



Red Ball Tennis

Global pilot guide
for activity & participant feedback

August 2026 | English version





Increase global participation from
106 million people playing tennis to
140 million by 2035

Source: World Tennis, 2026

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1. What is **Red Ball Tennis**?

The Ball

- Red/Yellow & Red dot (Stage 3 balls)

The Racket

- Any racket

The Court

- Service boxes
- Standard court net

The Scoring

- First to 10 points

Format

- Singles (2x boxes)
- Doubles (4x boxes)

The Rules

- Serve under arm
- Serve, rally and score
- Volleying permitted

Recommended application.

Flexibility applied for all components based on access – see “Equipment” & “Court Scenarios”

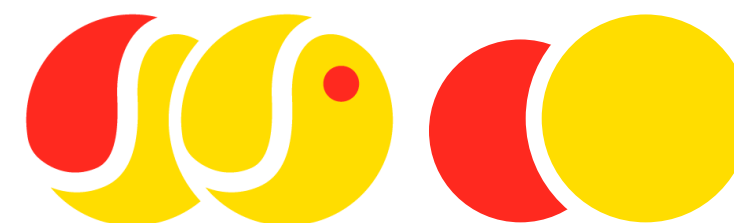


The equipment & format options



The Ball

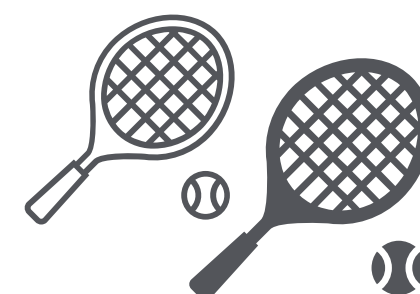
Red/Yellow & Red dot



RED STAGE 3 BALL
FELT OR FOAM

The Racket

Any



ANY STRUNG RACKET
LENGTH 19+ INCHES

The Scoring

Variety

**FIRST TO 10
POINTS**
SIMPLE 1,2,3,4

**TIE BREAK
TO 7 OR 10**
STANDARD FORMAT

SHORT SETS
FIRST TO 4 GAMES

SET TO 6
ADVANTAGE SET OR
TIE-BREAK SET

TIMED
SPECIFIC TIME PERIOD

The Rules

Simple

SERVE & JUST PLAY

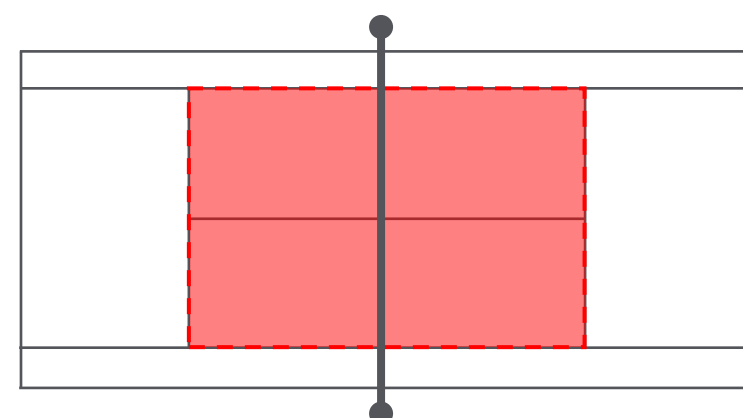
VOLLEYING PERMITTED

Court scenarios

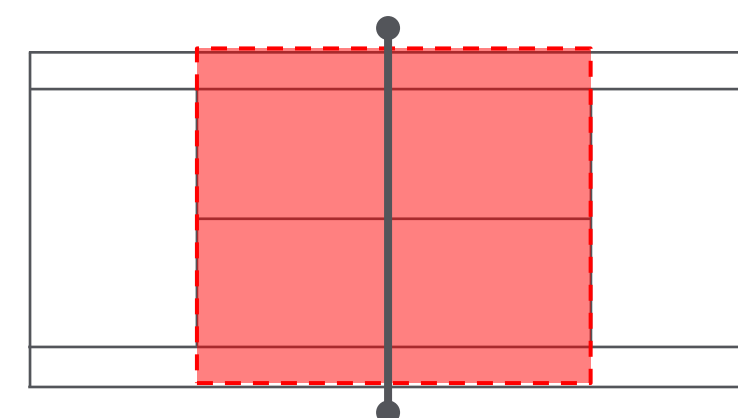


Services Boxes No barriers

DOUBLES (2 vs 2)

