

## The Laws of Badminton

as revised in the year 1939 and adopted by THE INTERNATIONAL BADMINTON FEDERATION subsequently revised up to date

### COURT

1. (a) The Court shall be laid out as in the following Diagram 'A' (except in the case provided for in paragraph (b) of this Law) and to the measurements there shown, and shall be defined preferably by white or yellow lines or, if this is not possible, by other easily distinguishable lines, 1½ inches (40 mm) wide.

In marking the court the width (1½ inches, 40 mm) of the centre lines shall be equally divided between the right and left service courts; the width (1½ inches, 40 mm each) of the short service line and long service line shall fall within the 13 feet (3.96 metres) measurement given as the length of the service court; and the width (1½ inches, 40 mm each) of all other boundary lines shall fall within the measurements given.

- (b) Where space does not permit of the marking out of a court for doubles, a court may be marked out for singles only as shown in Diagram 'B'. The back boundary lines become also the long service lines, and the posts, or the strips of material representing them as referred to in Law 2, shall be placed on the side lines.

### POSTS

2. The posts shall be 5 feet 1 inch (1.55 metres) in height from the surface of the court. They shall be sufficiently firm to keep the net strained as provided in Law 3, and shall be placed on the side boundary lines of the court. Where this is not practicable, some method must be employed for indicating the position of the side boundary line where it passes under the net, e.g. by the use of a thin post or strip of material, not less than 1½ inches (40 mm) in width, fixed to the side boundary line and rising vertically to the net cord. Where this is in use on a court marked for doubles it shall be placed on the boundary line of the doubles court irrespective of whether singles or doubles are being played.

### NET

3. The net shall be made of fine natural cord or artificial fibre of a dark colour and even thickness not less than ⅝ inch (15 mm) and not more than ¾ inch (20 mm) mesh. It shall be firmly stretched from post to post, and shall be 2 feet 6 inches (0.76 metre) in depth. The top of the net shall be 5 feet (1.524 metres) in height from the floor at the centre, and 5 feet 1 inch (1.55 metres) at the posts, and shall be edged with a 3 inch (75 mm) white tape doubled and supported by a cord or cable run through the tape and strained over and flush with the top of the posts. See diagram A.

