

THE PICKLEBALL GLOSSARY: TALK LIKE A PRO

From the Kitchen to the Falafel -- Everything you need to know before you hit the courts.

The Kitchen (Non-Volley Zone)

The 7-foot restricted area on both sides of the net. You cannot volley (hit the ball out of the air) while standing inside this zone.

Pickled

A score of 11-0. If you get "Pickled" at a resort, it's customary (but not mandatory!) to buy the winners a drink.

Banger

A player who hits the ball with extreme power rather than using soft "dinking" strategy.

Nasty Nelson

A legal but sneaky serve where you intentionally hit the opposing player standing at the kitchen line.

Dink

A soft, finesse shot that lands in the opponent's Kitchen. It is the tactical core of a high-level game.

Golden Pickle

A game won 11-0 where the losing team never even had the chance to serve. A rare and legendary feat!

Body Bag

When a shot hits the opponent's body. In pickleball, if the ball touches you, you lose the point--so keep your paddle up!

Falafel

A "dead" shot with no power because it was hit off the edge of the paddle or with zero momentum.

PRO TIP: When in doubt, "Dink" it out! Finesse usually beats power in the humid tropical air.