand Serve- The natural motion of this serve creates a side spin not commonly seen on a serve. Unfortunately, the backhand is often a player's weakest shot, and it may be difficult to execute a legal serve consistently.
6. The new Drop Shot Serve-The ball must be dropped out of your hand with no downward OR upward force applied to it (e.g.: you cannot toss the ball). It can drop inside the court. It's consistent with the rest of the groundstrokes you hit in the game. It allows you better timing in hitting the ball and decreases the chance that you'll rush the serve. You can hit deeper shots, particularly useful when you're hitting into a heavy wind.

*Whatever serves you choose to use, always try to serve deep so that the receiver has a great distance to run to the kitchen line.*

*HAPPY SERVING, FOLKS!!*