



Net Games and Wall Games in PE Explained

KS3 Ages 11-14 ⌚ 3 min read

What Are Net Games?

Net games are sports where players or teams hit or throw a ball over a **net** that divides the playing area into two sides. The goal is usually to make it impossible for your opponents to return the ball. In net games, the net acts as a barrier between you and your opponents.

Popular **net games** include **tennis**, **volleyball**, **badminton**, and **basketball**. In each of these sports, players use different equipment—rackets, hands, or other tools—to send the ball to the other side of the net. The net is a permanent fixture that stays in the same place throughout the game.

Think of it like two teams separated by a fence, throwing a ball back and forth across it. The fence (net) stays still, and you need to get the ball over it and away from where your opponents can reach it.

What Are Wall Games?

Wall games are sports where players use a wall as part of the game itself. Instead of having opponents on the other side of a net, one or more walls become the playing surface. Players hit or throw a ball against the wall, and the ball bounces back to them or to their opponents.

Examples of **wall games** include **squash**, **handball**, **racquetball**, and **four square**. In these games, the wall is an active part of play—it's not just a divider but part of the strategy. Players must judge how hard to hit the ball and where to aim it on the wall.

Think of it like bouncing a ball against your garage wall and having to catch or hit it when it comes back. The wall is your partner in a way—it returns the ball to you.

Key Differences

The main differences are about **space** and **setup**. In **net games**, two sides face each other across a net. In **wall games**, players share the same space and use the wall to

bounce the ball. Net games are usually played across a court, while wall games happen in a smaller, enclosed space with walls.

Also, in **net games**, you're trying to prevent your opponent from reaching the ball. In **wall games**, you're often trying to hit the wall in a way that your opponent can't get to the ball in time, or you're working together to keep the ball moving.

Both types of games are brilliant for fitness, hand-eye coordination, and teamwork. They just use space and equipment differently!