

# Curriculum for Line Judge Self-Training

The purpose of this curriculum is to enable people to train themselves to become registered, then certified, pickleball line judges. Preferably, anyone using this curriculum to achieve this goal should train with at least one other person so they can provide one another with observation and feedback. The ideal would be to train as a line judging team of four.

## Prerequisites

The requirements for becoming a registered or certified line judge are set forth in the [USA Pickleball Line Judge Program Statement](#), which is available on the [USA Pickleball Officiating webpage](#) under Programs & Policies.

As a USA Pickleball member, you can access all the Resources you'll need on the USA Pickleball Officiating page. The visual acuity examination can take place at any time during your training and assessment process, but make sure it falls within the required time frame and is documented on the [Visual Acuity Form](#).

This curriculum assumes that you are already familiar with the sport of pickleball and its basic features and terminology, such as the layout of the court, the non-volley zone, and the serving procedures. If you are brand new to the sport or only superficially familiar with it, then you should first study Sections 1-3 of the [2021 Official Rulebook](#) and Part 1 of the [2021 Alternate Rulebook](#), available under Reference Materials.

## The Procedure

- A. **Study.** Before getting on the court to practice line judging, you must study the procedures thoroughly to ensure that you understand all the requirements of proper and effective line judging. These requirements and procedures are explained and illustrated in two documents:
  - a. Section 6 of the [2021 USA Pickleball Officiating Handbook](#). You will also need to log in as a USA Pickleball member to access this document.
  - b. The [Line Judge Rating Form](#), available under Registered Trainers. However, do not complete a self-evaluation on this form until you have completed some on-court practice sessions.

It's important to recognize that as a line judge you are an integral part of an officiating team, along with the referee and the other line judges. As such, you need to understand how you will interact with them as well as tend to your own line responsibilities. You must also understand and abide by the line judge Code of Conduct.

- B. **Test.** Once you have thoroughly studied Section 6 and feel you have a firm understanding of the required procedures, take the required [Line Judge Test](#) and [Player Test](#), available under Online Tests. You can take these tests as often and as many times as you like until you have passed them at the required success level: 90% or more to become a Registered Line Judge, >95% to become a Certified Line Judge.

- C. Recreational Practice.** Here is a procedure to practice on-court line judging:
- a. Recruit 4 players who are willing to have you line judge while they play. (If you can combine this with someone who wants to practice refereeing, so much the better.) Practicing with doubles teams will give you more practice than with singles.
  - b. Depending on how many of you are practicing line judging, determine which line each of you will be responsible for. If there are fewer than 4 of you, make sure the players understand which lines are being called by line judges.
  - c. Position yourself properly--just inside the imaginary extension of your line, leaving ample room for the players (unless you are outside a fence, in which case you should look **over** it if you can do so safely).
  - d. During play, follow each rally peripherally so you can anticipate when a ball may land close to your line and be ready to make a call, if appropriate.
  - e. Make your “Out” and “Foot fault” calls immediately and loudly, accompanied by a hand signal.
  - f. Signal close “In” calls immediately (but silently!) with the appropriate hand signal.
  - g. Even though you may not be practicing with a referee, properly signal “View blocked” if you’re unable to see where a ball lands in the vicinity of your line.  
**NOTE:** You **must** develop the habit of making the above three calls/signals without hesitation so players and referees can have confidence in you.
  - h. From game to game, change your line so that you get practice calling sidelines as well as baselines.
  - i. After each practice session, hold a debriefing session with the players and any other line judges to identify what you did well, what mistakes you made, and what you need to do to improve before the next practice session.
  - j. Once you have completed several practice sessions you can complete a self-rating on the Line Judge Rating Form.
  - k. Continue taking the Player Test and Line Judge Test until you are consistently scoring at the required levels for Registration and/or Certification.  
**NOTE:** Throughout this practice during social play, whenever you can recruit a certified or experienced referee to work with, do so!

**D. Organized Play.** To become either a Registered or a Certified Line judge, you must serve as a line judge during one or two “organized play events,” i.e., matches. This could be tournament play, multiple matches arranged during a public or club event, or organized recreational play. This also requires a Registered Referee Trainer or Certified Referee to supervise and assess your performance, using the Line Judge Rating Form.

To make this arrangement, contact the Referee Training Coordinator in your region and ask their assistance in locating an appropriate event and a trainer to work with you.

# Self-Training Check List

- Check USA Pickleball membership status
- Download:
  - 2021 Official Rulebook
  - 2021 Alternate Rulebook
  - 2021 Officiating Handbook
  - Line Judge Program
  - Visual Acuity Form
  - Line Judge Rating Form
- Take Player Test
- Take Line Judge Test
- Recruit other potential line judges (optional)  
Names: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
- Recruit 4 players for practice sessions  
Names: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
- Arrange and conduct practice schedule
- Complete self-rating on the Line Judge Rating Form
- Contact regional Referee Training Coordinator