

## TENNIS TERMINOLOGY

- **Drop shot:** Play in which the player hits the ball lightly enough to just go over the net; designed to catch a player who is away from the net off guard.
- **Drop volley:** *Drop shot* executed from a *volley* position.
- **Smash:** Strongly hit *overhead*, typically executed when the player who hits the shot is very close to the net and can therefore hit the ball nearly vertically, often so that it bounces into the stands, making it un-returnable.
- **Lob:** Stroke in which the ball is hit high above the net. If the opposing player or players are up at the net, the intention may be an offensive lob in order to win the point outright. In a defensive lob, the intent is to give the player time to recover and get in position, or, if the opponents are at the net, to force them to chase down the lob.
- **Groundstroke:** Forehand or backhand shot that is executed after the ball bounces once on the court.
- **Serve:** Also, as a noun, *service*. To begin a point by hitting the ball into the opponent's half of the court.
- **Court:** Area designated for playing a game of tennis.
- **Deuce:** Score of 40–40 in a game. A player must win two consecutive points from a deuce to win the game,
- **Love:** Zero (score) (e.g. "15-0" is spoken "fifteen-love"; "to hold to love" means "to win the game when serving with the opponent scoring zero points"; "to break to love" means "to win the game when receiving with the opponent scoring zero points"). Thought to be derived from the French term, *l'oeuf*, literally *the egg*, meaning nothing
- **Forehand:** Stroke in which the player hits the ball with the front of the racquet hand facing the ball
- **Backhand:** Stroke in which the ball is hit with the back of the racquet hand facing the ball at the moment of contact. A backhand is often hit by a right-handed player when the ball is on the left side of the court, and vice versa.

- **Volley:** a shot hit by a player before it bounces on his own side of the court.
- **Rally:** Following the service of a tennis ball, a series of return hits of the ball that ends when one or other player fails to return the ball within the court boundary or fails to return a ball that falls within the play area.
- **Set point:** Situation in which the player who is leading needs one more point to win a set. If the player is serving in such a situation, (s)he is said to be "serving for the set".
- **Ace:** Serve where the tennis ball is served in and not touched by the receiver. Aces are usually powerful and generally land on or near one of the corners at the back of the service box.
- **Let (do-over):** Call that requires the point to be replayed. This typically occurs when an otherwise valid serve makes contact with the net. However, a let call can also be made when there is some distraction to either player not caused by the players themselves, such as a ball boy moving behind a receiver, debris flying across the court in windy conditions, or a ball accidentally falling out of a player's pocket or entering from a neighboring court.