

BADMINTON VOCABULARY

Baseline – the back boundary line at each end of the court, parallel to the net.

Birdie – informal name for the shuttlecock.

Center Line – the line perpendicular to the net that separates the left and right service courts.

Clear – a shot hit deep to the opponents back boundary line may be forehand, backhand, overhand or underhand.

Defense – safe of being under attack from an opponent; a style of play consisting mainly of slow drops and high clears.

Drop Shot – a shot hit softly with finesse to fall rapidly and close to the net on the opponent's side.

Face – the oval stringed area of the racket.

Forecourt – the front 1/3 of the court, the area between the net and short service line.

Head – the end of the racket used to hit the shuttle – the strings and surrounding oval frame.

Love – term for “zero”, arising from the English pronunciation of the French word meaning “goose-egg”.

Offense – state of being on attack; a style of play consisting mainly of attacking clears, fast drops and smashes.

Rally – an exchange of shots while the shuttle is in play.

Receiver – player to whom the service is delivered

Serve or Service – stroke used to put the shuttle into play at the start of each rally.

Service Court – area into which the serve must be delivered.

Short Service Line – the line 6 ½ feet from the net, which the serve must reach to be legal.

Shuttlecock – official name for the “birdie”, the projectile of badminton.

Smash – a hard hit overhead shot which forces the shuttle down sharply – it is the chief attacking stroke of badminton.