

USA PICKLEBALL Official Rulebook (2023)

4.A.8. The Drop Serve. The drop serve is made by striking the ball after it bounces on the playing surface and can be made with either a forehand or backhand motion. A proper drop serve includes the following elements:

4.A.8.a. The server must release the ball from one hand only or drop it off the paddle face from any natural (un-aided) height.

4.A.8.b. The ball shall not be propelled (thrown) downward or tossed or hit upward with the paddle.

4.A.8.c. The restrictions on the Volley Serve in Rule 4.A.7 do not apply to the drop serve.

4.A.9. Replay or Fault. In officiated matches, the referee may call for a replay if they are not certain that one or more of the requirements of the serve has been met. The replay must be called before the return of serve. The referee shall call a fault if they are certain that one or more of the requirements of the serve, other than Rule 4.A.6, has not been met. In non-officiated matches, if the receiver determines that manipulation of spin has been imparted prior to the serve, or the release of the ball is not visible, the receiver may call for a replay before the return of serve. In non-officiated matches, the receiver has no authority to call for replays or faults for service motion violations.