

TENNIS

1. THE GAME

- played with a racket and a ball by two (singles) or four (doubles) competitors
- indoors or outdoors
- originally called lawn tennis

2. COURT AND EQUIPMENT

- marked with white lines to indicate areas
- net
- grass, clay, concrete
- racket: head strung with nylon, handle covered with leather grip
- lightweight clothing

3. SERVICE (delivery) AND PLAY

- server – receiver
- serve: from behind the baseline, toss the ball into the air, strike, hit the *service box*, two tries permitted
- fault: outside the service box, into the net; double fault
- foot fault
- let: serve touches the net
- ace: a valid serve not reached by the opponent

4. SCORING

- 4 points designated by 15, 30, 40 and game, zero – *love*
- tie – *deuce*
- after reaching deuce – *advantage*
- players must win 6 games by at least two games: 5-5 – 7 game victory, 6-6 – tiebreaker played to seven points but may be extended

5. OFFICIALS

- umpire, line judges

6. STROKES

- forehand: shoulder of the nonracket-bearing arm faces the net
- backhand: shoulder of the racket-bearing arm faces the net
- grips: two-handed etc.
- Lob: high, high, soft return behind an opponent who has approached the net, used to force him/her to retreat
- Overhead smash – similar to the serve
- Drop shot: drops softly over the net, forcing the opponent to approach the net
- Volley: a player strikes the ball before it bounces