

Department of Recreational Sports | Intramural Sports

1v1 Table Tennis Information Sheet

Rules of the Game

1. The Game and Location
 - a. All games will be played to 11, win by 2, with a cap at 13.
 - b. The choice of ends and service at the start of a match shall be decided by a coin toss.
 - c. A match shall consist of the best 3 out of 5 games.
 - d. Tables for play are available at the Game Room located in Squires Student Center or in McComas Hall.
2. The Change of Ends and Service
 - a. Service changes from player to player after every two serves/points.
 - b. *Exception: serve changes after one serve/point once the game is tied at 10-10.*
3. The Service
 - a. The service shall be delivered by releasing the ball, without imparting any spin upon release, and striking it with the paddle outside the boundary of the court near the server's end.
 - b. Finger spin and rubbing the ball against the paddle face are illegal. Any spin imparted to the ball must come from the action of the impact of the paddle with the ball.
 - c. The ball shall be struck so that it first drops into the server's court then passing directly over or around the net.
4. A Good Return
 - a. A ball having been served or returned in play shall be struck by the player so that it passes directly over or around the net and lands in the opponent's court.
5. Let Ball
 - a. A let is a rally from which no point is scored. It occurs when:
 - i. The ball touches the net or its supports in service, provided the service is otherwise good or has been volleyed by the receiver.
 - ii. A service is delivered when the receiver is not ready, provided no attempt has been made to return the ball.
 - iii. A player fails to make a good service or return through an accident beyond his/her control, such as a movement by a spectator or sudden noise.
 - iv. The ball is broken in play.
 - v. A rally is interrupted to correct a mistake in playing order or ends.
6. Either Player Loses a Point or Side Out:
 - a. If they fail to make a good service, unless a let is declared.
 - i. If a good service or a good return is made by the opponent and they fail to make a good return.
 - ii. If a paddle, or any part of the player or clothing, touches the net or its supports while the ball is in play.
 - iii. If the player moves the table in any way while playing the ball.
 - iv. If a player's free hand touches the table while the ball is in play.
 - v. If, at any point, they volley the ball.
 1. A volley consists of hitting the ball before it has bounced.

Games will follow USATT rules unless specifically addressed in this rules sheet. These rules can be found at the following website: <https://www.teamusa.org/usa-table-tennis/rules>.