

BWF Service Law

9. SERVICE

9.1 In a correct service,

9.1.1 neither side shall cause undue delay to the delivery of the service once the server and the receiver are ready for the service.

9.1.2 on completion of the backward movement of the server's racket head, any delay in the start of the service (Law 9.2) shall be considered to be an undue delay;

9.1.3 the server and the receiver shall stand within diagonally opposite service courts (Diagram A) without touching the boundary lines of these service courts;

9.1.3.1 In Para-badminton Wheelchair and Standing Classes playing half-court, Diagram D and F, respectively, apply. Laws - Badminton BWF Statutes, Section 4.1 Laws of Badminton

9.1.4 some part of both feet of the server and the receiver shall remain in contact with the surface of the court in a stationary position from the start of the service (Law 9.2) until the service is delivered (Law 9.3);

9.1.4.1 In Wheelchair Badminton: from the start of the service and until the service is delivered, the wheels of the server and the receiver must be stationary, except the natural counter movement of the server's wheelchair.

9.1.5 the server's racket shall initially hit the base of the shuttle;

9.1.6 the whole shuttle shall be below 1.15 metres from the surface of the court at the instant of being hit by the server's racket;

9.1.6.1 In Wheelchair Badminton, the whole shuttle shall be below the server's armpit at the instant of being hit by the server's racket;

9.1.7 the movement of the server's racket shall continue forwards from the start of the service (Law 9.2) until the service is delivered (Law 9.3);

9.1.8 the flight of the shuttle shall be upwards from the server's racket to pass over the net so that, if not intercepted, it shall land in the receiver's service court (i.e. on or within the boundary lines); and

9.1.9 in attempting to serve, the server shall not miss the shuttle.

9.2 Once the players are ready for the service, the first forward movement of the server's racket head shall be the start of the service.

9.3 Once started (Law 9.2), the service is delivered when the shuttle is hit by the server's racket or, in attempting to serve, the server misses the shuttle.

9.4 The server shall not serve before the receiver is ready. However, the receiver shall be considered to have been ready if a return of the service is attempted.

9.5 In doubles, during the delivery of service (Law 9.2, 9.3), the partners may take up any positions within their respective courts, which do not obstruct the opposing server or receiver.

Note: Law 9.1.6 continues to be an experimental Law until no later than 10 December 2018, by which time BWF Council, as delegated by the membership at its AGM of May 2018, can do one or more of the following:

- Make changes to the service height if the experience from international tournaments proves that this is more suitable;
- Reinststate Law 9.1.7 (“the shaft and the racket head of the server’s racket at the instant of hitting the shuttle shall be pointing in a downward direction”);
- Reject the new service height rules in case the experience with the rules are not successful, and revert back to the original service rules;
- Make any such changes in the above and not again changed by Council latest 10 December 2018.

ALTERNATIVE SERVICE LAWS

Please note that for each of the Alternative Laws of Badminton, all of the Laws of Badminton (BWF Statutes, Section 4.1 – Laws of Badminton) apply, except where specifically noted below.

- 9.1.6 a) the whole shuttle shall be below the server’s waist at the instant of being hit by the server’s racket. The waist shall be considered to be an imaginary line round the body, level with the lowest part of the server’s bottom rib;
- b) the shaft and the racket head of the server’s racket at the instant of hitting the shuttle shall be pointing in a downward direction.