

PADDLE TENNIS
1988 REVISED SHORT FORM
OFFICIAL RULES OF PLAY

*****OFFICIAL LOGO OF U.S. PADDLE TENNIS ASSOCIATION*****

THE COURT

The court is 20' wide by 50' in length. The playing area is 40' wide by 80' when fenced in. Restraint lines are 12' from the net when authorized. The net is 31" high at the posts, pulled taut. Net posts are 18" from the side lines. Court lines are white, service lines are yellow or white.

The same court is used for singles or doubles; there are no doubles alleys.

THE BALL

The ball shall be a pressurized tennis ball approved by the United States Tennis Association for tournament play which has its internal pressure reduced by being punctured so that when dropped from a height of 6'0" to the playing court surface it shall not bounce less than 31" nor more than 33". Puncturing with a hypodermic needle or safety pin is a simple method of achieving the required bounce.

THE PADDLE

The paddle shall be made of a solid material or materials and shall be not more than 8 1/2" wide and 17 1/2" long. It may be perforated and/or textured and shall contain no strings; all subject to approval of the United States Paddle Tennis Association.

GENERAL RULES

Most Paddle Tennis rules are the same as those in tennis. Always follow tennis rules unless an exception is noted here. Either doubles or singles may be played.

In Paddle Tennis, the ball remains in play as long as both sides are able to successfully return the ball to the opponent's court area, which includes the lines. To return the ball successfully, it must be hit by a player either in the air or on the first bounce, and sent in the air without bouncing, over the net or outside the uprights, and onto the other side's court area. The ultimate objective, then, is to hit a return in such a way that your opponent cannot hit the ball before it bounces twice on his side of the court or before the ball hits a permanent fixture on his side, such as fencing.

The ball is put into play when it is served to the receiver.

SERVING ORDER

SINGLES - One player serves an entire game, alternating from right to left, beginning with the right. Players alternate serving games until the set ends.

DOUBLES - If one player serves the first game, his partner will serve the third, alternating on the "odd" games. The player on the opposing team will serve the second game, his partner the fourth, alternating on the "even" games.

SERVICE

Only one serve is allowed. The server shall stand behind the base line and within the imaginary extensions of the center and side lines. The server shall then project the ball by hand into the air and strike it with the paddle at a point not higher than 31" above the court surface at the instant of impact; or, the server may bounce or drop the ball on the court surface behind the baseline and strike it with the paddle upon its rebound at a point

not higher than 31" above the court surface. Delivery shall be deemed complete at the instant of impact of paddle and ball.

The server may choose either method of serving, that is, bouncing the ball or projecting it into the air before striking it with the paddle. However, whichever alternative he chooses, he must continue to serve in that manner for the entire set. In other words, he cannot switch from a bounce serve to the projecting serve at will; although he may change his manner of serving at the commencement of a new set.

The serve must land within the service area on the receivers side diagonally from where the server stands. If the serve fails to land within said area or if the server strikes a ball higher than 31" above the court surface at the instant of impact, the serve is a fault and server loses that point.

SPECIAL SINGLES RULE

In singles play only:

Each side must allow the ball to bounce (including the service) before being permitted to volley for the first time. In other words, no serve followed by a volley.

SPECIAL DOUBLES RULE

In doubles play only (Where Restraint "Bucket" Rule is authorized):

Both feet of all four players must be behind the restraint line until after the receiver's paddle hits the ball on the service return. Any part of the foot violating this rule will result in a "bucket" call and the awarding of the point to the other team. If both sides "bucket", the point will be replayed. This "bucket" restriction ends for all four players at the moment the ball is struck by the service receiver's paddle, or when the service receiver crosses the restraint line to return a short service, should this occur before the receiver actually hits the ball.

Each tournament shall determine whether or not the "Bucket" Rule will be in effect. Paddle Tennis can be played with or without the "Bucket" Rule.