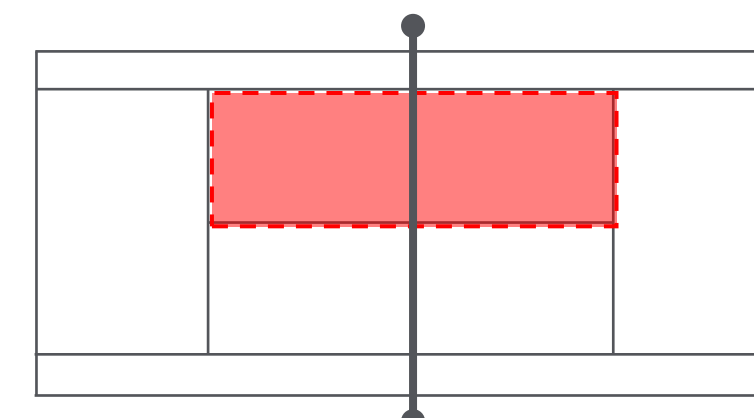


4x SERVICE BOXES
NO DOUBLES SIDELINES

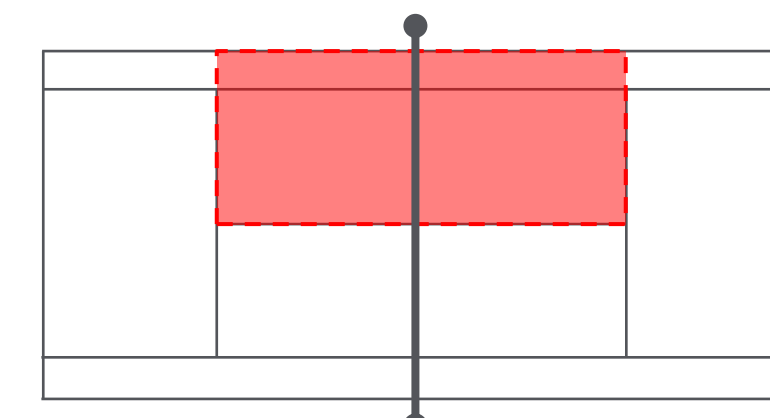


4x SERVICE BOXES
WITH THE DOUBLES SIDELINES

SINGLES (1 vs 1)

