

# Table Tennis

An indoor game based on tennis, table tennis is a fun and engaging sport for all ages and abilities which can be played by two or four players. The aim of the game is simple - for a player to hit the ball over the net onto their opponent's side.

Points are won by a player if their opponent is unable to return the ball, the opponent hits the ball before it bounces on their side of the table or the ball hits the net. The game's object is to score 11 points before your opponent in a match of usually 3, 5 or 7 games.



Summer Games Debut:

Seoul 1988

## How It Started

In late 1880s England, some Victorians decided to turn their dining room tables into miniature versions of traditional tennis. Everyday objects were used to make the game, such as a line of books as the net, empty cigar box lids as rackets and the ball would be either string or a cork.

It was given many different names when the games first started such as 'whiff whaff', 'gossamer' and 'flim flam', all created from the sound the ball makes when it is hit. An English manufacturer later sold the name 'Ping-Pong' to the Parker Brothers in the United States. It returned to Europe as 'table tennis'.



## Interesting Facts

Table tennis was banned in the Soviet Union from 1930 to 1950. The sport was believed to be harmful to the eyes.

World class table tennis players can hit a ball at over 100 miles per hour.