### SHUTTLE

#### 4. (a) General Design

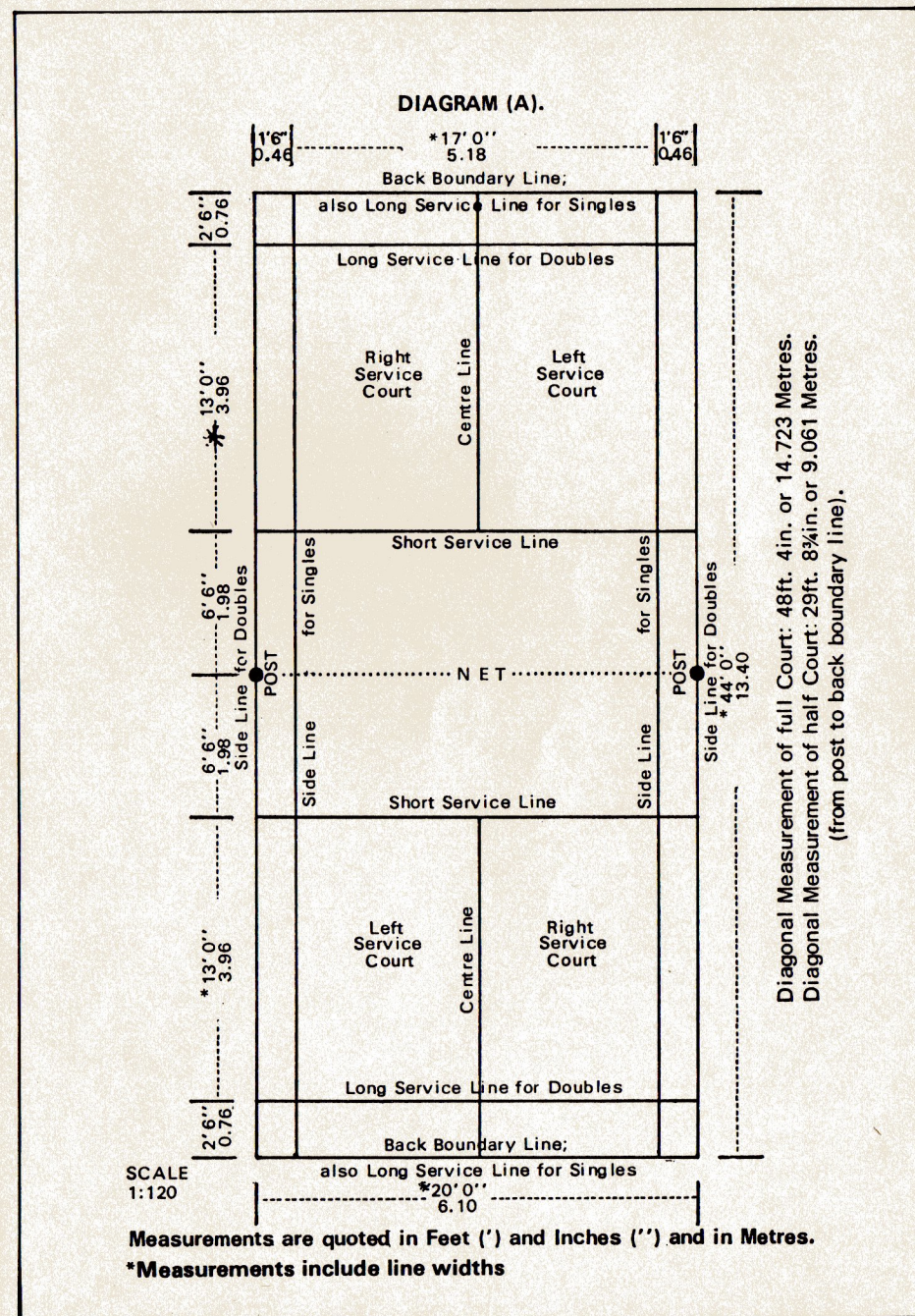
- (i) A shuttle shall have from 14 to 16 feathers fixed in a cork base which is 25 mm to 28 mm (1 inch to 1⅛ inches) in diameter. The feathers shall be from 64 mm to 70 mm (2½ to 2¾ inches) in length from the tip to the top of the cork base. The tips of the feathers shall form a circle with a diameter within the range from 54 mm to 64 mm (2⅛ to 2½ inches). The feathers shall be fastened firmly with thread or other suitable material. The bottom of the cork shall be rounded and covered by a thin layer of white leather or similar material with similar properties.