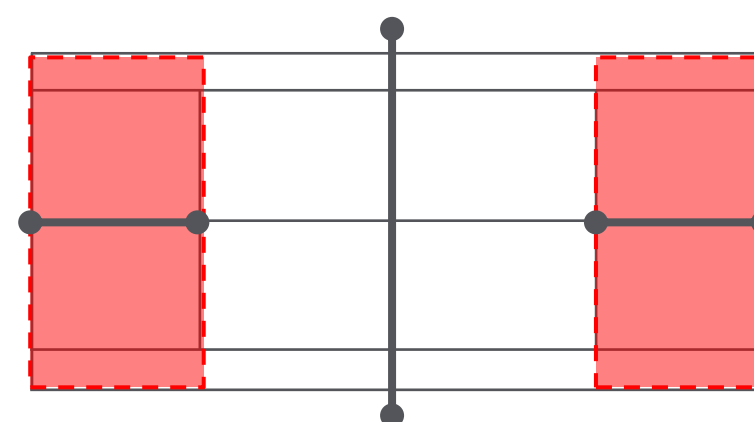


2x SERVICE BOXES
NO DOUBLES SIDELINES

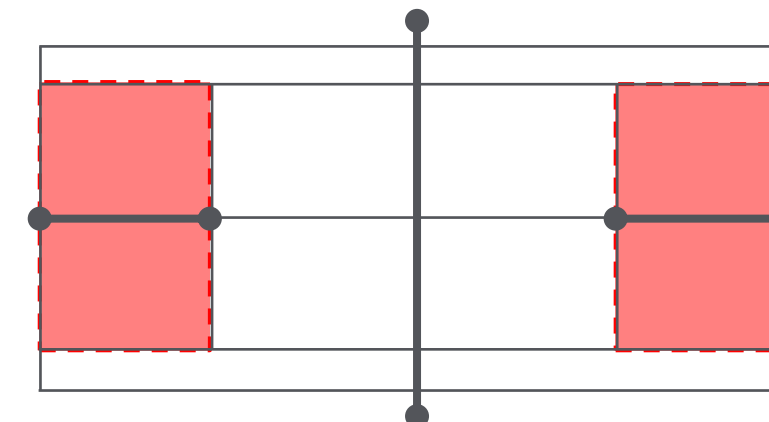


2x SERVICE BOXES
WITH THE DOUBLES SIDELINES

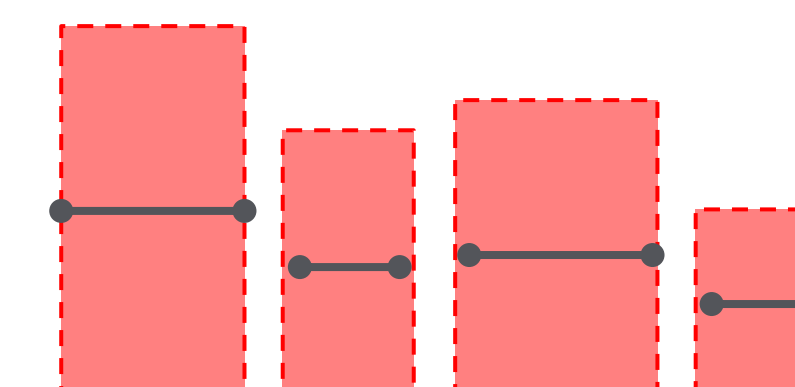
Red Courts Pop up nets



BACK HALF OF COURT
WITH THE DOUBLES SIDELINES & TEMPORARY NET

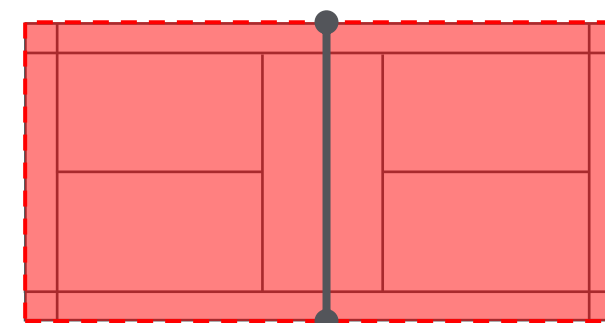


BACK HALF OF COURT
WITH NO DOUBLES SIDELINES & TEMPORARY NETS

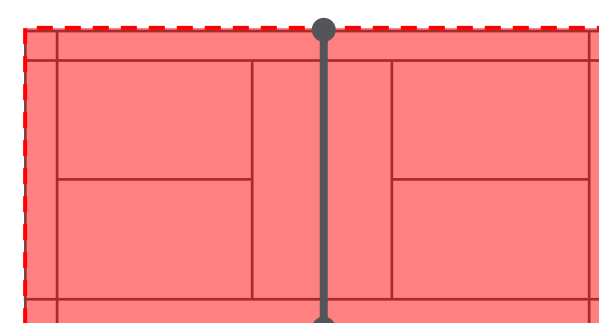


POP UP COURT
WITH A TEMPORARY NET

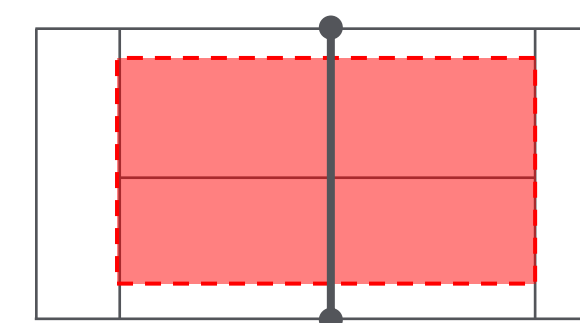
Alternative places Other courts



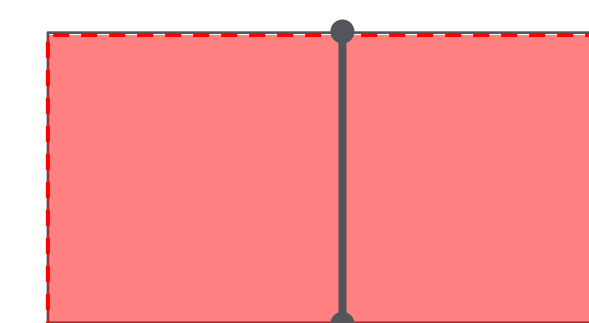
BADMINTON COURT



PICKLEBALL COURT



PADEL COURT
WITH TEMPORARY SIDELINES



OTHER

2. More nations... More feedback...



English



Français



Español



Italiano



Português



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3. Tennis is easy

when you play with
modified equipment

Modified equipment can help more people enjoy tennis, including players with different experience levels and access needs.

4. A Global Collaboration



- World Tennis is working with National Tennis Associations worldwide as part of a global pilot for introducing Red Ball Tennis for adult players.
- We want to understand the value and attraction of Red Ball Tennis for all adults, no matter the level of tennis experience – whether they have never played or a regular competitive player.
- We want to receive feedback from all participants on the:
 - experience
 - preferred racket
 - court set-up
 - match format & scoring system
 - preference to rules & play constraints

**Working together
across the world**

5. Not just for kids!

- The stage 3 red ball is a **slower** travelling and **lower** rebounding tennis ball than the traditional yellow ball.
- Modified equipment in tennis has been **available** for over 20 years.
- Red balls are **readily accessible** in sports retailers worldwide and manufacturer by all leading tennis ball brands.
- Red balls allow players to:
 - hit **more balls** immediately;
 - experience more **success** and learn faster;
 - build **confidence**; and
 - enjoy tennis from their **first experience** of playing the sport.

**The Red ball
is not new!**

6. There are no barriers!

