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Badminton is one of many sports which is played with a racket where the players hit a shuttle over a net inside a delimited court. Badminton has 3 categories:

1. Single
2. Doubles
3. Mixt doubles

Badminton can be played both inside and outside. Usually outside it is played for fun, in family. Trainings for those who practice in a regular basis are done in sport halls.

## Badminton origin

Badminton is played for the first time over 2000 years ago in Eurasia countries: Egipt, China, India and Japan, but also in Greece and was played with a wooden racket (“battledore”) and a shuttle.

Starting from year 1600 badminton was played between 2 players, which hit with a wooden racket a shuttle to each other, until the shuttle hits the ground. It was considered an elite game in Europe, including in England.

Today, you could see a similar game in Japan, called Hanetsuki. It is a very popular game which is played in the Christmas Eve, with a wooden racket (‘’hagoita’’) and a shuttle (“hane”).

### The development of Badminton

Due to the book “[**A Brief History of Badminton from 1870 to 1949**](https://amzn.to/3sBTXUe)” written by Betty Uber, modern badminton was made by military men – british officers in 1850s in British India, when a net was added to this game, and due to the fact that it was very popular in Poona city, was given the name of this game – Poona.



In that period, when the weather was windy and wet, instead of the feather shuttle a linen ball was preffered, thus was played by majority of wealthy people and the name of the game became “[Ball badminton](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ball_badminton)” .

In meadle 1870s, british officers that where retired has brought this game from India to the places where they lived, in England, thus badminton became shortly a very popular game.

In 1873 Duce du Beaufort introduces badminton in his place of origin, “Badminton House” in Gloucestershire, and from that time further this sport is called Badminton.



Badminton House from Great Britain

In 1875, first badminton club from Folkestone, England was established by the retired officers from Britain India.

In 1887, J. H. E. Hart from the Badminton Club Bath Badminton has standardized the rules of the game.

On September 13th, 1893, English Badminton Association has published for the first time the set of the game rules.

In 1899, first big world badminton competition took place, “All England Open Badminton Championships”.

In 1934, was established International Badminton Federation (IBF, also known as WBF – World Badminton Federation), formed by England, Scotland, Wales, Canada, Denmark, France, Ireland, New Zeeland and Holland together with its members.

In 1948, International Badminton Federation has launched first International Team championship for men: Thomas Cup. Since then, more international events was launched, such as:

* Uber Cup (International Team Championship for women)
* World Championships (BWF World Cup)
* Sudirman Cup (Every 2 years –International Team Championship – for men and women)
* World Junior Championships (BWF World Junior Championships)
* World Grand Prix Finals (BWF World Badminton Grand Prix Finals, are invited first 8 ranked player of the world)

In 1972, Badminton was represented as a demonstrative sport in the Olympic Games in Munchen. In 1992 at Olympic Games in Barcelona badminton became officially Olympic game. At that edition was included only singles and doubles, without mixt doubles category.

In 1996, mixt doubles was included for the first time at the Olympic Games Atlanta, USA. Until nowadays, Badminton is the only sport to have mixt doubles as a sport category at the Olympic Games.

From 1992 Olympic Games the following countries won medals: Indonesia, Denmark, China, South Correa, Japan and Spain.

*Source: https://badmintonprofessor.com/*

**Badminton in Romania**

In Romania, first attempts to popularize badminton was made in summer of 1958, at the inauguration of the Sport Year at University; this program was organized on Republic Arena in Bucharest, that had a badminton demonstration, but without an expected echo by the organizers.

After another 10 years, badminton was practiced indoor, on a marked court, applied the international rules. Thus, in city of Timisoara, the young athlete Kecskemeti and his friends (which have practiced badminton for fun since 1965 outdoor) started to practice badminton indoor in Special School nr. 6 – due to the open-mindness of the sport professor Mrs. Redos. In 1968, Badminton thus enter in the family of indoor sports in Romania. This sport community, with more and more number of participants, has established in 1972 first badminton association - AS "Gloria" Timisoara.

Also in Targu Mures city, at the end of 1960s, youngsters that could play badminton were gathered by professor Ladislau Grün - from Pedagogic Institute fromTargu Mures, (Physical Education and Sport faculty), in order to practice this sport on a marked court inside Institute’s hall, marked and played as the international rules specify. Here, as a student, the actual professor of Physical Training and Sport Demeter Zoltan, has begun its activity and became the promotor of badminton in Mures county. He was the initiator and organizer of first youth and children national competitions in Romania.

