

## Badminton Sport

Many play cricket, basketball, soccer, or tennis. Many of them watch these sport on TV, and many buy tickets to their gems and matches. But very few play badminton. Even smaller number buys a ticket to watch a game.

As a player myself, I can assure you that it is the misconception of common people that Badminton is merely a backyard sport, badminton began as a leisurely backyard sport and evolved to competitive sport ranging to Olympic levels.

Badminton originated thousands of years ago in India, before many of the other sports were commercialized. It is believed to have evolved from a children's game know as battledore and shuttlecock, the battledore being a paddle and the shuttlecock a small-feathered cock, now called a "bird" or "birdie" The objective was simply to keep the bird in the air as long as possible.

The first unofficial All-England badminton championships for men were held in 1899. The International badminton federation (IBF), world governing body of the sport, was formed in 1934. Its headquarters are in Cheltenham, Gloucestershire, Eng. Badminton is also popular in Malaysia, Indonesia, japan, and Denmark. A number of regional, national, and zonal Badminton tournaments are held in several countries.

The best known of these matches is the All-England Championships. Other well-known international tournaments include the Thomas Cup (donated 1939) for men's team competition and the Uber Cup (donated 1956) for women's team competition. Badminton first appeared in the Olympic Games as a demonstration sport in 1972 and as an exhibition sport in 1988. At the 1992 Gems it become a full-medal Olympic sport, with competition for men's and women's singles (one against one) and doubles (two against two).

### Speech on: Badminton Sport