

THE HALF VOLLEY
by Peter Farrell

Playing Standard: ITN 2 to 6

Long Term Player Development Pathway: Phase 3/4

Nobody ever practises the half volley! But if you want to be an effective net player, it is a shot you need to master.

A good opponents first thought when she sees you coming into the net is always going to be *“can I make my opponent hit a half volley?”* Smart players know that, if they hit a shot either with heavy topspin, or softly with slice, the ball will dip at the incoming volleyers feet, and make for a difficult shot which it is hard to attack from.

If you are keen on the **serve and volley tactic**, it is even more likely that, against a savvy opponent, you will end up playing lots of half volleys. Most serve volleyers only get in to around the service line after their serve, before it is time to split step as the receiver makes contact with her return. Being that far back from the net makes it relatively easy for the receiver to dip the return of serve at your feet.

There is no way around this – the only solution is to improve your half volley.

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For individual advice on this or any aspect of tennis, please contact your local Tennis Coach Ireland coach –
see www.tenniscoachireland.ie

For more information on the ITN:
http://www.tennisireland.ie/player_database/what_is_the_itn

For more information on the Long Term Player Development Pathway:
http://www.tennisireland.ie/coaches/player_development_pathway