

# BADMINTON

## OVERVIEW

**Where did it begin?** The game was developed primarily in England. The children of the Duke of Beaufort played the game at Badminton House. A man named John Lorraine was a frequent visitor to Badminton House, and it is thought that he drew up the first set of rules for the sport. The International Badminton Federation regulates the game in over sixty countries, and organizes major events like the World Championships. Badminton is also an Olympic sport.

**Objective:** Two players or teams of pairs, hit the shuttlecock (also known as the birdie) across the net into the opponents half of the court without them being able to return it. Most matches are made up of best-of-three games. A game is won by the first player or pair to reach 15 points (11 points for singles). It is only the server who can win points. If the receiving (non-serving) player wins a rally, they then become the server.

## Serving

- Serving is done diagonally and the first serve is made from the right hand service court.
- The serve must be made underarm, and the racket must hit the shuttle while it is below the server's waist.
- The server must be standing within the correct service court, with both feet on the ground.
- The server gets one chance to serve correctly. If they miss the shuttle or do anything wrong during the serve, it is a fault, and the serve goes to the opponent.

## Serving rules for doubles

- Each side has two chances to serve. If they lose the rally on the first serve, they do not pass the serve to the opposing side. Instead, the other person in the pair serves.
- If they lose the rally on the second serve, then the serve goes to the opposing pair. When a pair regains the serve from opponents, they serve from the right hand service court.
- For the first service of the game, the serving pair is allowed only one chance to serve.
- In doubles, it is the pair who is serving who changes sides on the court, not the receiving pair.
- Each pair of players does not have to alternate hitting the shuttle between them. One player can return two or more consecutive hits in a rally if they wish.

## Scoring

- When the serving side wins a rally, they add a point to their score.
- When the receiving side wins a rally, they do not get a point, but they get the right to serve.
- The score of the serving side is always put first.

## Equipment

The shuttlecock (or birdie) weighs about 4.8 grams (one sixth of an ounce). The skirt is made of feathers or synthetic (usually plastic) materials.

