

# Traditional Tiebreaker Rules

In a tennis match, there are some major differences in keeping score during a tiebreaker game and a regular game. It is important for all players to familiarize themselves with these rules, as a tiebreaker involves players rotating sides and serving throughout the game.

There are two kinds of tiebreaks that may be played in a match. A 7-point set tiebreak is played when the game count is tied during a set and a 10-point match tiebreak is played when each team has taken a set.

## Points:

Tiebreaker points are scored numerically, "0", "1", "2", "3" and so on, instead of "love", "15", "30", and "40".

## Service Rotation:

- The player or team that just served to even the set at 7-7 (5-5 for 10U Rec) will **receive** the serve in the tiebreaker
- To counter the advantage of serving, the player who starts serving will only serve one point. This player will serve this point from the right (deuce) side of the court.
- One player of the opposing team serves the next two points. Point #2 will be played from the left (ad) side of the court and point #3 will be played from the right (deuce) side.
- Players will take turns serving 2 points until the end of the tiebreaker.
- **At 6 points total, or any multiple of 6 points total, teams switch sides of the court.**

## Two Point Margin:

The first team to win 7 points wins the tiebreaker as long as there is a winning margin of 2 points. The tiebreaker game continues for as long as necessary until the winning team achieves this two point margin. For example, you could win a tiebreaker 7-0, 7-1, 7-2, 7-3, 7-4, 7-5, 8-6, 9-7, etc. A tiebreaker is treated like a game. At the conclusion of the tiebreaker, the score is recorded as 7-6, meaning 7 games to 6 games won.

When a 10-point match tiebreak is being played the rules from above apply but the tiebreak is played until a team reaches the score of 10 with a margin of 2 points.

- **In Junior Team Tennis, only 12's, 14's and 18's play a 10-point match tiebreak in the Championship league.**
- **10U int in the championship league will play a first to 7-point match tiebreak to determine the winner.**

**Also, since a tiebreaker is a game, the team who served the first point of the tiebreaker will receive in the first game of the new set (if the tiebreaker was not to decide the match).**