In December 1975 Culture House of Targu Mures organized the first youth and children national competition. It was called "30 December Cup", at this edition participated pupils form 16 schools from Targu-Mures county. Also in other cities were formed first badminton clubs: in 1976 at Baia Mare, in 1977 at Cluj-Napoca and Bucharest.

Popularization of badminton, made in big part by the sport press, had an effect development of new badminton branches in the associations and sport clubs in Resita, Braşov, Miercurea-Ciuc, Onesti, Petrosani, Galati, Reghin, Bocsa, Iasi, Sibiu, Oradea, Craiova, Odorheiu-Secuiesc, Sfsntu Gheorghe, Suceava etc.

First inter-county championship was organized in Targu Mures în december 1977, called "Cupa Muresul", at which participated over 100 players from 12 counties, and first winners were: Erdei Zoltan - Targu Mures and Cziryek Katalina - Targu Mures.

From that year, badminton in Romania has spread rapidly, winning new participants especially form the youngsters. Resita city has organized, in 1979, "Champions Tournament", where participated, year after year, first 8 best badminton players at singles men and women categories, which was qualified at first places at the "Open" national championships form last year.

It followed first international friendship competitions due to good relationship between different sport associations of badminton from Hungary, Bulgaria, Poland, Chech Republic, Jugoslavia and Germany. So, in December 1979, first International Badminton Competition took place in Targu Mures, between local team and similar team from Zsombö, Hungary; then in April 1980 similar competition took place in Zsombö, Hungary.

Between May 23-26th 1980, in Resita city took place an international event between the team from Greifswald (German D.R.) and team from Caras-Severin county, Timisoara, Targu Mures, Bucharest and Resita. In December 1980, at Sfantu Gheorghe city, took place a junior competition between a Romanian team with players form many cities and a similar team from Hungary. At that time in Romania were 29 badminton sport centers.

In September 1981, a team from Timisoara has participated at the International Werner Seelenbinder Tournament in Greifswald (German D.R.), and a team from Onesti county played in the "Oreahovo Cup", in Bulgaria. Also in 1981 it was organized "Timis Cup", in Timisoara, with international participation, were invited players from Bulgaria, Poland, German D.R.
On April 3rd 1983 it was established Central Badminton Commission of National Council for Fisycal Education and Sport (CNEFS), which has as its goal coordination and management in this sport.

Seven consecutive years badminton competitions has been played regularly. At that time, due to a good collaboration between Ministry of Education and Youth Organizations lead to establishment of another 37 associations with badminton as a sport branch with 550 players (325 boys and 225 girls). Selection and preparation of these athletes was made by sport professors that understood that the practice of badminton by youngsters and inclusion of this sport discipline in the sport classes was a very good example to attract young population to practice badminton.

In some years after it was written three methodology books on how to initiate and train in badminton. First book appeared in 1974, at "Stadion" publishing house, Bucharest, having the title: "Play badminton", written by prof. Alexandru Lazarescu, with its main objective to spread the initiation in the rules of badminton.

In 1983, prof. Zoltan Demeter-Erdei has published a book called: "Badminton" at "Sport-Turism" publishing house, where he emphasizes the basis of playing badminton: technique, trainings, rules). Another book, that was published at "Sport-Turism" publishing house, was "Badminton, way of fisical education", written by prof. Vasile Marcu in 1989.

Romanian Badminton Federation was founded on January 29th 1990 and has affiliated to the tow international badminton associations, Union European Badminton (UEB) and International Badminton Federation (IBF). From that moment, badminton has become an official sport in Romania, which determined the development of badminton as a sport discipline in many sport clubs, associations and sport schools. Many professors had become specialized in a second specialization – badminton, after special organized badminton qualification courses. Badminton Romanian Federation organizes annual national championships on age categories, team championships and Open championships.

On international level, Romanian badminton players have participated in Balkan Championships, where national team had won 2nd place, after team Bulgaria. Few badminton players have participated in Senior European Championships. For the first time badminton player Florin Balaban represented Romania in 1992, at World Badminton Championship and in the same year at Olympic Games in Barcelona.

*Surca:* [*https://www.agerpres.ro*/](https://www.agerpres.ro/)