SCORING

The sequence for scoring points won is:

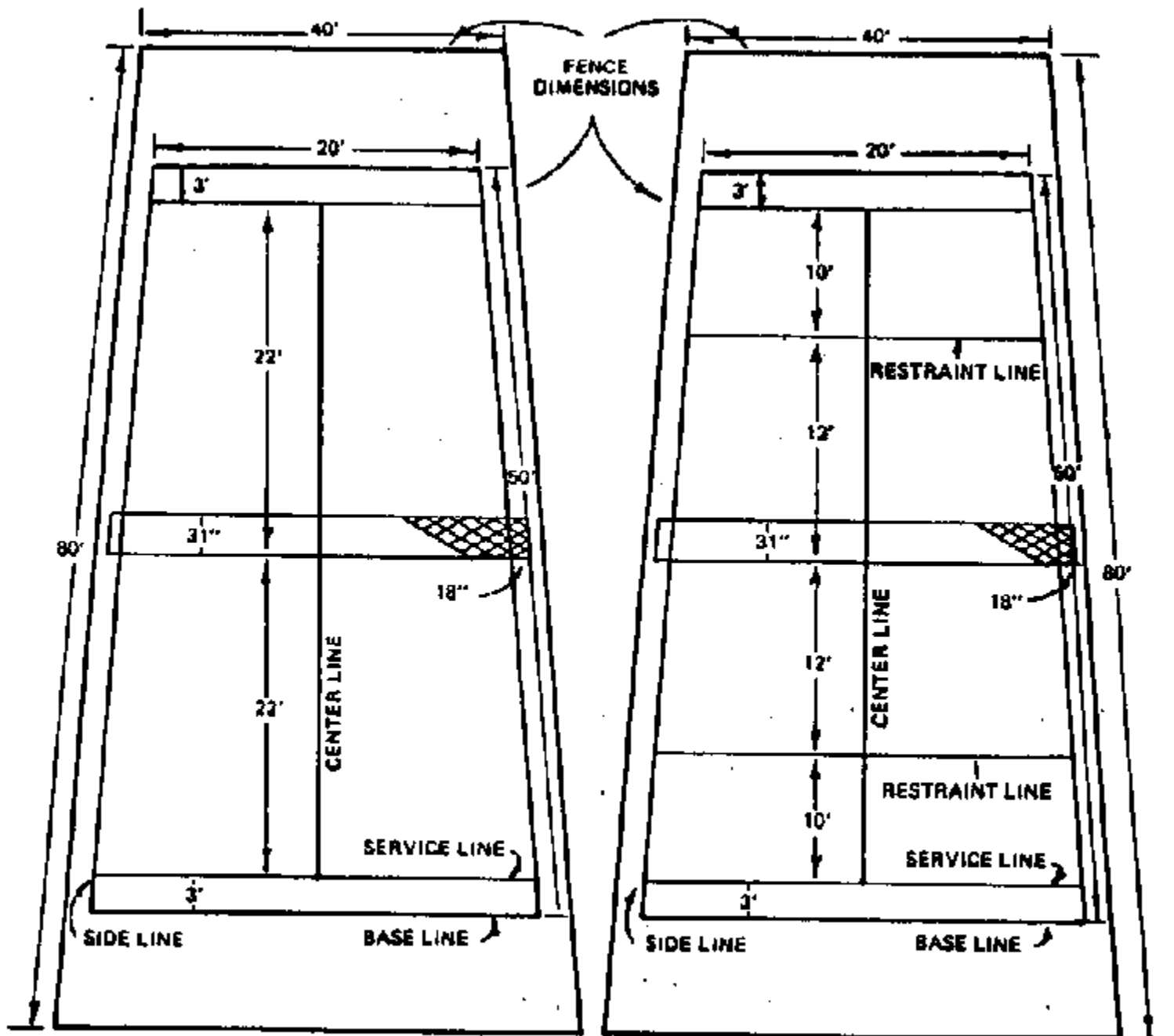
1st point - 15

2nd point - 30

3rd point - 40

4th point - Game

Except that if each player reaches 40-40, the score is "deuce". The next point won by the side is scored "advantage" for that side. If the same side wins the next point, that side wins the game. If that side loses the point, the score returns to "deuce". Play continues until one side wins the game. If at any time a side has no points, the score is "love". Server's score is called first, then receiver's. A set may consist of one in which the first player to win six games or the first player to win eight games wins the set, providing he has at least a two game margin.



**U.S.P.T.A. OFFICIAL COURT DIMENSIONS
(WITHOUT RESTRAINT LINE)**

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For further information, contact the United States Paddle Tennis Association,
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