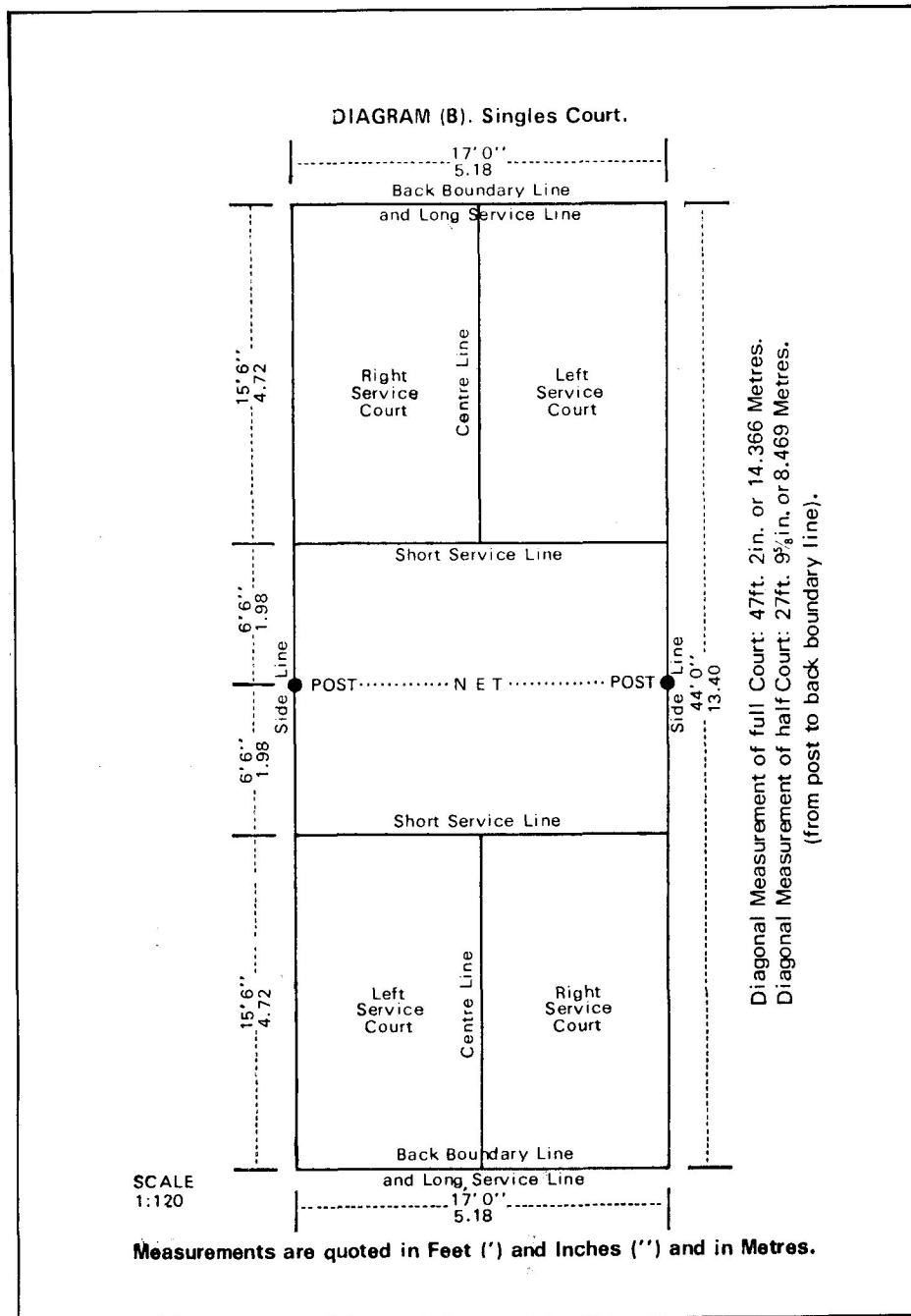
#### (ii) Synthetic Shuttles

A skirt of synthetic material replaces the natural feathers. The base shall be of cork covered with a thin layer of white leather or a material with similar properties. Alternatively, the base can be made of synthetic material having similar properties and feel on the racket strings as cork covered by a thin layer of leather. The bottom of the base shall be rounded.

The flight characteristics shall be similar to those of a feathered shuttle.

Measurements shall be the same as in paragraph 4(a)(i). However, because of the differences in the specific gravity and behaviour of synthetic materials in comparison with feathers, a variation of up to 10% in the measurements stated is acceptable.



**(b) Weight**

A shuttle shall weigh from 73 to 85 grains (4.74 to 5.50 grammes).

**(c) Pace and Flight**

A shuttle shall be deemed to be of correct pace when it is hit by a player with a full underhand stroke from a spot immediately above one back boundary line in a direction parallel to the side lines and at an upward angle, to fall not less than 0.30 metres (one foot) and not more than 0.76 metres (two feet six inches) short of the other back boundary line.

(d) Subject to there being no variation in the general design, weight, pace and flight of the shuttle, modifications in the above specifications may be made, with the approval of the national organisation concerned:

- (i) in the places where atmospheric conditions due either to altitude or climate make the standard shuttle unsuitable;
- or
- (ii) if special circumstances exist which make it otherwise necessary in the interests of the game.

**PLAYERS**

5. (a) The word 'player' applies to all those taking part in a game.
- (b) The game shall be played, in the case of the doubles game, by two players a side, and in the case of the singles game, by one player a side.
- (c) The side for the time being having the right to serve shall be called the 'In' side, and the opposing side shall be called the 'Out' side.

**THE TOSS**

6. Before commencing play the opposing sides shall toss, and the side winning the toss shall have the option of:
  - (a) Serving first; or
  - (b) Not serving first; or
  - (c) Choosing ends.

The side losing the toss shall then have choice of any alternative remaining.

