

Badminton Rules Guide

Badminton is traceable to India, where it was known as "poona". English army officers introduced the game in England around 1870. The original Indian rules governed the activity until 1887 when the Bath Badminton Club laid down its own regulations. After being introduced in the U.S. in 1890, a wave of popularity carried it to its present status. The game is controlled by the American Badminton Association.

Basic Rules

1. The shuttlecock, or birdie, must be below the waist on a serve
2. On a serve, the feet of the server must remain stationary and the shuttlecock must be served underhand.
3. It is legal if the shuttlecock lands on the lines (lines are good).
4. It is legal if the shuttlecock hits the wood or metal part of the racket.
5. It is legal if the shuttlecock hits the net and goes over except on a serve.
6. It is interference if the shuttlecock touches the basketball net or rim and should be replayed.
7. The shuttlecock can not be hit more than once in succession.
8. Serving - the side serving first in the game has only one term of service.
If they lose the serve, the birdie goes to the other team for two terms of service, (partner serves until they lose the serve, then the other partner serves.)
9. The server must serve in the correct service court according to your teams score. (not the 2 scores added together)
Even scores serve on the right side.
Odd scores serve on the left side
10. Partners must rotate courts only after winning a point - defense never switches service courts.
11. The server must serve diagonally into the proper service box.
12. If the ball touches the net on the serve and lands in the proper service court, then it is considered a let serve and is to be reserved.
13. Smashing is not allowed in the non-smash zone (area between the net and short service line).
Jumping behind the line and smashing the birdie, then landing in the non-smash zone is legal.

Special Rules

1. Only the side that is serving can score a point.
2. The server scores in two ways:
 1. When an opponent allows the shuttlecock to drop to the ground and
 2. by a fault. A fault occurs when the opponent returns the shuttlecock into or under the net, hits it out of bounds, touches the net, or the player serves and misses the shuttlecock.
3. Doubles games play to 15 points. Singles games play to 11 points.

Terms

1. Overhead Clear - The shuttlecock soars in a high arc over the opponents head and falls into the court behind him/her.
2. Drop - The shuttlecock just clears the net and falls gently.

3. Drive - It is a hard stroke hit on a straight line.
4. Smash - It is a hard stroke hit sharply downward.
5. Short Serve - a serve that lands in front of the short service line.
6. Short Service line - The line 6ft. away from the net that the shuttlecock must land beyond to be playable on a serve.
7. Shuttlecock - or birdie is hit back and forth in the game.
8. Forehand - It is a stroke made with the palm of the hand turned forward.
9. Backhand - It is a stroke made with the back of the hand turned outward.
10. Rally - The exchange of the shuttle from the time it is in play until dead.

Badminton Court & Markings

