

The Laws of Badminton

The Laws of Badminton and Competition Regulations in the BWF Statutes provide the detail on every aspect of the game of badminton.

Below is a brief overview - simplified rules.

Scoring System

- A match consists of the best of 3 games of 21 points.
- Every time there is a serve – there is a point scored.
- The side winning a rally adds a point to its score.
- At 20 all, the side which gains a 2 point lead first, wins that game.
- At 29 all, the side scoring the 30th point, wins that game.
- The side winning a game serves first in the next game.

Interval and Change of Ends

- When the leading score reaches 11 points, players have a 60 second interval.
- A 2 minute interval between each game is allowed.
- In the third game, players change ends when the leading score reaches 11 points.

Singles

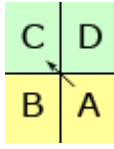
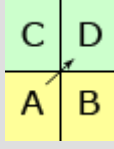
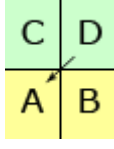
- At the beginning of the game (0-0) and when the server's score is even, the server serves from the right service court. When the server's score is odd, the server serves from the left service court.
- If the server wins a rally, the server scores a point and then serves again from the alternate service court.
- If the receiver wins a rally, the receiver scores a point and becomes the new server. They serve from the appropriate service court – left if their score is odd, and right if it is even.

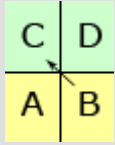
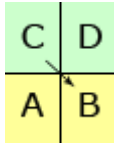
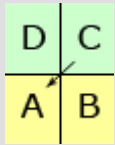
Doubles

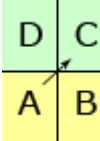
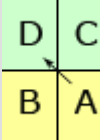
- A side has only one 'set'.
- The service passes consecutively to the players as shown in the diagram.
- At the beginning of the game and when the score is even, the server serves from the right service court. When it is odd, the server serves from the left court.
- If the serving side wins a rally, the serving side scores a point and the same server serves again from the alternate service court.
- If the receiving side wins a rally, the receiving side scores a point. The receiving side becomes the new serving side.
- The players do not change their respective service courts until they win a point when their side is serving.

If players commit an error in the service court, the error is corrected when the mistake is discovered.

In a doubles match between A & B against C & D. A & B won the toss and decided to serve. A to serve to C. A shall be the initial server while C shall be the initial receiver.

Course of action / Explanation	Score	Service from Service Court	Server & Receiver	Winner of the rally	
	Love All	Right Service Court. Being the score of the serving side is even.	A serves to C A and C are the initial server and receiver.	A & B	
A & B win a point. A & B will change service courts. A serves again from Left service court. C & D will stay in the same service courts.	1-0	Left Service Court. Being the score of the serving side is odd	A serves to D	C & D	
C & D win a point and also right to serve. Nobody will change their respective service courts.	1-1	Left Service Court. Being the score of the serving side is odd.	D serves to A.	A & B	

<p>A & B win a point and also right to serve. Nobody will change their respective service courts.</p>	<p>2-1</p>	<p>Right Service Court. Being the score of the serving side is even.</p>	<p>B serves to C</p>	<p>C & D</p>	
<p>C & D win a point and also right to serve. Nobody will change their respective service courts.</p>	<p>2-2</p>	<p>Right Service Court. Being the score of the serving side is even.</p>	<p>C serves to B</p>	<p>C & D</p>	
<p>C & D win a point. C & D will change service courts. C serves from Left service court. A & B will stay in the same service courts.</p>	<p>3-2</p>	<p>Left Service Court. Being the score of the serving side is odd.</p>	<p>C serves to A</p>	<p>A & B</p>	

<p>A & B win a point and also right to serve. Nobody will change their respective service courts.</p>	<p>3-3</p>	<p>Left Service Court. Being the score of the serving side is odd.</p>	<p>A serves to C</p>	<p>A & B</p>	
<p>A & B win a point. A & B will change service courts. A serves again from Right service court. C & D will stay in the same service courts.</p>	<p>4-3</p>	<p>Right Service Court. Being the score of the serving side is even.</p>	<p>A serves to D</p>	<p>C & D</p>	

Note that this means:

- The order of server depends on the score odd or even same as in singles.
- The service courts are changed by the servicing side only when a point is scored. In all other cases, the players continue to stay in their respective service court from where they played previous rally. This shall guarantee alternate server.