

Mastering the Court: Net and Wall Games

Learning objective: To understand the tactical principles, terminology, and skills required for net and wall games such as badminton, tennis, and squash.

Use these flashcards to test your knowledge of net and wall games. Read the term or question on the front, then flip to check if your explanation matches the answer.

What is the primary objective of a net game like badminton?

To hit the shuttlecock over the net into the opponent's court so that they cannot return it successfully.

Define a 'rally' in the context of a wall game.

A rally is a sequence of continuous shots between players where the ball is hit against the wall and returned before it bounces twice.

Explain the tactical advantage of 'court positioning'.

Positioning yourself in the centre of the court after a shot allows you to reach the next return from your opponent more efficiently.

What is a 'fault' in a net game?

A fault is an infringement of the rules, such as hitting the net, landing the ball/shuttle outside the boundary lines, or failing to serve correctly.

Compare and contrast a 'volley' and a 'groundstroke'.

A volley is struck before the ball bounces on your side, while a groundstroke is hit after the ball has bounced once.

Why is 'precision' more important than 'power' in net games?

Hitting the ball to a specific, difficult-to-reach area of the court is more likely to win a point than simply hitting it hard but within the opponent's reach.

Justify why communication is vital in a doubles net game.

Partners must communicate to decide who covers which part of the court and to avoid colliding when chasing a difficult shot.

What is the purpose of a 'service' in these games?

The service is the stroke used to put the ball or shuttlecock into play to begin a rally.

Max the Monkey is playing a wall game. Why should he aim for the 'nick' (where the wall meets the floor)?

Aiming for the nick makes the ball take an unpredictable bounce, making it extremely difficult for the opponent to return.

What might happen if you consistently stand too close to the net?

Your opponent could easily play a 'lob' or a deep shot over your head, forcing you to scramble backwards and losing your tactical advantage.

Explain why footwork is considered the foundation of all net and wall games.

Efficient footwork allows a player to arrive at the ball in a balanced position, which is essential for executing an accurate and controlled shot.

Compare the spatial requirements of a singles game versus a doubles game on the same court.

A doubles game requires players to cover a wider area, necessitating faster communication and more strategic movement to avoid leaving gaps.