

# How to Serve Correctly in Table Tennis

It has been noticed that some players require help & guidance in following the rules of the game to ensure there is no unfair taking advantage of their opponent through illegal serves.

The video's below are recommended viewing to understand the basic rules of service and they highlight examples of illegal serves.

## Basic Rules of Service.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=s9ELscafqVs>

What you are looking for when umpiring.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5ibSKS2ZpVM>

## EXAMPLE OF WHY WE SHOULD FOLLOW THE RULES

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=\\_aNQ3Yb8W5U](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_aNQ3Yb8W5U)

*These serves are perfect examples of why you have to toss the ball from your hand up by at least 16cm. Hitting the ball "off the hand" gives players an unfair advantage.*

## Common errors made when serving which are faults.

NOT throwing the ball up 16cm is a fault (Lost of a point).

Dropping the hand away from the ball, is not throwing up the ball, it is a fault.

Throwing the ball backwards on to the bat, the ball should be thrown near vertical 16cm.

Starting the serve without the ball being on the palm of a flat hand.

Not moving the hand or arm away as soon as the ball is thrown up (restricting the view of the ball).

Starting the serve over the table.

Dropping the throwing hand & the ball below the surface of the table.

## Umpire Training Videos

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5ibSKS2ZpVM>

This Video shows illegal service & the call that an Umpire makes.

In our SSTT Competition we are encouraging the Umpire to call a let and warn the offending player on the first occasion (we are all friends). However, if the player continues to infringe, the next occasion should be called a fault and loss of point. The intent is to help assist players in the long term and avoid any issues when playing in representative tournaments where the rules are much more strictly followed.

**Note : The Umpire does not have to give you a warning, he/she may call a fault & award a point.**

Your Committee