How to Play 9 Square

Goal: Be the “King” of the game for as long as you can.

1. The “king” serves the ball from the center square to any other square they choose by hitting the ball up and out of the top of the center game square.
2. Players must return the ball to another player's square.
3. If a player fails to return the ball to another player’s square, that player is out.
4. A double hit results in elimination.
5. During game play, players are not allowed to touch the game structure. Touching the game structure results in elimination.
6. When a player is out, they leave their square and move to the end of the line. The other players advance to fill the square of the player who just got out.

Rotation pattern to the center square

line forms here

1 2 3
8 9 4
7 (King) 6 5
The “What ifs”

What if...

Q. I hit the ball out of the overall square?
   A. You're out, because you're too strong.

Q. I hit the ball 2 times?
   A. You're out. Only one hit allowed when it enters your square.

Q. I catch/palm the ball, and throw it into another square?
   A. You're out, and should hang your head in shame.

Q. I hit the ball, but it doesn’t go over the bars in my square?
   A. You're out. Better luck next time.

Q. I try to block the ball, but it comes back in my square?
   A. Just like in volleyball, you can hit the ball 1 more time.

Q. I try to hit the ball, miss, and it bounces off of my head into another square?
   A. Think of yourself as one lucky duck, and keep playing!

Tips for Group Leaders

1. Do NOT allow players to hang on the game structure. It is not designed for that purpose. The PVC pipes may break if a player hangs on it.
2. Never allow the king to start the round by serving a “set” for another player to spike. That's just no fun.
3. Consider playing a “no spiking” game. This levels the playing field a bit, and helps to make the game a great community builder.
4. Determining a winner. To decide who wins, count the number of rounds each person is in the king square. Whoever serves the most rounds as king is the winner. Or set a time limit to the game. Whoever is in the king square when the time is up is the winner.
5. We want to hear from you about how you use 9 Square! Please email sales@9squareintheair.com with your ideas about ways to use and vary the game. We’ll post your great ideas on our website for others to use!