

## Line Calling - Resource: Pickleball Canada - The Scoop September 2022

We continue to be asked questions about Line Calling situations. What follows is an attempt to explain these situations, one more time.

### Recreational Play

- If you are not absolutely positive that the ball is OUT... it is to be called IN
- If you **think** the ball is out... it is IN (Thinking something is not definitive. Does not demonstrate certainty)
- If you cannot immediately call the ball out... it is to be called IN
- If you see the ball land, but are not sure if it touched the line or not... it is to be called IN

The team who's end the ball hits, has the responsibility for making the line call with the code of ethics in mind. I.e., "Players must strive for accuracy and operate under the principle, that all questionable calls must be resolved in favour of the opposition."

- A Player cannot claim a replay because the ball was not seen or there was uncertainty.
- If a player makes an initial line call, and then asks the opponents their opinion and they have clearly seen the ball "IN" or "OUT", that call will stand. If they are unable to make a definitive call, the original line call stands.
- Rule 6.D.5 clearly states that, "A player should not question an opponents call!"
- Calls on the opponents end of the court are their responsibility, and to question it is poor etiquette.
- If at a tournament your opponents continually make poor Line Calls and there are no officials, you can approach the Tournament Director or the Officiating desk to request a Referee.

With the before mentioned in mind, let's discuss what you think you see, and what the call should be, bearing in mind that in Officiated play, balls that make contact with the court or the Line will be called in.

- If you are in a position over the ball and looking down at it and the line, and there is an overlap where the ball hides a portion or all the line below, (**fig 1 & 2**) this ball cannot be called out. Rational – The Player cannot be certain that the ball has not made contact with the line... therefore it must be presumed "IN".
- The playing partner to the Player above may be in a better position to make the call. If they are looking across the court or back toward the base line. If this player can see the playing surface on the other side of the line the ball can then be called "OUT" with a certainty that it did not make, contact with the line. (**Fig 4**)

**NB: Fig 3** shows the same ball location as **Fig 4** but the view is that of the player closest to the ball, and not able to call the ball "OUT".

- Good judgement should be used in making this call, as often the player's head and eyes must move in the direction of the struck and landing ball. With this motion the eyes often cannot adjust quickly enough to see the true position of impact. The ball often appears to travel further than it does. This was found to be the case in a study of out calls made at Wimbledon, and why Line Judges are trained to have their head and eyes focused on the line prior to the ball arriving at the scene.

