

Ping Pong Rules

Preliminary matches are usually the best of 3 or 5 games.

CHAMPIONSHIP matches are often the best of 7 or 9 games.

1. After deciding the serve, each player will serve TWO points each.
2. If a player serves a net ball (called a 'let serve'), the point is replayed. (There are no limits to the number of let serves a player may serve.)
3. The server in singles can serve anywhere: short, long, straight, or cross-court. Only in doubles do you have to serve diagonally from your right court to the opponent's right court.
4. If you volley the ball while it is still above the table surface, you lose the point.
5. If you move the table, or touch it with your free hand, during the rally, you lose the point.
6. If a you or your clothing touches the net or post during the rally, you lose the point.
7. If you hit the ball twice in succession, you lose the point.
8. If your shot hits a wall, the ceiling, or misses the opponent's side of the table, you lose the point.
9. Change ends of the table after each game.
10. The player who serves at the beginning of a game is the receiver at the beginning of the next game.
11. After the first player scores the 5th point in the final game of the match, change ends. If you forgot to change at 5, then change as soon as you realize it.
12. If your opponent distracts you by talking or yelling while the ball is in play, play a let.
13. At 10-10, the score is called "Deuce". A player must then win by 2 points. Alternate serves until one player has a 2-point lead.
14. Games are played to 11 point

