**Badminton Rules**

Badminton is a racquet sport played by either two opposing players (singles) or two opposing pairs (doubles), who take positions on opposite halves of a rectangular court that is divided by a net. Players score points by striking a shuttlecock with their racquet so that it passes over the net and lands in their opponents’ half of the court. A rally ends once the shuttlecock has struck the ground, and each side may only strike the shuttlecock once before it passes over the net.

**General Rules**

* A shuttle landing on the line is good.
* A shuttle hitting the net is good and play continues (including on the serve) if all other aspects of the play is legal.
* All players must be INSIDE the lines in their respective service courts at the point of contact during the serve.
* A “let” is a situation requiring a replay.
* When the leading team’s score reaches 11 points, players get a 60 second break.
* A 2 minute interval is allowed after each game.
* In the third game, players change ends when the leading team’s score reaches 11 points.

**Beginning Play**

Before play, opposite teams shall toss, and the side winning the toss shall have the option of:

* Serving first or receiving serve
* Choosing which side of the court to start on

The side losing the toss has the choice of the remaining alternatives.

Toss is decided by one of the following:

* Coin flip
* Volley
* Spin of racquet
* Drop of the bird (direction pointing)

The team that wins the game will serve first in the next game.

**Lets**

* Server serves before the receiver is ready
* Shuttle breaks during play
* Shuttle gets caught on top of the net or in the net after having gone over (except on the serve)
* A “let” or replay will be given for any “accidental hindrances”
* Double fault (one on each team) equals a let

**Scoring**

* Games are played to 21 points
* A match consists of the best of 3 games
* Rally scoring is used (a point is scored on every serve)
* If the receiving team wins the rally it scores a point and will serve the next point
* At 20 all, the side which gains a 2 point lead first, wins the game
* At 29 all, the side scoring the 30th point, wins the game

**Singles Play**

* Singles serving court and playing court are both long and narrow
* Serve from the right side when the server’s score is “even” and from the left side when their score is “odd”
* All serves must be diagonal
* Both players change service courts after a point is scored

**Doubles Play**

* Doubles serving court is short and wide
* Doubles playing court changes to long and wide following the serve
* Each time the serving court scores a point, the same server serves the next serve from the other side of the court
* No player ever receives two consecutive serves
* The serving team changes service courts only after scoring a point
* A receiving team never changes courts
* When the receiving team wins the rally their server is determined by whether their score is “even” (right side serves) or “odd” (left side serves)
* Only the player served to may receive the service