



The IFP 2021 Rule - change review.

To help all its member countries and international players around the world understand the numerous changes to this year's rules we have condensed these changes into an overview. You can review and download the entire 2021 change document from the IFP website under Rules. The entire document is 81 pages and has 125 changes but let us not be alarmed. The IFP reviewed, condensed, and simplified many of these changes. The analysis and summary below will help you better understand that many of the changes are not new rules per se or major rules changes but are clarifications of existing rules. The intention here was to provide clarification and help all players better understand the intent and how the rule is to be applied to a situation when playing pickleball.

Summary of the 125 changes!!

Of the 125 changes - 88 changes or 70 % are for **BETTER PLAYER INTERPRETATION AND CLARIFICATION OF A RULE.**

There are 20 new rules again for **BETTER PLAYER INTERPRETATION AND CLARIFICATION OF A RULE.**

When taking these into consideration the total is now 108 changes or 86%, which is intended to help you as players. Please read and review them so you have a better understanding and become a more knowledgeable player.

Now let us review the remaining 17 changes.

There are 8 new behavioral rules. The new rule 13.M.2 "Injury to a player, official, or spectator through an act of paddle or ball abuse" was needed because some folks just simply do not understand that throwing your paddle after your poor performance is simply wrong! Almost everyone knows better but it is now in writing. If you have any doubt about what acceptable behavior is then please review the new behavior rules.

Now let us discuss some important rule changes.

"Service Lets" (2020 Section 4.0 & 3.A.18) Removed.

This was the most talked about rule change.

Basically, this rule was about the serve and if the ball made contact with the net. Starting in 2021, there will be no rule(s) governing service lets. SERVICE LETS HAVE BEEN REMOVED.

Rule 4.A.6. Placement explains the rule.

Reason, explanation and "why" for the change and new rule.

The IFP supported this rule change and/or new rule for the following reason and explanation.

"CONSISTENCY" is important in many areas - especially when it is about rules. There was only one situation "The Serve" when the ball makes contact with the net was it a replay. This was

inconsistent (assuming it was in the correct service court etc.) in that it was not a let on the return of serve if ball made contact with the net and lands in the opponent's court? Or the 5th or 6th or 10th shot of a game. This is now consistent and if the ball makes contact with the net players need to understand to "Always be Playing the Ball" whether the ball makes contact with net, is close to line or even if you think the ball is cracked, you must always be playing to return the ball. It is that simple. It was also difficult to know if the ball clipped the net for both the recreational players and referees. To make this call and be 100% accurate was a times in question. Now that doubt has been removed.

4.A.8 Provisional Drop Serve. Want to emphasize that this is a provisional rule for this year. We encourage all players to carefully review this provisional rule and understand all the areas that are included in the provisional drop serve. Throughout this next year there will be an ongoing evaluation and review of the provisional drop serve and the IFP will be providing input to the IFP rules committee accordingly.

"Etiquette" - The rules committee also added new rules, statements, and words to help with etiquette and maintain a particularly important cornerstone that has made pickleball a sport that others look up to. Its friendliness, fairness, fun and the polite behavior are cornerstones of our sport. We never want to lose sight of this and the IFP supports the rules committee in the effort to maintain this important cornerstone with some new rules.

The IFP encourage all players to review these new rules and the changes but felt it was best not to alarm or overwhelm the thousands of pickleball players around the world who simply want to play pickleball.

So, let us go out, have fun and "Play Pickleball"!



