

DOUBLES SQUASH TACTICS

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Suggested additions, changes, or corrections are welcomed. Contact [Gary Wong](#).

Basic Tactics

- Split the opposing pair using the width of the court and angle shots.
- Hit the ball into frontcourt and backcourt gaps.
- Avoid getting into long sidewall rallies with your wall opponent.
- Hit crosscourts so they break off the side wall. Make it tougher for opponent to hit with authority.
- Hit low hard shots down the middle if gap is there.
- Player with forehand should take shots down the middle.
- Establish good control and position at the redline.

Serving

- Can be a winning shot if speed and placement are right.
- Lob high but not hard so ball dies in corner and pops out into the middle.
- Make sure ball touches sidewall otherwise partner will have a tough return to deal with.
- If serving to far side, move along redline quickly enough to defend against return down the wall.

Return of Service

- If server is your wall opponent, go high but not too hard down the sidewall to make him run the furthest.
- Move quickly up to the redline into the middle.
- If possible take the serve early and volley down the wall. If serve is off the backwall, clear players by moving back towards the middle and opening up a 12' lane to do a drop shot return to the front corner or deep rail shot.

At the Redline

- If your partner is receiving serve, move up immediately to the redline as soon as the ball is served.
- Don't get trapped behind your wall opponent where sight of ball is blocked. Either move around to the middle or to the sidewall.

- If your wall opponent is moving up to take a frontcourt shot from your partner, move up with opponent to defend against the drop shot. This is called shadowing.
- Be aggressive by playing in front of wall opponent ahead of the redline but recognize the difficulty of playing a sharp crosscourt from the other opponent is increased as well as covering a lob into your corner. It may also mean an automatic let if your partner hits a crosscourt that is not tight to the wall but more in the middle.
- If your partner hits a high crosscourt which will force your wall opponent to take the next shot behind the redline, you must quickly decide whether to move forward or backwards along the redline. The natural reaction is to move backwards, leaving you vulnerable to a hard rail shot for a winner. Or if the ball keeps heading to the middle, a let will be called since you are in the way. The worst case is getting hit by the next shot! The preferred tactic is deliberately moving forward to the wall. Besides clearing the middle, you are in better position to return a rail shot. You must, however, decide quickly otherwise you run the risk of crossing in front of your wall opponent and getting hit by his shot.
- When flush against the wall, keep your racquet up and preferably, protecting your face while you watch your wall opponent prepare to hit.
- If the other wall opponent hits a high and hard crosscourt to you, be prepared to be called off by your partner if the ball will break high off the sidewall creating a difficult shot for you. Better, immediately recognize how difficult your shot will be by letting it go and calling "yours". In most cases, move to the wall to clear since the ball will come off the side wall and head towards the middle of the court.
- If your partner is also at the redline or up front, be prepared to cover if he looks to be in trouble and the ball will be getting behind him. If detected early, call him off the ball and hit a lob to buy time and allow both of you to get back into position.
- On your partner's shot that goes deep into his back corner, watch carefully how his wall opponent addresses the ball. For a ball in the left back corner, if you can see both shoulders of a right-handed player (i.e., a backhand), anticipate a boast and move up to cover the front. Be less aggressive on forehand shots since swings can be disguised.

Clearing and avoiding get hit by wall opponent

- Avoid getting trapped against the sidewall especially if your partner's next shot is likely to be a hard crosscourt. If you are in the way, your wall opponent could ask for a let. To avoid robbing your partner of a well-placed shot, circle behind and position your wall opponent between you and the sidewall.
- Your wall opponent should also follow the same movement to avoid getting trapped. This sort of "dance" between wall opponents promotes safe play.

- If a player remains stationary and doesn't move, a referee will warn the player for not yielding the right to play the ball to the opponent. A point will be awarded for the second violation.

Overhead

- Turn sideways for racquet to get full face contact and avoid a mishit.
- Aim for gaps.

Hitting Up Front

- If wall opponent is also up front inside of you, hit the ball by him with a hard rail shot. Make it a winner by keeping it unplayable by the other opponent coming across to cover.
- If opposite wall opponent is also up front on other side, hit a high crosscourt that breaks off the sidewall making the reply difficult.
- Alternatively, hit a crosscourt lob but recognize this shot may not be a winner since other opponent could come across to cover.
- Don't hit a reverse corner too hard since the ball come back you and force you to get out of the way.
- Don't hit a nearside drop shot if it means the opponent will have to go through you to get to it. Avoid a potential let, stroke, or worse, a collision.
- If you have the power and both opponents are playing up, hit a Backcourt Boast.

Defending Up Front

- Be aware that an opponent's Reverse Corner that hits the sidewall will have spin on the ball causing it to sit up higher than expected.
- Be positioned and ready to volley sharp crosscourts that break off the sidewall BEFORE hitting the sidewall.
- Be prepared to go flat against the floor to give your partner space to hit a good shot from the back.

Returning Backcourt Boasts (corkscrews)

- The ball is hit hard and high to the frontwall near the vertical nick. Immediately hitting the sidewall creates clockwise spin on the ball.
- If the ball is heading to your corner, follow the ball around and watch if it hits the sidewall or the backwall.
- On a *Philadelphia boast*, the ball goes frontwall, sidewall, opposite sidewall, and then runs parallel to the backwall. If perfectly hit, the ball is irretrievable.

- On a *Cincinnati boast*, the ball goes frontwall, sidewall, backwall and then shoots down the opposite sidewall. Step into the ball and hit a low rail winner. This shot will be there since the opposing wall player will be moving into the middle to clear the partner's shot.