# How to defend against an Australian Formation

This formation (placing the net player in the cross-court position from the returner) is used to stop the crosscourt return. This formation forces the returner to think of other options (down the line return, lob). This formation takes away the most common crosscourt return and forces them to play a lower percentage return.

## Tactics to implement:

1. Lob crosscourt. This will usually cause some confusion if executed properly.
2. Make a decision on your return early. Do not change your mind on your return.
3. Hit return straight at the net player to miss-foot and surprise the net player.
4. Remember, since the server is serving closer to the center mark he/she has less angle to hit wider serves so re-position your return stance (most servers will serve down the center line (middle) so the poacher can be activated).
5. Communicate with your partner where you intend to return.
6. Play "two-man back" which will provide a more defensive posture.

## General Mindset:

1. Don't panic. Be proactive! Communicate with your partner what you would like to do on return of serve.
2. Don't play your weaker shots. This is what your opponents want you to do. Limit unforced errors.