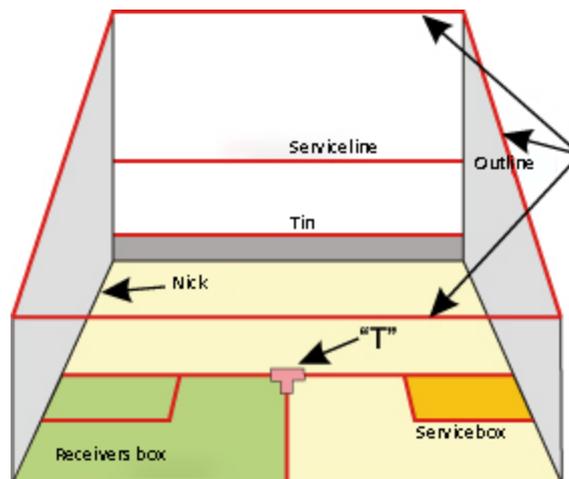


## Rules

The simplest description of the rules is as follows: two players take turns hitting the ball against the front wall. This has to be done before the ball has bounced twice on the floor. When the ball has bounced on the floor twice, or is 'out', the rally is over and someone has scored 1 point. Do this until someone has scored 11 points, with 2 points difference. Then this person has won a 'game'. If you are the first to win the agreed total number of games (e.g. 2 or 3), then you win the match.

Of course, there is a bit more to it than that. First of all, an overview of a squash court.



You start every rally with a service. To hit a good service, you need to do the following:

1. Put one foot in the servicebox.
2. Hit the ball towards the front wall, so that it hits the wall above the serviceline and below the outline, i.e. 2/3e part of the front wall.
3. When the ball has hit the front wall, it must bounce into the opposing receivers box.

Has this all worked out? Then you have hit a good service and the rally continues. You can forget about the lines on the floor and the serviceline. You simply have to hit the ball against the front wall above the tin and below the outline.

The rally ends if the player whose turn it is to hit the ball fails to hit it before it bounces on the floor the second time, or if the person who has just hit the ball hits it in such a way that it is out.

But what exactly is out?

When is the ball out?

1. The front wall is hit on or above the outline.
2. The front wall is hit on or below the tin.
3. The left or right side wall is hit on or above the outline.
4. The ceiling is hit.
5. The ball flies completely out of court due to open front, rear or side walls.

So hitting a ball on a line is out? Yes, when hit on the line the ball is out. This also applies during serving: if you touch the service line, the out line or one of the lines of the receivers box, the ball is out.

Okay, the rally is over, now what? First of all, someone has scored. If the current player did not hit the ball at all, or after the second bounce on the floor, the opposing player scores a

point. If the current player did hit the ball before the second bounce on the floor, but hit the ball in such a way that the ball was out, the opposing player scores a point.

For the next point, two situations are possible: the player who served for the previous point scored, or the person who received the service for the previous point scored.

If it was the server who scored the point, he/she may serve again. However, he/she must now serve from the opposite side of the court. So, if he served from the right side towards the left receivers box, he /she must now serve from the left side towards the right receivers box.

If the player who received the service scored the point, he/she may now serve, but may choose to serve from the right side or the left side.

The scoring is very simple. If you score a point, regardless of whether you served or received the service, add 1 to your total points. So; 1-0, 2-0, 3-0 and so on. You finish a game (similar to a set in tennis) when you are the first to score 11 points. However, you must also have at least a 2 point difference with your opponent. So 11-9 is possible, 11-10 won't suffice to win the game, you will have to continue to, for instance, 12-10 or 13-11 or beyond. Prior to the match, you agree with your opponent how many games you need to win to win a match. Most common is 3 games to win ('best of five') or 2 games to win ('best of three').

Help, I've hit my opponent with the ball, now what do I do?

Hitting your opponent of course can happen by accident. You can even do it on purpose but this is not very sportsman like and especially painful for your opponent. In official matches deliberately hitting your opponent will lead to disqualification.

So, first of all, apologize and then apply the following rules:

- If you hit your opponent and the ball was on a direct path to the front wall, the point is yours ('stroke'). It sounds mean, but you get the point, your opponent gets the pain. Do realize, in an official match, the referee may give you a warning, penalty or can even disqualify you for this behavior.
- If you hit your opponent and the ball was on an indirect path to the front wall (it would have struck the side or rear wall before hitting the front wall), the point is replayed ('let').
- If you hit your opponent, but the ball would have never reached the front wall, the point is your opponent's.

What about interference in general?

In general, the person whose turn it is to play the ball must:

- Have a fair view of the ball when it comes off the front wall
- Be able to move freely towards the ball
- Be able to hit the ball freely with a reasonable swing
- Be able to play the ball directly to the entire front wall

If the player whose turn it is, is obstructed in any of these matters, it is called interference.

Normally, interference isn't automatically granted or acknowledged. A player must stop play and make an appeal for interference. If the player appeals for interference after first continuing play, the player is too late; the appeal must be made as soon as the supposed interference is suffered.

Depending on the situation, the interfered player is awarded the point ('stroke'), the point is replayed ('let') or the appeal for interference is rejected ('no let'). Determining factors are whether there is interference, whether the other player tried to avoid the interference and whether the player whose turn it was to play could actually reach and hit the ball. Of course, there is always room for interpretation, but this diagram gives a good indication:

Was there interference?	No→	No let	
Yes↓			
Was the interference minimal?	Yes→	No let	
No↓			
Could the obstructed player have reached the ball, played a good shot and did he make every effort to do so?	No→	No let	
Yes↓			
Did the obstructed player continue to play after the interference occurred?	Yes→	No let	
No↓			
Did the obstructed player create the obstruction himself while moving towards the ball?	Yes→	No let	
No↓			
Did the opponent make every effort to avoid the interference	No→	Stroke	
Yes↓			
Did the interference prevent the obstructed player from making a reasonable swing	Yes→	Stroke	
No↓			
Could the obstructed player have played a winning shot?	Yes→	Stroke	
No↓			
Would the obstructed player have hit the opponent with a ball which otherwise would have gone to the front wall directly or with a winning ball on the side wall?	Yes→	Stroke	

	No→	Let	
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## FAQ

- Is a ball on the line in or out?  
A ball on the line is always out.
- Can I hit the ball before the first bounce on the floor?  
Yes, this is allowed, this is called a volley.
- Should you serve overhead or underhand?  
Your technique for serving is your own choice, as long as you follow the general rules for the service.
- Do you have a second service in squash?  
No, in contrast to tennis you only have one service.
- If the ball comes off the back wall, is it always a let in case of interference?  
No, a ball coming off the back doesn't necessarily create a let situation. No let and stroke are also possible, depending on the situation.