**SCORING**

7. (a) The doubles and men's singles game consists of 15 points, provided that, when the score is 13-all, the side which first reached 13 has the option of 'setting' the game to 5, and that when the score is 14-all, the side which first reached 14 has the option of 'setting' the game to 3. After a game has been 'set' the score is called 'love all', and the side which first scores 5 or 3 points, according as the game has been 'set' at 13-all or 14-all, wins the game. In either case the claim to 'set' the game must be made before the next service is delivered after the score has reached 13-all or 14-all.
- (b) The ladies' singles game consists of 11 points. Provided that when the score is 9-all the player who first reached 9 has the option of 'setting' the game to 3, and when the score is '10-all' the player who first reached 10 has the option of 'setting' the game to 2.
- (c) A side rejecting the option of 'setting' at the first opportunity shall not thereby be debarred from 'setting' if a second opportunity arises.
- (d) Notwithstanding paragraph (a) above, it is permissible by prior arrangement for only one game to be played and also for this to consist of 21 points, in which case 'setting' shall be as for the game of 15 points with scores of 19 and 20 being substituted for 13 and 14 respectively.
- (e) In handicap games 'setting' is not permitted.
8. The opposing sides shall contest the best of three games, unless otherwise agreed. The players shall change ends at the commencement of the second game and also of the third game (if any). In the third game the players shall change ends when the leading score reaches:
  - (a) 8 in a game of 15 points;
  - (b) 6 in a game of 11 points.

Or, in handicap events, when one of the sides has scored half the total number of points required to win the game (the next highest number being taken in case of fractions). When it has been agreed to play only one game the players shall change ends as provided above for the third game.

In a game of 21 points, the players shall change ends when the leading score reaches 11 or in handicap games as indicated above.

If, inadvertently, the players omit to change ends as provided in this Law at the score indicated, the ends shall be changed immediately the mistake is discovered, and the existing score shall stand.

### DOUBLES PLAY

9. (a) It having been decided which side is to have the first service, the player in the right-hand service court of that side commences the game by serving to the player in the service court diagonally opposite. If the latter player returns the shuttle before it touches the ground, it is to be returned by one of the 'In' side, and then returned by one of the 'Out' side, and so on, until a fault is made or the shuttle ceases to be 'in play'. (*Vide* paragraph (b).) If a fault is made by the 'In' side, its right to continue serving is lost, as only one player on the side beginning a game is entitled to do so (*Vide* Law 11), and the opponent in the right-hand service court then becomes the server; but if the service is not returned, or the fault is made by the 'Out' side, the 'In' side scores a point. The 'In' side players then change from one service court to the other, the service now being from the left-hand service court to the player in the service court diagonally opposite. So long as a side remains 'in', service is delivered alternately from each service court into the one diagonally opposite, the change being made by the 'In' side when, and only when, a point is added to its score.

(b) The first service of a side in each innings shall be made from the right-hand service court. A 'Service' is delivered as soon as the shuttle is struck by the server's racket. The shuttle is thereafter 'in play' until it touches the ground, or until a fault or 'let' occurs, or except as provided in Law 19. After the service is delivered, the server and the player served to may take up any positions they choose on their side of the net, irrespective of any boundary lines.

10. The player served to may alone receive the service, but should the shuttle touch, or be struck by, his partner the 'In' side scores a point. No player may receive two consecutive services in the same game, except as provided in Law 12.

11. Only one player of the side beginning a game shall be entitled to serve in its first innings. In all subsequent innings each partner shall have the right and they shall serve consecutively. The side winning a game shall always serve first in the next game, but either of the winners may serve and either of the losers may receive the service.

12. If a player serves out of turn, or from the wrong service court (owing to a mistake as to the service court from which service is at the time being in order), and his side wins the rally, it shall be a 'Let', provided that such 'Let' be claimed and allowed, or ordered by the umpire before the next succeeding service is delivered.

If a player of the 'Out' side standing in the wrong service court is prepared to receive the service when it is delivered, and his side wins the rally, it shall be a 'Let', provided that such 'Let' be claimed and allowed, or ordered by the umpire, before the next succeeding service is delivered.

If in either of the above cases the side at fault loses the rally, the mistake shall stand and the players' positions shall not be corrected.

