



Tennis Rules

Object

The aim is to hit the ball over the net landing the ball within the margins of the court and in a way that results in your opponent being unable to return the ball. You win a point every time your opponent is unable to return the ball within the court.

Players

A tennis match can be played by either one player on each side – a singles match – or two players on each side – a doubles match. The rectangular shaped court has a base line (at the back), service areas (two spaces just over the net in which a successful serve must land in) and two tram lines down either side. A singles match will mean you use the inner side tram line and a doubles match will mean you use the outer tram line.

Scoring

You need to score four points to win a game of tennis. The points are known as 15 (1 point), 30 (two points), 40 (three points) and the fourth would result in the winning point and the end of that game. If the scores went to 40-40 this would be known as deuce. When a game reaches deuce the player must then win by two clear points.

Winning the Match

Winning a set is simply the first player to reach 6 games but have to be clear by at least 2 games. If your opponent wins 5 games you must win the set 7-5. If the set goes to 6-6 then a tie break is played and it's simply the first player to 7 points. The first player to win 2 out of the possible 3 sets will win the match.

Important Rules of Tennis

- The game starts with rock, paper, scissors to determine which player must serve first and which side they want to serve from.
- The server must then serve each point from alternative sides on the base line. At no point must the server's feet move in front of the baseline on the court prior to hitting their serve.
- If the server fails to get their first serve in they may take advantage of a second serve. If they again fail to get their second serve in then a double fault will be called and the point lost.
- If the server clips the net but the ball goes in the service area still then let is called and they get to take that serve again without penalty. If the ball hits the net and fails to go in the service area then out is called and they lose that serve.

- The receiver may stand where they wish upon receipt of the serve. If the ball is struck without the serve bouncing then the server will receive the point.
- Once a serve has been made the amount of shots between the players can be unlimited. The point is won by hitting the ball so the opponent fails to return it in the scoring areas.
- Points are awarded in scores of 15, 30 and 40. 15 represent 1 point, 30 = 2 and 40 = 3.
- You need 4 points to win a game. If a game lands on 40-40 it's known as deuce. From deuce a player needs to win 2 consecutive points to win the game. After winning one point from deuce that player is on advantage. If the player wins the next point they win the game, if they lose it goes back to deuce.
- To win the set a player must win 6 games by 2 or more. The opening sets will go to a tie break if its ends up 6-6 where players play first to 7 points. The final set will not have a tie break and requires players to win by two games with no limits.
- If a player touches the net, distracts his opponent or impedes in anyway then they automatically lose the point.
- The ball can hit any part of the line for the point to be called in, outside the line and the ball is out.
- A player loses a point if they fail to return the ball in either the correct areas on the court, hits the net and doesn't go into opponent's area or fails to return the ball before it bounces twice in their half.

Sportsmanship

Teams will receive a rating each week, by the officials' discretion, on a scale of 1.0-5.0, that will create an average at the end of the season. They must have an average of a 3.0 or above to be eligible for playoff participation. Sportsmanship ratings are outlined as follows:

5.0 = Superior→Outwardly enthusiastic and courteous to other teams and their players

4.0 = Good→Respectful, pleasant behavior, no warnings

3.0 = Average→Overall acceptable behavior, some issues with individual participants, receive and adhere to verbal warnings, no unsportsmanlike conduct fouls.

2.0 = Poor→Little control over unsportsmanlike behavior, multiple unsportsmanlike conduct fouls, no ejections

1.0 = Unacceptable→No control over unsportsmanlike behavior, one ejection

Further Questions can be directed to intramural.sports@mail.wvu.edu

