Short-Court Mini Tennis

**Objective:** To hit the ball into opponent’s service court using forehand and backhand strokes

**Facility:** One tennis court per four students

**Level:** Ages 10 and up

**Time:** 15 minutes

**Equipment:** One tennis racket per player and two tennis ball per four players

**Organization:** The boundaries of the court are the doubles sidelines and the rear service court lines, making a short, narrow court; two players on each side of net (two doubles teams)

Directions:

1. Players determine who serves first by any means (e.g., coin toss, racket spin).
2. Server drops the ball into service court and hits it diagonally over net to opponent’s court. That player must return it across the net for play to begin. If not returned, server serves again.
3. Players rally as in regular tennis but must keep the ball inside the short and narrow court.
4. Other than the service rule and boundary lines, regular rules of doubles tennis are used.
Variation:

* Scoring may be simplified, playing to a pre-determined number of points rather than game-set-match scoring, with service changing every point.

* Players may be prohibited from smashing ball downward, particularly if they are beginners.

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Submitted by Debra Sension-Hall