

Badminton



Badminton is a racket sport which can be played in singles or doubles. The game in its modern form originated in India during the British colonisation in the mid-19th century, developing from an old children's game. British Army officers brought the game to England, where it was officially introduced in the 1870s at the Duke of Beaufort's country estate, Badminton House, in Gloucestershire, from where the sport got its name.

The International Badminton Federation (IBF), now called the Badminton World Federation (BWF), was established in 1934. Badminton made its debut as an official Olympic sport at the 1992 Barcelona Games, which increased its popularity all over the world.

■ Basic rules of the game

A match consists of the best of three games. The goal is to hit the **shuttlecock** (or "shuttle") over the net and into the opponent's court. Games are played to 21 points, and a point is scored on every serve. The serve is delivered diagonally from the right court when the server's score is **even**, and from the left when the score is **odd**. A fault gives a point to the opposition. Common faults include hitting the shuttle out of bounds, hitting it twice, or touching the net with the racket or body during play.

■ The equipment

Modern badminton rackets are very light; they are generally made of carbon fibre. The shuttlecock is in the shape of a cone; it is generally made of natural feathers or synthetic material and is equipped with a semi-spherical piece of cork at its bottom. The device is so conceived that it always travels cork-first, which is essential to the game.

even: *pari*
odd: *dispari*

shuttlecock: *volano*

1 The following sentences are false. Correct them.

1. Badminton began in England.
2. It can only be played in singles.
3. People have played it since the 18th century.
4. The federation ruling badminton is called the International Badminton Federation.
5. Badminton has never been played at Olympic level.
6. The equipment to play badminton consists of a racket and a ball.
7. A match is the best of five games.
8. The maximum score of a game is 40.
9. The serve is always delivered from the right side.
10. The shuttlecock can be hit twice.
11. Rackets are generally made of wood, so they are quite heavy.
12. The shuttlecock has a piece of iron at the bottom of it.