Just play anywhere...

- There should **not** be any barriers to start playing tennis.
- Tennis **must** be simple to begin and to just play.
- Players should **experience** tennis with modified equipment within the environments that are available to them:
 - tennis venues and clubs, or
 - in other sport spaces or
 - on temporary courts in non-traditional sport locations.



6. There are no barriers!

Rackets, the ball, formats & rules...

- Players should play with **any** racket which may be available to them.
- The red ball is the first of three different stage tennis balls (stage 3), with orange (stage 2) and green (stage 1).
- Players or session activators should **encourage**:
 - different variations of court sizes;
 - try both doubles and singles play;
 - different scoring systems; and
let all the players explore the rules.



7. Who can play?

- Any adult 16+
- All physical ability
- Any playing standard

Who can activate?

- Any player
- Community activator
- Competition organisers
- Volunteers
- Tennis coaches

Step 1 | Session Set-up

- ☐ Identify an activator
- ☐ Choose the audience / players
- ☐ Find a location to play
- ☐ Select the date & time
- ☐ Create the activation session
- ☐ Advertise the session
- ☐ Prepare for the session
- ☐ Conduct risk assessment
- ☐ Check accessibility needs

Step 2 | The Session

- ☐ Understood the levels of the players
- ☐ Explain the rules to the players
- ☐ Rotate the players
- ☐ Share feedback links
- ☐ Be social and enjoy

8. Activation guidance

Activation examples 1

A. Pop-up events at
iconic venues / landmarks



B. Organised sessions
at tennis venues / clubs



Activation examples 2

C. Non-sport festivals / locations



D. Major tennis event designated fan engagement

Activation examples 3

E. Multi court session
at tennis venue



F. Pop-up events at
community venues



Activation examples 4

G. In locations or at events that you don't expect



H. On other sport spaces

A. Pop-up events at iconic venues / landmarks

- Small pop-up court set up in front of a famous city landmark.
- Red Ball experience zone at a national tourism attraction.
- Activation in a public plaza or civic space, linked to the promotion of a major event.

