

We promised a summary of the line rules in Pickleball last week. Line rules are those involving where the ball hits the court. In non-tournament play, calls can only be made by players, spectators should not be consulted on any line call. Players are responsible for calling the lines on their end of the court.

The opponent gets the benefit of the doubt on line calls made. Any ball that cannot be called “out” will be considered “in”, any disagreement between teammates is considered “in.” A player cannot claim a replay because the ball was not seen or there is uncertainty.

A player/team may ask the opponent’s opinion to make the line call on the player’s end of the court. If requested and the opponent makes a clear “in” or “out” call, it must be accepted. If the opponents cannot make a clear “in” or “out” call, then the ball is ruled as being “in” on the receiving team.

Players shall not call a ball “out” unless they can clearly see a space between the line and the ball as it hits the ground. All “out” calls must be made prior to the ball being hit by the opponent or before the ball becomes dead. In doubles play, if one player calls the ball “out” and the partner calls it “in,” then doubt exists and the team’s call will be “in.” “Out” line calls should be promptly signaled by voice and/or hand signal. While the ball is in the air, if a player yells “out,” “no,” “bounce it,” or any other words to communicate to their partner that the ball may be out, it shall be considered player communication only and not considered a line call.

An “out” call made after the ball bounces is a line call. The ball is dead and play shall stop. After the completion of a rally, players may overrule a partner’s line call or an opponent’s “in” call to their own disadvantage. Coming up... foot faults explained!

