

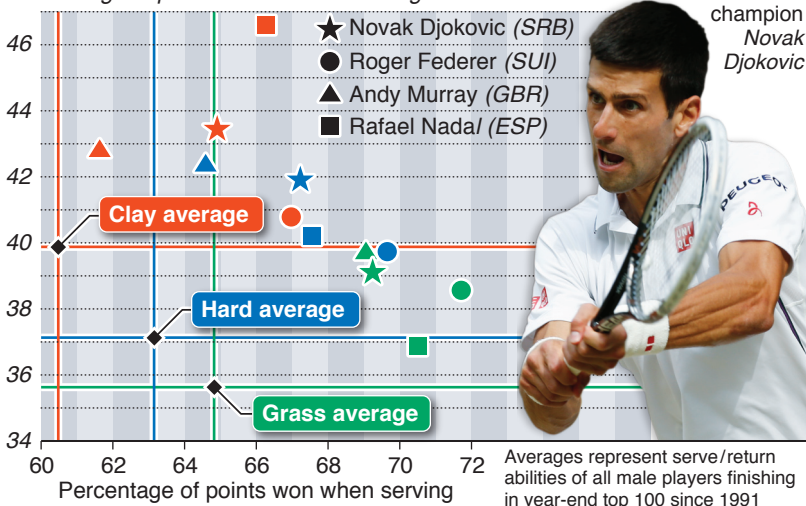
# How tennis players fare on different surfaces

Most professional tennis players favour one of the three surfaces – grass, clay or hardcourt – and their success has much to do with individual playing style and how the ball reacts to the surface

## COMPARISON OF PERFORMANCE ON DIFFERENT SURFACES

Percentage of points won when returning

Reigning Wimbledon champion  
Novak Djokovic



### GRASS COURT

**Speed**  
Fast

**Bounce**  
Low

**Play:** Returning player has little time to react to serve, boosting chances of server winning point. Top player wins about 65 percent of service points and 36 percent when returning

### CLAY COURT

**Speed**  
Slow

**Bounce**  
High

**Play:** Ball loses speed on contact with surface, favouring receiver. Relative to grass, player gains 4.3 percentage points when returning and loses same amount when serving

### HARD COURT

**Speed**  
Medium-fast

**Bounce**  
Medium

**Play:** Courts vary in speed but typically dampen serving and returning advantages offered by grass and clay. However, playing style is closer to that of grass than clay