Badminton Study Guide

1. **Alley** – Extension of the court by 1 ½ feet on both sides for doubles play.
2. **Backcourt** – The back third of the court, in the area of the back boundary lines.
3. **Backhand** – Refers to strokes played on the nonracket side of the body, i.e., with the racket across the body.
4. **Backswing** – Preliminary part of a stroke that carries the racket back in preparation for the forward swing.
5. **Baseline** – Back boundary line at each end of the court, parallel to the net.
6. **Bird** – The informal name for badminton’s unique object, the shuttlecock; brand names include Bluebird, Eagle and Parrot.
7. **Block** – A stationary stroke, executed by holding the racket in the path of a smashed shuttle, so that it rebounds into the opponent’s court.
8. **Carry** – An illegal tactic, also called sling or throw, in which the shuttle is caught and held on the racket and then slung during the execution of a stroke.
9. **Center Line** – Line perpendicular to the net that separates the left and right service courts.
10. **Clear** – A shot hit deep to the opponent’s back boundary line. The high clear is a defensive shot, while the flatter attacking clear is used offensively.
11. **Crosscourt** – A shot hit diagonally from one side of the court to the other.
12. **Double hit** – An illegal tactic in which the shuttle is hit twice in succession with two strokes.
13. **Doubles** – The game played with two players on each side.
14. **Drive** – A fast and low shot that makes a horizontal flight over the net.
15. **Drop** – A shot hit softly and with finesse to fall rapidly and close to the net on the opponent’s side.
16. **Face** – The oval, stringed area of the racket head.
17. **Fault** – A violation of the playing rules, either in serving, in receiving or during play. See Law 14.
18. **Flick** – A quick wrist and forearm rotation that surprises an opponent by changing an apparently soft shot into a faster passing one; used primarily on the serve and at the net.
19. **Forecourt** – The front third of the court, between the net and the short service line.
20. **Forehand** – Refers to strokes played on the racket side of the body.
21. **Game Point** – A rally which, if won by the server, ends the game. Also called “game bird.”
22. **IBF** – International Badminton Federation, the world governing body established in 1934.
23. **Inning** – Time during which a player or team holds the service.
24. **“In” side** – The side which holds the serve.
25. **Kill** – A fast, downward shot that cannot be returned; a “putaway.”
26. **Let** – A legitimate cessation of play to allow a rally to be replayed.
27. **Love** – Term for zero arising from the English pronunciation of the French word l’oeuf, meaning “goose-egg” or zero.
28. **Match** – A series of games, usually two out of three, to determine a winner.
29. **Match Point** – A rally which, if won by the server, ends the match.
30. **No Shot** – Call made by a player who faults by committing a carry or double hit. Badminton sportsmanship requires that, in the absence of an umpire, players make such calls on themselves.
31. **“Out” side** – The side which is receiving the serve.
32. **Overhead** – Refers to stroke played above head level.
33. **Poona** – Early name for badminton in India, coming from a city in which a badminton-like game was played from the 1860’s.
34. **Rally** – An exchange of shots while the shuttle is in play.
35. **Round-the-head stroke** – An overhead forehand stroke played on the backhand side of the body. The contact point is usually above the opposite shoulder, and a clear, drop, or smash can result.

36. **Serve or service** – Stroke used to put the shuttle into play at the start of each rally.

37. **Service Court** – Area into which the serve must be delivered. This depends on the score and on whether the game is singles or doubles.

38. **Setup** – A poor shot that makes an easy kill for the opponent.

39. **Shuttlecock** – Official (and ancient) name for shuttle or “bird”, badminton’s unique projectile.

40. **Smash** – A hard-hit overhead shot that forces the shuttle sharply downward. It is badminton’s chief attacking stroke.

41. **USBA** – United States Badminton Association. The national governing body for badminton in the United States was founded in 1936 as the American Badminton Association.

42. **Underhand** – Refers to a stroke that contacts the shuttle below the wait, such as a serve or a clear from the net.

43. **Wood shot** – A shot that results when the base of the shuttle is hit by the frame of the racket. Once illegal, this shot was ruled acceptable by the IBF in 1963.

44. **Badminton House** – Duke of Beaufort Estate in Gloucestershire England

45. 1948 – Thomas Cup (men)

46. 1956 – Uber Cup (women)

47. 1992 – Olympics