# Game Styles

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<tr>
<th>Game Styles</th>
<th>Characteristics</th>
<th>Tactical Patterns*</th>
</tr>
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</table>
| **Counter-puncher** | Counter-punchers are able to hit their targets with a high percentage of first serves. It is important that they are able to serve well enough so they are able to start each service point in a neutral position. They tend to utilize a good three-quarter first serve in order to keep their first-serve percentage high. Gilles Simon and Caroline Wozniacki are two counter-punchers with good serves. | • "Half X" — short angle deep cross-court, deep cross-court short angle  
• Keeps the ball deep and moves the opponent side to side; moves in shots behind  
• Cross-court to cross-court, then recognizes the short ball and redirects it down the line  
• Serves into the body, first ball high and heavy, to push opponent back off the baseline  
• Slices BH shorter cross-court, high heavy back behind (keeps opponent off balance) |
| **Aggressive Baseline** | Aggressive baseliners tend to hit a bigger first serve in order to win free points. Their main goal is to use effective serve-plus-one patterns (serve wide, first ball open court; serve "T", first ball behind). Aggressive Baseliners like to start each service point in control of the middle of the court. Novak Djokovic and Victoria Azarenka are two aggressive baseliners with strong serves. | • Able to take the cross-court rally ball and change direction down the line with different spins and height with excellent control  
• Multiple inside-out FHs to set up an inside-in FH or BH down the line  
• Aggressive cross-court BH to set up a FH inside-in  
• Takes time on the BH side by driving the ball down the line to set up the FH that can go back down the line or cross-court  
• Starts the point with an aggressive middle ball that pushes the opponent back, so they can then take the short ball to either side  
• Serves wide first ball to open the court  
• Serves T first ball behind  
• Serves plus FH |
| **All-Court Player** | All-court players are able to hit big serves to precise targets. They are able to keep their opponent off balance by mixing up the speed, spin, and placement of their serves. They are looking to take control of the points and apply immediate pressure. This is all set up with efficient and effective serving. Roger Federer and Serena Williams are two great examples of all-court players with dominant serves. | • Moves opponent around the court to expose their weakness  
• Mixes up the speed, spins, heights, and depth on the ball  
• Big inside-out FH, then take the ball out of the air to the open court (with slower players) and/or behind (faster players)  
• Short chip to BH side the hits a deep ball to the other side  
• Drives the opponents deep and able to step inside the court and to disguise the FH drop shot  
• Serves and volley as a surprise tactic or when they are up in a game (looking to close out the game)  
• Serve plus FH patterns |

*These tactical patterns assume that two right-handed players are playing against each other.*
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<tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Serve and Volley</td>
<td>Strong slice BH</td>
<td>Deuce court taking a kick serve down the T and penetrating it down the line or down the middle</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Putting instant pressure on the server to make them come up with a passing shot</td>
<td>Drive the FHBH to BH corner and attack</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Great at taking your time away</td>
<td>Deuce: run around FH down the line and attack</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Takes the ball early with very strong racquet skills</td>
<td>Ad side: chip down the line and charge</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Compact swings and good on-the-rise skills</td>
<td>Ad side: FH inside-out to BH and attack</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chip and Charge / Hit and Charge</td>
<td>Good timing on split step and loading on the outside leg, which allows them to have a strong first step toward the net</td>
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<tr>
<td>Be patient</td>
<td>Be patient and consistent</td>
<td>Mix up your shots</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Comfortable playing extended rallies</td>
<td>Mix up the pace</td>
<td>Slice BH shorter in the court to draw out opponent of their comfort zone</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Make fewer mistakes</td>
<td>Make them generate their own pace (give no pace at times)</td>
<td>Change the speed, spin, height, and depths of the balls to keep opponent from establishing a good rhythm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Play with big margin to big targets</td>
<td>Depth is key</td>
<td>Vary how and when you attack the opponent to draw errors</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Early part of the match sets the tone</td>
<td>Be able to use their pace and redirect the ball down the line to the open court off a cross-court exchange</td>
<td>Serve plus FH pattern</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Create angles</td>
<td>Be able to use their pace and redirect the ball down the line to the open court off a cross-court exchange</td>
<td>Serve plus FH look to dictate 2/3 of the court with the FH</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Use the short slice to draw the player into the net on your terms</td>
<td>Look to make them play in parts of the court where they are not comfortable (usually the BH)</td>
<td>Mix up your shots</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Short out moving the player to the open court after the open court has been established, hit behind to catch the opponent off balance</td>
<td>Try to keep the ball out of the strike zone (either high and heavy or chip short with slice)</td>
<td>Mix up your shots</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gain advantage by attacking the second serve</td>
<td>Slow down the pace of the match; they like to play with the lead and at a higher tempo</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Half K: deep cross-court (high and heavy) to short angle</td>
<td>Two-shot passing shot combin; mix in the kabo early to get them off the net</td>
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<td>Look to keep the ball out of the air when the opponent is on the defensive</td>
<td>Mix up the pace</td>
<td>Slice BH shorter in the court to draw out opponent of their comfort zone</td>
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<td>Short chip to the BH side to draw them into the front court, where they are less comfortable</td>
<td>Make them generate their own pace (give no pace at times)</td>
<td>Change the speed, spin, height, and depths of the balls to keep opponent from establishing a good rhythm</td>
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<td>Attack the second serve (can come in behind if it is the right ball)</td>
<td>Depth is key</td>
<td>Vary how and when you attack the opponent to draw errors</td>
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<td>Approach deep middle to take away the angles on the passing shot or keep the ball in front of you (down the line)</td>
<td>Be able to use their pace and redirect the ball down the line to the open court off a cross-court exchange</td>
<td>Serve plus FH pattern</td>
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<tr>
<td>Return deep middle to eliminate giving them any angles off first ball</td>
<td>Be able to use their pace and redirect the ball down the line to the open court off a cross-court exchange</td>
<td>Serve plus FH look to dictate 2/3 of the court with the FH</td>
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<td>Two-shot passing shot combin; mix in the kabo early to get them off the net</td>
<td>Serve a high percentage of first serves as they will attack your second serve</td>
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<tr>
<td>Serve and volley in games where you have the advantage</td>
<td>Serve body, then first ball high and heavy to open court to get them off the baseline</td>
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<td>Look to control the middle of the court (must win that battle)</td>
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Rate the following:

1. Engagement (listening to the coach, trying to execute the drill the correct way, making good technical and tactical decisions)
   
   1 2 3 4 5
   Poor Excellent

2. Energy Level & Effort (run for every ball, look to do your best)
   
   1 2 3 4 5
   Poor Excellent

3. Attitude (use of positive emotions)
   
   1 2 3 4 5
   Poor Excellent

4. Character Quality
   
   1 2 3 4 5
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Two take-aways from practice:

1. ________________________________________________________________________________________________
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2. ________________________________________________________________________________________________
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What I can improve tomorrow during training & match play:

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What I can improve tomorrow during training & match play:

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Player Journal

Post-Match Evaluation

Opponent Name: ____________________________________________

Date: ______________________ Conditions: ___________________

Tournament: ___________________ Surface: ___________________

Round: ______________________

Outcome: ______________________ Score: ___________________

Tactical game plan set prior to match | Rate of Achievement
--- | ---
1. | / 5
2. | / 5
3. | / 5

Mental/emotional goals set prior to match | Rate of Achievement
--- | ---
1. | / 5
2. | / 5
3. | / 5

Positive adjustments made during the match (technical, tactical, and competitive) | Rate of Achievement
--- | ---
1. | / 5
2. | / 5
3. | / 5

The positive areas of the match are:
1. ______________________
2. ______________________
3. ______________________

The areas to be improved:
1. ______________________
2. ______________________
3. ______________________

Rate the following:
1. Effort / 5
2. Overall satisfaction / 5

If you had to play the match again, what would you do differently?
__________________________________________________________________________________________________
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### Post-Match Evaluation

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#### Rate the following:

1. Effort / 5
2. Overall satisfaction / 5

If you had to play the match again, what would you do differently?

__________________________________________________________________________________________________
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#### The positive areas of the match are:

1.  
2.  
3.  

#### The areas to be improved:

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2.  
3.  

If you had to play the match again, what would you do differently?
## Post-Match Evaluation

**Opponent Name:**

**Date:**

**Conditions:**

**Tournament:**

**Surface:**

**Round:**

**Outcome:**

**Score:**

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### Rate the following:

1. Effort / 5  
2. Overall satisfaction / 5  

### Positive adjustments made during the match

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### The positive areas of the match are:

1.  
2.  
3.  

### The areas to be improved:

1.  
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3.  

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If you had to play the match again, what would you do differently?

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**Post-Match Evaluation**

Opponent Name: ____________________________

Date: ____________________________ Conditions: ____________________________

Tournament: ____________________________ Surface: ____________________________

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Rate the following:

1. Effort / 5
2. Overall satisfaction / 5

Positive adjustments made during the match (technical, tactical, and competitive) | Rate of Achievement |
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**Opponent Name:**

**Date:**

**Conditions:**

**Tournament:**

**Surface:**

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**Rate the following:**

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**Opponent Name:**

**Birth date:**

**Style of Play (Counter-puncher, Aggressive Baseline, All-court Player):**

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Opponent Name: ____________________________________________________________

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Player Scouting Report

Opponent Name: ____________________________

Birth date: ____________________________

Style of Play (Counter-pusher, Aggressive Baseline, All-court Player):

Hands - Technical
Strengths: ____________________________
Weaknesses: ____________________________

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### Hands - Technical

**Strengths:**

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### Feet - Movement

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