C. Non-sport festivals / locations

- Pop-up activations at:
 - Musical festivals, Comic / pop culture conventions, Gaming expos, Family festivals, Science festivals, Travel shows, Food festivals, Toy & collectibles conventions, Outdoor recreation expos, Community fairs and other major sporting event fan zones
- Tennis taster sessions at a local food and cultural festival.
- Outside bars / breweries for social goers.

Activation ideas 1

B. Organised sessions at tennis venues / clubs

- Weekly organised Red Ball sessions for all club members, using the World Tennis Number to segment each session ie, WTN #25-30.
- Open “Pay and Play” session open to the public with drinks and food.
- Tennis club “Bring a Friend” introductory session; club Open Day or club social with a BBQ.
- Invite local businesses to form a weekly “Business Club”.
- Themed or focused sessions: Young Professionals networking evening; meet and greet events; fancy dress tennis competition; women only sessions

D. Major tennis event designated fan engagement

- Interactive Red Ball zone at a Davis Cup or Billie Jean King by Gainbridge tie.
- Family fan village activity during a national championships / tournament.
- Public participation area on site at a World Tennis Tour event or World Championships.

E. Multi court session at tennis venue

- Club open day using all available courts for beginner Red Ball activities – using service boxes and pop-up courts.
- National or Regional Red Ball Festival with multiple competency-level groups participating simultaneously ie, Group A: WTN #25-30; B: WTN #31-35; & C: WTN #36-40 & D: Non-WTN / Rated players
- Self-organised by the players (no coach) – timed matches and winning pairs move up and losing pairs move down.

G. In locations or at events that you don't expect

- Airport terminal activation engaging travellers.
- Science museum family event incorporating tennis-themed challenges.
- City commuting hub or railway station pop-up experience.

