The Sport of Badminton

Baseline or back boundary line

Singles long service line

Doubles long service line

Right service court

Centerline

Left service court

Short service line

Net post

Net

Aley

Singles service and receiving area

Doubles service and receiving area

16" 170" 16"

20'0"

Court lines, areas, and dimensions.
BADMINTON: most information below is from, Badminton, steps to success, by Tony Grice

TERMINOLOGY

alley—The playing area that comes into or out of play at various times during any game. For example, the side alley is the playing area on each side of the court between the singles sideline and the doubles sideline. This 1.5-foot (0.46 m) wide area is in play for doubles, but out of bounds for singles. The back alley is an area 2.5 feet (0.76 m) deep between the doubles back service line and the back boundary line. It is out of bounds on any doubles serve. After the serve is in play, this alley is in bounds for any other return.

around-the-head stroke—A return made with a forehand stroke but contacted over the player’s nondominant shoulder.

back boundary line—The line similar to the baseline in tennis that designates the end or back of the badminton playing area.

backcourt—Approximately the last 11 feet (3.35 m) of the court on either side of the net or midcourt to the back boundary line.

backhand—Any return or stroke hit on the nondominant side of the body.

backhand grip—The manner in which a player grasps the racket to hit any return from his or her nondominant side. In badminton, this is usually done with the handshake, or pistol, grip, held with the dominant thumb in an up position on the top left bevel of the handle.

backswing—That part of the swing that takes the racket back in preparation for the forward swing.

Badminton World Federation—The governing body for badminton play and competition worldwide. Formerly the International Badminton Federation or IBF; the name change was effective December 2006.

base—A spot near the middle of the court that a player tries to return to after most shots.

baseline—The line designating the back boundary of the court.

bird—The missile or object struck with the badminton racket that begins the rally over the net. Same as shuttle or shuttlecock.

carry—A return that is caught on the racket face and is slung or thrown over the net. It is sometimes referred to as a sling or a throw. This is a legal return as long as it is a continuation of the player’s normal stroke and is not a double hit.

clear—A high return that carries deep into the backcourt.

crosscourt—A return or stroke that sends the bird diagonally across the court.

double hit—A fault that occurs when the shuttle is hit twice in succession on the same stroke.

doubles service court—The serving area into which the doubles serve must be delivered. Each side of a badminton court has a right and a left service court for doubles. Each doubles service court is bounded by the short service line, the centerline, the doubles sideline, and the doubles back service line. Its dimensions are 13 feet (3.96 m) long by 10 feet (3.05 m) wide. It is sometimes referred to as short and fat. The side alley is in bounds; the back alley is not.

drive—A return or stroke that sends the shuttle in a relatively flat trajectory, parallel to the floor, but high enough to pass over the net.

drive serve—A hard, fast serve that crosses the net with a flat trajectory and is usually directed toward the receiver’s nondominant shoulder. It is used more in doubles than in singles.

drop shot—A return or stroke that barely clears the net and falls toward the floor, hit underhand or overhand from the net or the backcourt.

fault—Any violation of the rules.

flick serve or flick return—An especially quick, flat serve or return initiated by a flick of the wrist that loops the bird high out of reach toward the rear of the opponent’s court. It is used primarily in doubles if the opponent is consistently rushing the player’s serve.

follow-through—The smooth continuation of a stroke after the racket has contacted the bird.

forehand—Any return or stroke hit on the dominant side of the body.

forehand grip—The manner in which the player grasps the racket to hit any return from his or her dominant side. The handshake, or pistol, grip is the most common forehand grip in badminton.

frontcourt—Approximately the front 11 feet (3.35 m) of the court on either side of the net or midcourt to the net. The front part of the court, sometimes referred to as the forecourt.
game—A competition that has a goal of a specified number of points. All games, such as women's or men's singles, men's and women's doubles, and mixed doubles, are played to 21 points.

hairpin drop shot—A form of drop shot played from near the net that travels up one side of the net and down the other side, thus forming a trajectory in the shape of a hairpin.

hands down—Under the rally point scoring system, in which only one partner has the opportunity to serve in any one service turn, this term no longer applies. Under the former rules, hands down was used to indicate when a doubles partner lost his or her turn to serve. One hand down meant that one partner lost his or her serve. Two hands down meant both partners had lost their serves, indicating their service turn was over and their side was out.

inning—An individual's or team's turn at serving or the serving turn on one end of the court.

International Badminton Federation—The IBF was formerly the governing body for badminton play and competition throughout the world. See Badminton World Federation.

let—A form of interference in which the point is replayed.

love—in scoring, meaning zero or no points have been scored.

love-all—Zero-all or no points have been scored by either side.

match—A competition that has a specified number of games. To win a match, a player usually has to win two out of three games.

match point—The point that wins the match.

mixed doubles—A four-handed game in which male and female partners team together to play on opposite sides of the net from each other.

net shot—Any return that strikes the net and continues over into the opponent's court. This might also apply to any drop shot return played from a point near the net.

overhead—Any stroke played from a point above head height.

placement—A return hit to a specific spot in the opponent's court where it will be difficult for the opponent to return.

push shot—A return or shot hit or pushed softly down into the opponent's court. In doubles, this usually means past the opposing partner stationed at the net.

rally—Any exchange back and forth across the net between opposing players during any particular point.

ready position—The basic waiting position near center-court, which is equidistant from all corners. This position affords the player the best opportunity to get to any possible return made by the opponent.

receiver—Any player who receives the serve.

return—Any method of hitting an opponent's shots back over the net.

serve or service—The act of putting the shuttle into play at the beginning of a point or rally.

server—The player who delivers the serve.

service court—One of the two half-courts divided by the net into which the serve must be directed. There are right and left service courts for singles and doubles play. They differ in size and shape.

service over—Loss of serve, serve goes over to the opponent.

short service line—The front line designating the beginning of the service court and situated 6 feet 6 inches (1.98m) from the net.

shuttle or shuttlecock—The missile used in badminton. Same as bird.

side out—Loss of service. Same as service over or hands down in doubles play.

singles service court—The serving area into which the singles serve must be delivered. Each side of a badminton court has a right and a left service court for singles. Each singles service court is bounded by the short service line, the centerline, the singles sideline and the back boundary line. Its dimensions are 15.5 feet (5.03 m) long by 8.5 feet (2.59 m) wide. It is sometimes referred to as long and narrow.

singles sideline—The singles sideline designates the out-of-bounds for singles play. The singles court is 17 feet wide (5.18 m) from sideline to sideline.

smash—A powerful overhead return or stroke hit at a downward angle into the opponent's court with excessive speed.

stroke—The act of hitting the bird with the racket.

Thomas Cup—A men's international badminton team competition similar to the Davis Cup in tennis. It was first held in 1948. Six singles and three doubles matches are played between two countries. Thomas Cup competition is held on a two-year cycle in the even years.

Uber Cup—A women's international team competition. It began in 1957 and was named for a former English player, Mrs. H.S. Uber. It is also held on a two-year cycle in the even years.

USA Badminton—USA Badminton is the national governing body for badminton in the United States. USA Badminton was the American Badminton Association from 1936 until 1977, when it was reorganized and renamed the United States Badminton Association. In 1996, the current name, USA Badminton, was adopted for membership purposes.

wood shot—This return or shot results from the tip or cork of the shuttle hitting on the frame of the racket rather than on the strings. Although it has not always been a legal return, the IBF ruled in 1963 that wood shots were acceptable.