

4 Rules of Ping Pong

12 The official rules to Ping Pong, otherwise known as table tennis, are
21 recognized internationally. Basic equipment includes paddles, a smooth netted
27 table, and regulation Ping Pong balls.

43 Ping Pong rules say that the table must be level, with a short net across the
57 center. For singles games, the white lines on the table have no meaning. In
70 doubles, the serving player must serve diagonally from right to left. Paddles must
79 have a rubber surface. No sandpaper surfaces are allowed.

95 A player wins a game at 11 points, though the winner must be ahead by two
111 points. If the score of a game reaches 10-10, then the players take turns serving
127 until one player gets two points ahead. A match could be made up of many games,
147 such as 3 out of 5, or 4 out of 7. Players should switch sides for each new game of
149 a match.

162 Flipping a coin determines which player serves first. A serve is made by
181 tossing the ball in the air and hitting it on its way down so that it bounces once on
197 the server's side of the net, then bounces over the net to land anywhere on the
212 opponent's side. The first player serves two points, then the serve is traded off so
229 the opponent serves for two points, and so on. If the serve touches the net and goes
246 over to the other side, it is called a "let" serve, and the server re-serves the ball.

262 The ball may be hit back and forth many times. A point is scored by either
280 player, for example when the opponent misses the ball, hits the ball twice in a row,
297 hits the ball into the net (and doesn't go over), or hits the ball somewhere off the
298 table.

312 A player can hold the paddle in either hand, switch between hands, or even
327 use both hands at once. Ping Pong rules say, however, that players are not allowed
345 to move or bump the table, or touch the table with any part of the body while the
363 ball is in play. If the ball touches the ceiling, a wall, or a spectator's body, the ball
377 is no longer in play, and someone has just won or lost a point.