Should a player inadvertently change sides when he should not do so, and the mistake not be discovered until after the next succeeding service has been delivered, the mistake shall stand, and a 'Let' cannot be claimed or allowed, and the players' positions shall not be corrected.

### SINGLES PLAY

13. In singles Laws 9 and 12 hold good, except that:

(a) The players shall serve from and receive service in their respective right-hand service courts only when the server's score is 0 or an even number of points in the game, the service being delivered from and received in their respective left-hand service courts when the server's score is an odd number of points. Setting does not affect this sequence.

(b) Both players shall change service courts after each point has been scored.

### FAULTS

14. A fault made by a player of the side which is 'In' puts the server out; if made by a player whose side is 'Out', it counts a point to the 'In' side.

It is a fault:

- (a) If in serving, (i) the initial point of contact with the shuttle is not on the base of the shuttle, or (ii) any part of the shuttle at the instant of being struck be higher than the server's waist, or (iii) if at the instant of the shuttle being struck the shaft of the racket be not pointing in a downward direction to such an extent that the whole of the head of the racket is discernibly below the whole of the server's hand holding the racket.
- (b) If, in serving, the shuttle does not pass over the net, or falls into the wrong service court (i.e., into the one not diagonally opposite to the server), or falls short of the short service line, or beyond the long service line, or outside the side boundary lines of the service court into which service is in order.
- (c) If the server's feet are not in the service court from which service is at the time being in order, or if the feet of the player receiving the service are not in the service court diagonally opposite until the service is delivered. (*Vide* Law 16.)
- (d) If, once the service has started, any player makes preliminary feints or otherwise intentionally baulks his opponent, or if any player deliberately delays serving the shuttle or in getting ready to receive it so as to obtain an unfair advantage. (When the server and receiver have taken up their respective positions to serve and to receive, the first forward movement of the server's racket constitutes the start of the service and such must be continuous thereafter.)
- (e) If, either in service or play, the shuttle falls outside the boundaries of the court, or passes through or under the net, or fails to pass the net, or touches the roof or side walls, or the person or dress of a player. (A shuttle falling on a line shall be deemed to have fallen in the court or service court of which such line is a boundary.)
- (f) If, when in play, the initial point of contact with the shuttle is not on the striker's side of the net. (The striker may, however, follow the shuttle over the net with his racket in the course of his stroke.)
- (g) If, when the shuttle is 'in play', a player touches the net or its supports with racket, person or dress.
- (h) If the shuttle be caught and held on the racket and then slung during the execution of a stroke; or if the shuttle be hit twice in succession by the same player with two strokes; or if the shuttle be hit by a player and his partner successively.
- (i) If, in play, a player strikes the shuttle (unless he thereby makes a good return) or is struck by it, whether he is standing within or outside the boundaries of the court.
- (j) If a player obstructs an opponent.
- (k) If Law 16 be transgressed.
- (l) If a player is guilty of flagrant or persistent misconduct under Law 21.

### GENERAL

15. The server may not serve till his opponent is ready, but the opponent shall be deemed to be ready if a return of the service be attempted.

16. The server and the player served to must stand within the limits of their respective service courts (as bounded by the short and long service, the centre, and side lines), and some part of both feet of these players must remain in contact with the surface of the court in a stationary position until the service is delivered. A foot on or touching a line in the case of either the server or the receiver shall be held to be outside his service court. (*Vide* Law 14(c).) The respective partners may take up any position, provided they do not unsight or otherwise obstruct an opponent.

17. (a) If, in the course of service or rally, the shuttle touches and passes over the net, the stroke is not invalidated thereby. It is a good return if the shuttle having passed outside either post drops on or within the boundary lines of the opposite court. A 'Let' may be given by the umpire for any unforeseen or accidental hindrance.

(b) If, in service, or during a rally, a shuttle, after passing over the net, is caught in or on the net, it is a 'Let'.

(c) If the receiver is faulted for moving before the service is delivered, or for not being within the correct service court, in accordance with Laws 14(c) or 16, and at the same time the server is also faulted for a service infringement, it shall be a let.

(d) When a 'Let' occurs, the play since the last service shall not count, and the player who served shall serve again, except when Law 12 is applicable.

