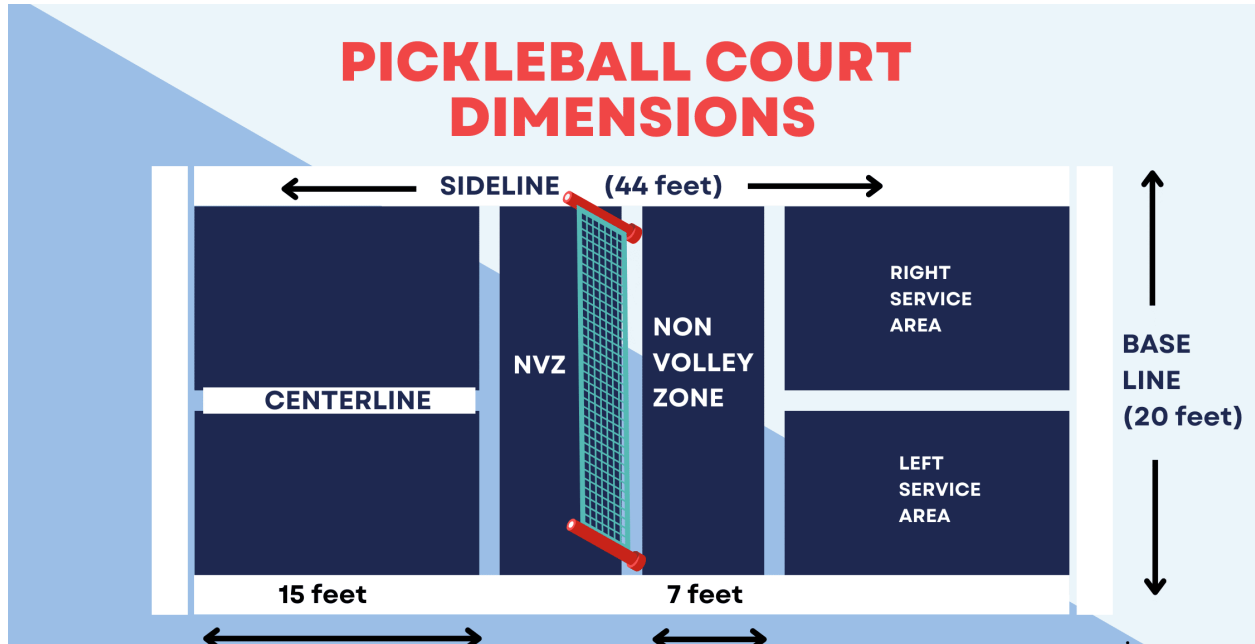


Sample

The Pickleball Gospel (the = sign denotes a parallel theme)

- **The Inventor: Joan Pritchard = The Triune God: Creator**
 - **Inventor of Pickleball: Joan Pritchard**
 - In the summer of 1965, pickleball was founded by Joel Pritchard, Bill Bell and Barney McCallum on Bainbridge Island, Washington. Within days, Joan Pritchard had come up with the name “pickle ball”—a reference to the thrown-together leftover non-starters in the “pickle boat” of crew races. According to Joel Pritchard's wife (Joan), she started calling the game pickle ball because, “the combination of different sports reminded me of a pickle boat in crew where oarsmen were chosen from the left-overs of other boats. Creation is an act of God alone, by which, for his own glory, he brings into existence everything in the universe, things that had no existence prior to his creative word.
 - **Creator of the World**
 - Genesis 1:1, 27 “In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth...So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them.”
 - God has Creator authority and claims authority of His creation. God created mankind to mirror and magnify God.
 - **The Pickleball Rules = The Bible and Law**
 - **Pickleball Rules:**
 - How to play pickleball? - <https://usapickleball.org/what-is-pickleball/how-to-play/>
 - Video of Pickleball Rules - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2Vk-c8TdC28>
 - Official Pickleball rules – hyperlink <https://usapickleball.org/docs/USA-Pickleball-Official-Rulebook-2024-v1.pdf>
 - **The Bible and Law (Galatians 3:19-26):**
 - 19 Why, then, was the law given at all? It was added because of transgressions until the Seed to whom the promise referred had come. The law was given through angels and entrusted to a mediator.
 - 20 A mediator, however, implies more than one party; but God is one.
 - 21 Is the law, therefore, opposed to the promises of God? Absolutely not! For if a law had been given that could impart life, then righteousness would certainly have come by the law.
 - 22 But Scripture has locked up everything under the control of sin, so that what was promised, being given through faith in Jesus Christ, might be given to those who believe.
- Children of God
- 23 Before the coming of this faith, we were held in custody under the law, locked up until the faith that was to come would be revealed.
 - 24 So the law was our guardian until Christ came that we might be justified by faith.
 - 25 Now that this faith has come, we are no longer under a guardian.
 - 26 So in Christ Jesus you are all children of God through faith.



- **The Non-Volley Zone = Consequences of sin**
 - **The Non-Volley Zone:**
 - Also known as the Kitchen, is the 14-foot area in the middle of the court, which extends 7 feet on either side of the pickleball net.
 - The Non-Volley Zone rules are some of the pickleball rules that make the sport of pickleball truly unique.
 - However, the Non-Volley Zone rules are nuanced and can be tricky to grasp at first.
 - The non-volley zone is the court area within 7 feet on both sides of the net Volleying is prohibited within the non-volley zone.
 - This rule prevents players from executing smashes from the NVZ.
 - **Consequences of sin:**
 - For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord. – Romans 6:23



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Sample

- **The Return = Return back to God (Repentance)**

- **The Return (USA Pickleball):**

- The main goal is to return the serve deep to keep the serving team at the baseline; power is not as important as control. A short return brings the serving team forward, allowing them to reach the NVZ line and negating the receiving team's advantage.
- The serve must bounce before being returned.
- Wait behind the baseline for the serve in order to permit moving forward to hit the return with momentum.
- The preferred service return stroke is a forehand with a backswing and follow through, stepping forward to meet the ball in front of the body. This allows the receiver to quickly move toward the net by following the natural momentum of the follow through.
- A shot lofted deep to the opponent's backhand gives the receiver time to reach the NVZ line and keep the serving team back.
- Follow through, move to the NVZ line and return to the ready position to be set to return the next shot.
- Watch the ball. If you realize you can't make it all the way to the NVZ line before the ball is hit by the opponent, stop and assume the ready position. Return the ball, then continue to the NVZ line. Stop again if necessary. In tennis this is often referred to as the "split step."

- **Return back to God (Repentance)**

- The Hebrew Bible sees teshuvah as principally a return to God. "Come, let us return to the Lord," the prophet Hoshea (14:2) tells the people of Israel. In Psalm 51, King David seeks teshuvah for committing adultery with Bathsheba.



- ¹⁹ Repent therefore, and turn back, that your sins may be blotted out, ²⁰ that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord, and that he may send the Christ appointed for you, Jesus, ²¹ whom heaven must receive until the time for restoring all the things about which God spoke by the mouth of his holy prophets long ago. – Acts 3:19-21

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