**BASIC TENNIS RULES**

**Serving:**

* The server delivers the ball from behind the baseline.
* Two tries are permitted for each service.
* If the ball strikes any part of the opponent’s court except the service box, a “fault” is called.
* A fault is also called if the ball is served into the net, or if it strikes the net before hitting the opponent’s court outside the service box.
* After a successful serve, the ball is hit back and forth until one player of side fails to return the ball successfully.
* A player serving the ball may not step on or over the baseline until after contacting the ball.

**Play:**

* If a player hits the ball before it touches the ground and is standing outside the court, the ball is still in play.
* A ball landing on the baseline, sideline, or service line is good.
* The ball is good if it hits the top of the net and goes into the proper playing areas.
* A player must let the service ball bounce before it is hit.
* A player may not reach across the net to hit the ball, but may follow-through across the net.
* If a ball or a person from another court comes onto another player’s court in the middle of a point, the player may call a “let” and the point will be replayed.

**Scoring:**

Point Value Name

0 Love

1 15

2 30

3 40

4 Game

Tie at 3+ Deuce

1+ After a Tie Advantage (“In” if the server is winning; “Out” if the server in losing**)**

**TENNIS TERMS**

1. **Ace:** A valid serve that is not touched by the opponent.
2. **Backhand:** The player turns so that the shoulder of the racket-bearing arm faces the net before bringing the racket forward and across the body to meet the ball.
3. **Baseline:** The line on either end of the court representing the outer limits of the length of the court.
4. **Deuce:** A tie at 40. Because a game must be won by two points, play continues from deuce until one player leads by a margin of two points.
5. **Fault:** Called if the ball is served into the net, or if it strikes the net before hitting the opponent’s court outside the service box or before exiting the court completely.
6. **Forehand:** The player pivots the body so that the shoulder of the non racket-bearing arm faces the net. The player then swings the racket forward to meet the ball.
7. **Let:** If the ball touches the net and then falls into the diagonally opposite service box, a “let” is called, and the server is permitted to serve again.
8. **Love:** Zero points.
9. **Volley:** When a player strikes the ball before it bounces. The volley is most often employed when a player is playing close to the net. The half volley is a low return of the ball just after is has bounced.
10. Double Fault: When both serve attempts fail and the opponent wins the point.
11. Foot Fault: If the server’s foot enters the court before service is completed.
12. Receiver: The player who receives the ball from the server.

**TENNIS ETIQUETTE**

* **ALL** line calls should be made QUICKLY and FAIRLY.
* If a player is not sure whether the ball is in or out, the point should be given to his or her OPPONENT.
* The **server’s responsibility** is to call the score out loudly so the opponent can hear it.
* If there is interference of a player’s side of the net during a rally, it is the player’s option to immediately stop play and replay the point.
* A player should treat his or her opponent as he or she would like to be treated.
* Players should shake hands at the end of the match.