

CUMMINGS ATHLETICS



Cummings-Howell Scoring

“The NATURE of tennis is the first to 4 win by 2 along with opportunity to reset” – Dave Howell & Darryl Cummings

IT’S THE NATURE OF THE GAME...

To win a game a player must win 4 points and be ahead by 2.

To win a set, a player must be ahead by 2 games.

To win a match, a player must win at least 2 sets.

Tie breakers, a player must win 4 points and be ahead by 2.

CUMMINGS-HOWELL SCORING FORMAT OPTIONS (All formats are with ads):

MICRO SET: 2 game set with a 4 point tiebreaker played at 2 all. Player can win 3-1.

MINI SET: 4 game set with a 4 point tiebreaker played at 4 all. Player can win 5-3.

MAX SET: 6 game set with a 4 point tiebreaker played at 6 all. Player can win 7-5.

4 POINT BREAKER: First player to reach 4 points win by 2. First player to serve 1 point, next player serves 2 then 2 etc..etc.. until someone wins by 2. Change sides of the court the first 2 points and then every 4 points.

SCORING FORMAT FACTORS: Three factors in choosing tennis scoring formats are entertainment, competitiveness, and player development.

ENTERTAINMENT: Usually relates to the amount of time spectators are willing to watch an quality athletic event. Tennis seems to be 3 hours or less.

COMPETITIVENESS: Does the player with the best skill have the most opportunity to win? There is a difference between a 1 point tournament and 3-out-of-5 max sets.

PLAYER DEVELOPMENT: Does the format provide an opportunity for players to improve their game? Tennis is the first one to 4 win by 2 along with the opportunity to reset.

CUMMINGS-HOWELL SCORING is beneficial for entertainment, competitiveness, and player development.

ABOUT DAVE HOWELL AND DARRYL CUMMINGS: Collectively Dave Howell and Darryl Cummings have created and founded the Universal Tennis Rating and 7 Shot Tennis along with coaching USTA National Junior Champion, Grand Slam Players, multiple NCAA DI qualifiers, NCAA All-Americans, National College Champion, and multiple highly ranked NCAA players. In addition, their experience includes club ownership and organizing tennis for decades.

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QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

QUESTION: What are the thoughts on NO-AD scoring?

CUMMINGS-HOWELL: NO-AD has been used for entertainment and to save time. Not effective for competitiveness and player development. Recommend playing 2-out-of-3 MINI sets with a MICRO set for the third over 2-out-3 MAX NO-AD sets.

QUESTION: What is the recommended format for college tennis team?

CUMMINGS-HOWELL: Doubles 2-out-of-3 MICRO SETS. Singles 2-out-of-3 MINI SETS.

QUESTION: How does one determine which format is appropriate for the occasion?

CUMMINGS-HOWELL: The chosen format can be condensed or expanded as determined by the experience, age, conditioning, skill level and time available as set by the event coordinator.

QUESTION: What is the thought of an 8-game pro set?

CUMMINGS-HOWELL: Outdated. Get rid of them! No reset. Not how long someone can play tennis it is how well someone can play tennis. The only thing worse than an 8-game pro set is a 10-game pro set. The only thing worse than a 10-game pro set would be a 10-game pro set with NO-AD.

QUESTION: Is the 4 point tiebreak is too short?

CUMMINGS-HOWELL: No. A game of tennis is the first player to 4 points win by 2.

QUESTION: What does reset mean?

CUMMINGS-HOWELL: Start again. Losing player may want to try a different game plan or do the same game plan better. Rock-Paper-Scissors.

QUESTION: Explain previous scoring format thoughts and what makes this one the most effective?

CUMMINGS-HOWELL: Most scoring systems have been developed through committees and the thinking at the time. In addition, a committee may have an agenda that does not best serve tennis.

The CUMMINGS-HOWELL scoring is based on the nature of the game. When the Universal Tennis Rating was developed it was important to listen to the nature of the game. The game wanted an accurate rating system where players and organizations could understand a player's level along with the opportunity to get them a good match.

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QUOTES

"The NATURE of tennis is the first to 4 win by 2 along with opportunity to reset" -Dave Howell & Darryl Cummings

"Nobody cares how long someone can play tennis they; care how well someone can play tennis" – Dave Howell & Darryl Cummings

"NO-AD can be very entertaining....so can the circus" – Dave Howell & Darryl Cummings

"Who created the 10 game pro set with NO-AD and what were they thinking?" – Dave Howell & Darryl Cummings

"NO-AD is referred to as Sudden Death for a reason" – Dave Howell & Darryl Cummings