

HOW TO PLAY A SINGLES TIE BREAKER

At a game score of 6 – 6, a set is often determined by one more game called a “tiebreaker”. The winner of the tie-breaker will be the winner of the set; the score of the set is always 7 – 6 or 6 – 7.

In tie-breakers, points are counted using ordinary numbering, eg: 1 - 0: 1 - 1: 2 - 1 etc.

To win a tie-breaker, a player must win seven points and when reaching seven be two points more than his/ her opponent.

For example, if the score is 6 points to 5 points and the player with 6 points wins the next point, he or she wins the tiebreak and the set. If the player with 5 points wins the point, the tiebreak score becomes 6 – 6 and play continues as a tie breaker must be won by a margin of two points.

If a tie-breaker is closely contested, players may have to win 8, 9 or 10 points to establish a two point winning margin. For example some tie-breakers can finish 8 – 6, 9 - 7 or 10 - 8.

HOW TO BEGIN

The player who would normally be serving after 6 games all is the one to serve first in the tiebreak.

The server begins his/ her service from the [deuce court](#) and serves one point.

After the first point, the serve changes and the opponent serves two points.

She / he will serve from the advantage court.

Important: The first point of each two-point sequence starts from the server's [advantage court](#) and the second point starts from the [deuce court](#).

Just note that after the first point, each player serves two consecutive points for the remainder of the tiebreak.

After every six points, eg: 3 -3, the players switch ends of the court; note that the side-changes during the tiebreak will occur in the middle of a server's two-point sequence.

Therefore, the server will be serving from the deuce court after changing ends.

Players must change ends after 12 points and 18 points as it is every six points that a change of ends takes place.

The first player to reach 7 points wins the tie-breaker and the set. Remember, to win a tie-breaker you must be ahead by a margin of two points. If not the tie breaker continues until a two point margin is reached.

This means some tie-breakers may finish in a score of 11 - 9 or 14 - 12. Just remember to change ends after every 6 points and enjoy the drama.