

Tennis

Tennis is a racket game in which individuals (singles) or pairs (doubles) compete against each other. The game is played on a court divided by a net. The object of the game is to propel the ball over the net so that it bounces in the opposite court and beats any attempt by an opponent to return it.

Court

The surface of the court may be grass, asphalt, wood, concrete, clay, or other composition. It is marked with white lines. The lines are included within the limits of the court and a ball striking the line is considered in play.

Playing the Game

Normally, men play against men and women against women, except in mixed doubles, the pairs consist of one man and one woman.

A match is scored in games and sets.

In each game a player begins with no score (or zero- this is referred to as "love").

The first point is scored as "15."

The second point is "30."

"40" is the third point.

The fourth point wins the game.

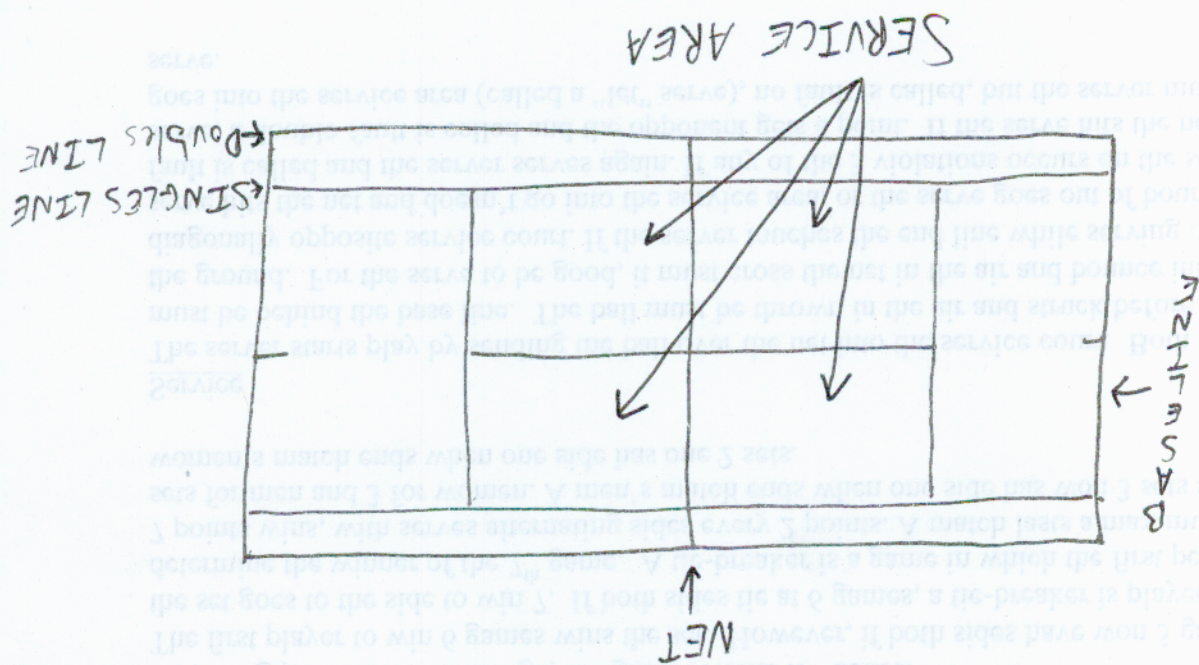
Deuce occurs when both sides have scored 3 points (40-40) in a game.

After deuce, the next point won is called "advantage" to the player who won it. If he wins the following point after advantage, he is awarded the game. If the opponent wins the following point after advantage, the game returns to "deuce."

The first player to win 6 games wins the set. However, if both sides have won 5 games, the set goes to the side to win 7. If both sides tie at 6 games, a tie-breaker is played to determine the winner of the 7th game. A tie-breaker is a game in which the first person to 7 points wins, with serves alternating sides every 2 points. A match lasts a maximum of 5 sets for men and 3 for women. A men's match ends when one side has won 3 sets and a women's match ends when one side has one 2 sets.

Service

The server starts play by sending the ball over the net into the service court. Both feet must be behind the base line. The ball must be thrown in the air and struck before it hits the ground. For the serve to be good, it must cross the net in the air and bounce into the diagonally opposite service court. If the server touches the end line while serving or the serve hits the net and doesn't go into the service area, or the serve goes out of bounds, a fault is called and the server serves again. If any of the 3 violations occurs on the second serve, a double-fault is called and the opponent gets a point. If the serve hits the net and goes into the service area (called a "let" serve), no fault is called, but the server must re-serve.



Doubles
The doubles game is played within a wider playing area. The teammates alternate serves and returns every other game.

A return is "good" if it bounces within the court after crossing the net. The ball may touch the net as long as it lands inside the boundaries of the opponent's court.

- Hitting a Return
- A. Fails to return the ball over the net before it touches the ground twice on his side of the net
 - B. Returns the ball so that it first hits the ground outside his opponent's court
 - C. Hits the ball into the net
 - D. Hits the ball twice
 - E. Is hit by the ball.
- A point is lost when the player:
- Losing a point