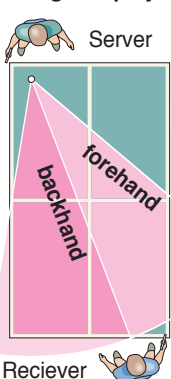


Table tennis became popular at the turn of the century and soon became known as ping-pong, reflecting the sound of the ball hitting the bat and the table. Played at a sedate speed, early World Championship games could last several hours, while today's matches take barely 30 minutes, with players thumping the ball backwards and forwards at speeds in excess of 160km per hour

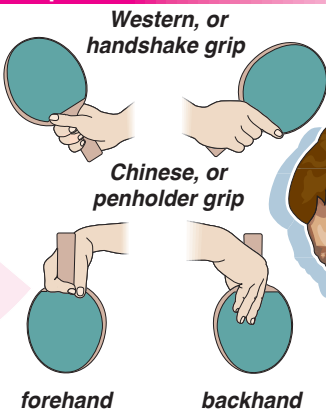
Rules of the game

The game is won by the first player to score 21 points. If players tie on 20 points, the first to score two consecutive points wins. Matches consist of best of three or best of five games. Player who wins toss has choice of ends or service, with each player serving five times in succession. When serving, ball must be thrown up at least 15cm from flat palm of hand and must be struck only as it starts to descend

Angle of play



Grip

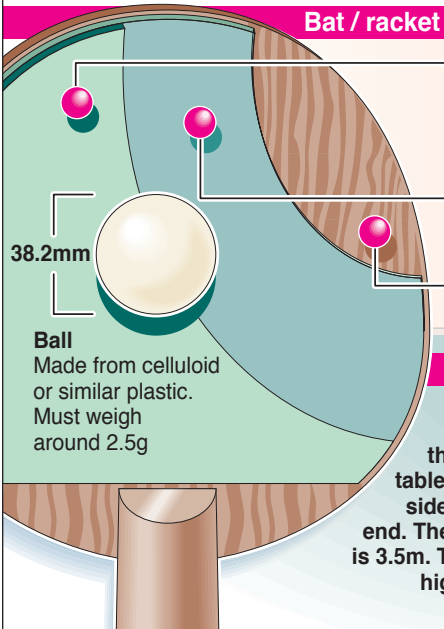


Bat / racket

Bat is covered in pimped rubber. Pimples may be on outer surface, for defensive play, or reversed, giving smooth surface for faster, topspin play

Layer of sponge gives extra speed. Combined thickness of sponge and rubber must not exceed 4mm on either side of bat

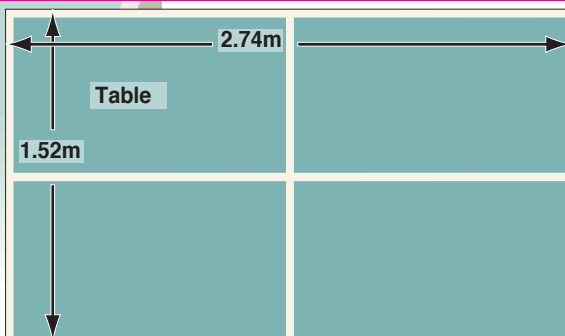
Blade can be any size, weight, or shape. Usually made from plywood



Ball
Made from celluloid or similar plastic. Must weigh around 2.5g

Playing area

The playing area extends beyond the boundary of the table by 1.5m on either side and 2.5m at each end. The maximum height is 3.5m. The net is 15.25cm high and 1.83m long



1992 WINNER <i>Men's singles</i> Jan Waldner, Sweden	1992 WINNER <i>Women's singles</i> Deng Yaping, China
1992 WINNERS <i>Men's doubles</i> Lu Lin & Wang Tao China	1992 WINNERS <i>Women's doubles</i> Deng Yaping & Qiao Hong China



Venue: Georgia World Congress Centre															
JULY								AUGUST							
19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	1	2	3