18. If the server, in attempting to serve, misses the shuttle, it is not a fault; but if the shuttle be touched by the racket, a service is thereby delivered.

19. If, when in play, the shuttle strikes the net and remains suspended there, or strikes the net and falls towards the surface of the court on the striker's side of the net, or hits the surface outside the court and an opponent then touches the net or shuttle with his racket or person, there is no penalty, as the shuttle is not *then* in play.

20. If a player has a chance of striking the shuttle in a downward direction when quite near the net, his opponent must not put up his racket near the net on the chance of the shuttle rebounding from it. This is obstruction within the meaning of Law 14(j).

A player may, however, hold up his racket to protect his face from being hit if he does not thereby balk his opponent.

21. If a player deliberately interferes with the speed of a shuttle or behaves in an offensive manner or is guilty of misconduct not otherwise covered by the Laws of Badminton, the umpire shall:

- (a) issue a warning to the player and
- (b) fault the offender in flagrant or persistent cases.

If, after the umpire has taken action under (b) above, the player continues to offend under Law 21 the umpire may report the offence to the referee and the referee shall have the power to disqualify the offending side.

22. It shall be the duty of the umpire to call 'fault' or 'let' should either occur, without appeal being made by the players, and to give his decision on any appeal regarding a point in dispute, if made before the next service; and also to appoint linesmen, and service judges at his discretion. The umpire's decision shall be final, but he shall uphold the decision of a linesman or service judge. This shall not preclude the umpire also from faulting the server or receiver. Where, however, a referee is appointed, an appeal shall lie to him from the decision of an umpire on questions of law only.

**CONTINUOUS PLAY**

23. (a) Play shall be continuous from the first service until the match be concluded; except that (i) in international competitive events noted below there shall be allowed an interval not exceeding five minutes between the second and third games of a match; (ii) in countries where conditions render it desirable, there shall be allowed, subject to the previously published approval of the national organisation concerned, an interval not exceeding five minutes between the second and third games of a match, either singles or doubles or both; and (iii) when necessitated by circumstances not within the control of the players, the umpire may suspend play for such a period as he may consider necessary. If play be suspended the existing score shall stand and play be resumed from that point.

- (b) Under no circumstances shall play be suspended to enable a player to recover his strength or wind, or to receive instruction or advice.
- (c) Except that in the case of an interval provided for above, without the umpire's consent, no player shall be allowed to receive advice during a match or to leave the court until the match be concluded.
- (d) The umpire shall be the sole judge of any suspension of play and he shall have the right to disqualify an offender.

*Note. The international competitive events referred to in (a) (i) above are:*

1. *The International Badminton Championship (Thomas Cup);*
2. *The Ladies' International Badminton Championship (Uber Cup);*
3. *The World Championships;*
4. *All official international matches;*
5. *National Open Championships and international championships of a higher status as sanctioned by the International Badminton Federation.*

**INTERPRETATIONS**

1. Any movement or conduct by the server that has the effect of breaking the continuity of service after the server and receiver have taken their positions to serve and to receive the service is a preliminary feint. For example, a server who, after having taken up his position to serve, delays hitting the shuttle for so long as to be unfair to the receiver, is guilty of such conduct. (*Vide* Law 14(d).)

- 2. It is obstruction if a player invades an opponent's court with racket or person in any degree except as permitted in Law 14(f). (*Vide* Law 14(j).)
- 3. Where necessary on account of the structure of a building, the local badminton authority may, subject to the right of veto of its national organisation, make bye-laws dealing with cases in which a shuttle touches an obstruction.

**Annex to the Laws of Badminton**

**BADMINTON FOR DISABLED PEOPLE**

The following amended Laws of Badminton are applicable to the various categories of disabled people as listed:—

- (a) **AMBULANT** (No change in the laws)  
Persons requiring no mechanical aid to perambulation.
- (b) **SEMI-AMBULANT**  
Persons capable of erect perambulation but only with mechanical aid such as:—  
Crutch(es)  
stick(s)  
support frame  
leg brace(s)  
artificial leg(s)
- (c) **NON-AMBULANT**  
Persons whose disabilities dictate that they adopt a sedentary posture using such support as:—  
chair  
wheel-chair  
stool.

The table below shows the prepared changes to laws