Activation ideas 2

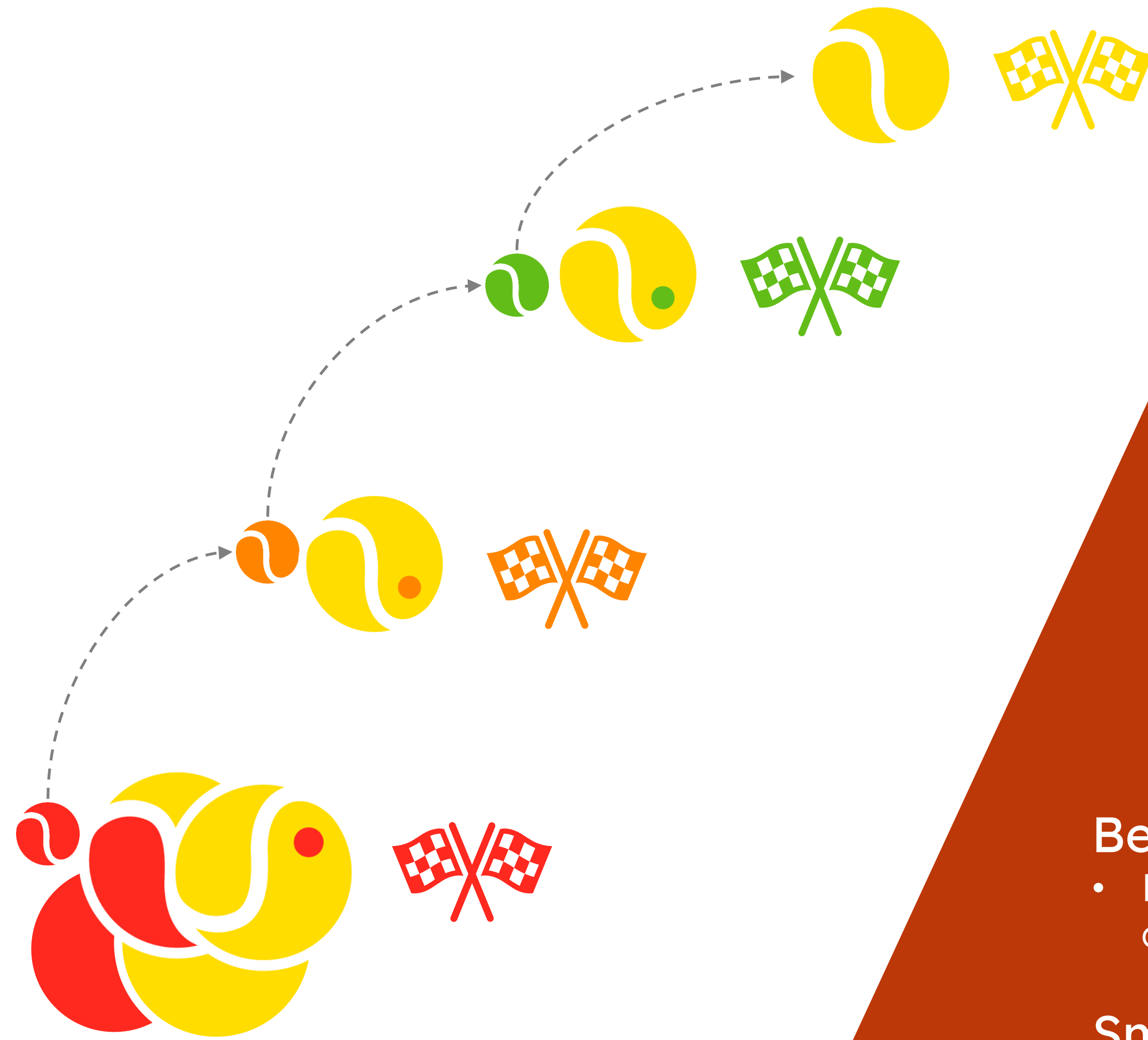
F. Pop-up events at community venues

- Town square activation during a local community celebration.
- Shopping centre pop-up court introducing tennis.
- Pop-up activations in rehabilitation centres.
- Community park event linked to a local health and wellbeing programme.

H. On other sport spaces

- Red Ball tennis activities on existing pickleball or padel courts.
- Organised competition on a netball or basketball court during a multi-sport event.
- Temporary tennis activation on an unused futsal or handball court.
- Include in multi-racket sport events ie, racket sport festival; racketlon.

9. Tennis without limits



It's easy

- Slower balls allow all players to hit more shots in the court, more often, not just kids [1, 3, 5, 8, 10, 18 - See "References"]

It's fun

- Using modified equipment is more fun for all! [1, 2, 4, 9, 13, 17]

Better learning & skill acquisition

- All players learn more and faster [2, 5, 10, 11, 12, 18, 20]

Progression & experience

- Modified tennis equipment improves overall entry experience for all ages of player [20, 21, 22, 23]

Injury prevention

- Modified equipment may reduce physical demands or joint stress [7, 11, 15, 15, 16, 19]

Better technique

- Players of all ages can develop better swings, more consistent contact points and make fewer errors [1, 2, 5, 6, 10, 12]

Smarter strategy

- Modified equipment helps players to make better decisions [5, 12, 18]

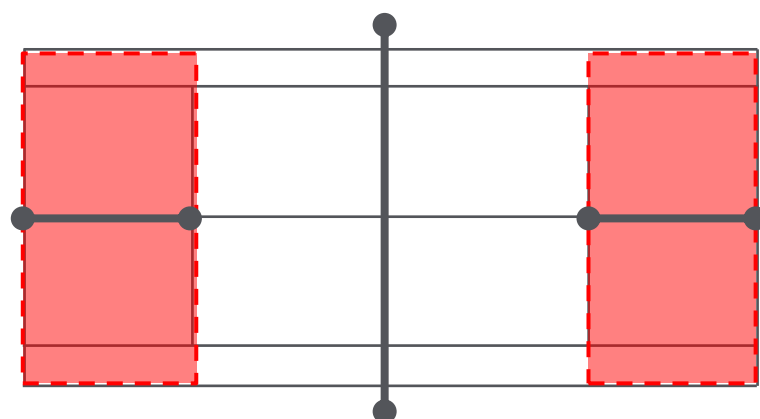


10. USTA Red Ball Tennis

World Tennis are working collaboratively with the United States Tennis Association, and other National Associations to promote Red Ball Tennis and generate feedback from all participation worldwide

