

Q. Do I need to step out of the non-volley zone (NVZ), or kitchen, before I can hit another ball?

A. Yes, if your next hit is a volley shot. However, if your next hit is to a ball that bounces first, you can hit it without a fault.

Section 9 — Non-Volley Zone Rules*

9.F. A player may stay inside the non-volley zone to return balls that bounce. That is, there is no violation if a player does not exit the non-volley zone after hitting a ball that bounces.

Q. Can I step into the NVZ/kitchen after hitting a volley shot?

A. No if your step is a continuation of, or is the result of follow-through momentum of your volley shot. This applies even if the play and/or game is over. A player must be able to control her or his momentum, and preferably take a step backwards before stepping into the NVZ/kitchen, e.g., to meet your opponents at the net at completion of play.

Note: It is acceptable for a player's partner to physically restrain said player from falling into the NVZ/kitchen as long as the restraining player's partner does not enter or touch the NVZ/kitchen area.

Section 9 — Non-Volley Zone Rules*

9.C. A Fault will be declared if, in the act of volleying the ball, the player's momentum causes the player or anything the player is wearing or carrying to touch the non-volley zone or touch any non-volley line. It is a fault if the player's momentum causes the player to touch anything that is touching the non-volley-zone, including the player's partner. It is a fault even if the ball is declared dead before the player touches the non-volley zone.

Q. If I call a ball out on my side before it hits the playing surface but it is not, my partner plays the ball, but my opponents stop playing due to the "out call," is this a fault and is the play over?

A. No, a call such as this is considered player communications.

Section 6 — Line Call Rules*

6.D.12. If, while the ball is in the air, a player yells "out," "no," "bounce it," or any other word to communicate to his or her partner that the ball may be out, it shall be considered player communication. If the ball lands in, play will continue. If the out call is made after the ball has hit the playing surface, it shall be considered a line call and play shall stop.

* International Federation of Pickleball Official Tournament Rule Book