

## Villages Pickleball Club

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### In or Out?

Calling balls out is a common point of contention between players. In the photo above the ball is “hovering” over the line. No part of the ball is actually touching the line. This ball is OUT. Your location on the court can have an effect on how you think the ball landed. A player cross court could feel certain the ball hit the line; they are wrong.

When you play pickleball, you are actually a player-ref. The rules require that you call out balls on your own side of the court when you see them and that any doubt MUST benefit the opponents.

To make the best calls:

1. Call balls you clearly see out on your side of the court. Make calls quickly and decisively.
2. If you are unsure and another player was in a better position to make the call, ask that player. If you ask, you MUST accept his/her answer.
3. If no one clearly saw the ball, it is considered good. If it was too close to call, it is considered good.
4. Spectators should not be consulted. They are rarely in the best position to see the ball.

In addition:

1. Just because you returned a ball does not mean it was good. You can hit, then make the call. In fact, you should not stop playing because you think a ball is going to be out. Play it through, then make the call. But make the call before the opponents send it back again.
2. If someone stopped playing because they thought it was going out, but it did not get called out, too bad, it was good.
3. If a player calls out before the ball hits the ground, it is not out. That is considered cross-talk between players. A ball cannot be out until it hits the ground outside of the lines.
4. The rules say there are no replays if there was doubt about whether a ball was good. Either it is clearly called out, or it is considered good.

I hope this helps. Most importantly, keep playing and have fun!

We play on tennis courts 5 and 6, the smaller pickleball courts are marked with yellow tape. Weather permitting, Mike Walias volunteers his expertise every Wednesday and Friday from 1-1:30 to introduce and instruct new players on the basics of the game. No need to sign up, just show up! Wear comfortable clothes and court shoes.

More info at: [villagespickleball.org](http://villagespickleball.org)