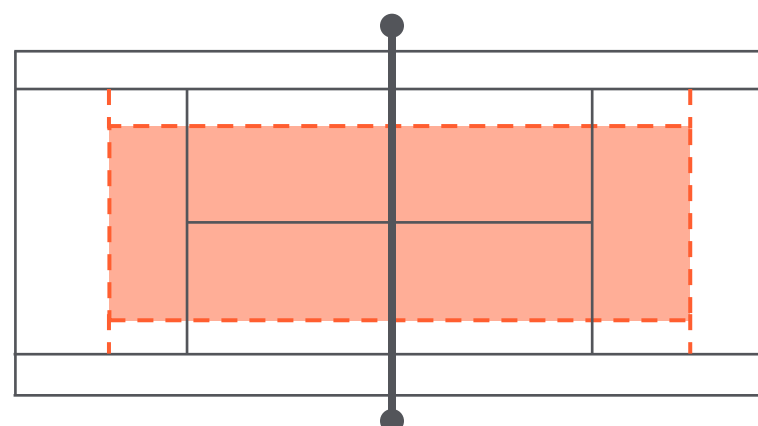
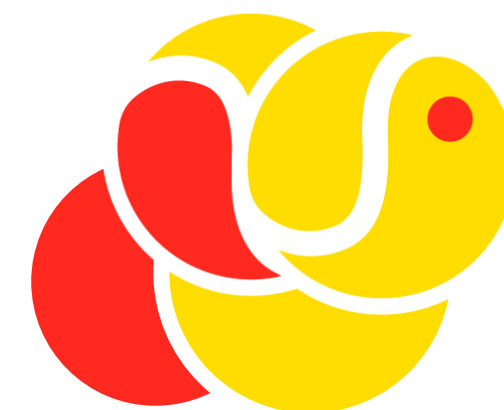
Promotional event during the US Open 2025 on Arthur Ashe Stadium
Photo credit: United States Tennis Association

1. Progressive opportunities using the modified equipment



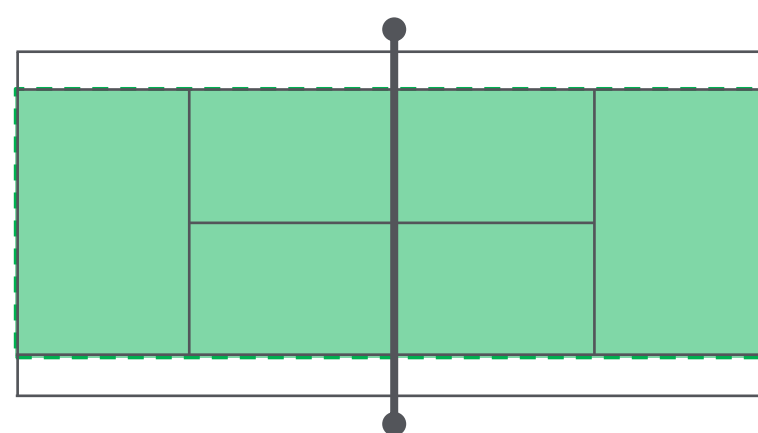
RED COURT

36 feet (10.97 m) & 42 feet (12.80 m) long
14 feet (4.27 m) and 20 feet (6.10 m) wide



ORANGE COURT

58 feet (17.68 m) & 60 feet (18.29 m) long
20 feet (6.10 m) and 27 feet (8.23 m) wide



FULL COURT

78 feet (23.77 m) long
27 feet (8.23 m) wide



Tennis is
for all!



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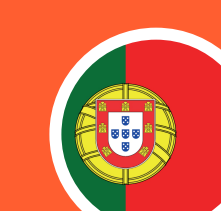
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