

# elite™ freedom

Owner's Manual



built for life®

  
**LOBSTER®**  
7340 Fulton Avenue  
North Hollywood, CA 91605

place  
stamp  
here

## TO OUR CUSTOMERS

**Thank you** for purchasing a Lobster ball machine. Please read this owner's manual in its entirety before operating your Lobster ball machine. These instructions were written to ensure your safety and to protect the machine.

## CHECK FOR DAMAGE

Inspect your machine for damage. The machine may appear undamaged externally, but internal parts could be damaged. Test all of the machines functions.

## SAVE THE ORIGINAL SHIPPING BOX

The original box and inserts should always be used if it is necessary to ship the machine back to the factory.

**If you have questions about your ball machine, DO NOT contact your dealer; please call Lobster Sports directly at 800.210.5992**

Serial Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Purchase Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## ! WARNING

TO AVOID INJURY:

- Keep face out of ball path - balls can shoot out from opening at any time.
- Use only for tennis practice with conventional tennis balls.
- Turn off the machine when leaving it unattended or before performing maintenance tasks.
- Never place body parts or objects into machine.
- Never operate with parts removed.
- Never add balls while machine is running.
- Never put wet tennis balls in machine.



7340 Fulton Avenue  
North Hollywood, CA 91605  
tel 800.526.4041 fax 818.764.6061

www.lobstersports.com  
sales@lobstersports.com  
support@lobstersports.com



### WARRANTY REGISTRATION - Fill out info below, tear at perforation and mail back to validate warranty. (\*Required Fields)

Machine Serial Number\* \_\_\_\_\_

Name\* \_\_\_\_\_ Email\* \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address\* \_\_\_\_\_ City\* \_\_\_\_\_ State\* \_\_\_\_\_ Zip\* \_\_\_\_\_

Phone\* \_\_\_\_\_

Purchase Date\* \_\_\_\_\_ Where Purchased\* \_\_\_\_\_

**How did you learn about Lobster?** (circle) Quality Design Price Reputation Previous Customer Portability Better Features  
 Dealer Website \_\_\_\_\_ Tennis Magazine Tennis Week Magazine Other Magazine/Search Engine \_\_\_\_\_  
 Dealer \_\_\_\_\_ Friend \_\_\_\_\_ Pro \_\_\_\_\_ MSN \_\_\_\_\_ Yahoo \_\_\_\_\_ Google \_\_\_\_\_

**What attracted you to this product?** (circle) Quality Design Price Reputation Previous Customer Portability Better Features  
 Income (circle) \$40-60K \$60-80K \$80-100K \$100-\$120K \$120-140K \$140-\$160K \$160-200K \$180-200K \$200K+  
 Age (circle) 15-25 25-35 35-45 45-55 55-65 65-75 75-85 85+ \_\_\_\_\_

**Occupation** \_\_\_\_\_

**OPTIONAL EXTENDED WARRANTY\*\*** Please send in a separate envelope within 60 days of purchase.  
 Please select from the following: Credit Card # \_\_\_\_\_ Expiration Date \_\_\_\_\_  
 1 Year .....\$65 Verification Code (last 3 digits in signature bar) \_\_\_\_\_ Select (circle) Visa Mastercard Discover Card  
 2 Years .....\$110 Authorization Signature \_\_\_\_\_  
 3 Years .....\$149

Lobster Sports warrants each Lobster Elite machine purchased will be free from DEFECTS IN MATERIAL AND WORKMANSHIP for the extended period specified above past the normal 2 year limited warranty. The extended warranty period will run consecutively from the warranty period determined at time of purchase. **It does not cover parts worn under normal use**, specifically the battery and the server wheels.  
\*\*Extended warranties only apply to machines located in the United States.

## CUSTOMER SERVICE

Since 1970, Lobster Sports has been dedicated to providing outstanding Customer Service. We invite our customers to contact our Customer Service department at **800.526.4041** anytime between 8:00am - 4:30pm PST, Monday-Friday. After hours, please leave a voice message or email us at [support@lobstersports.com](mailto:support@lobstersports.com).

### Shipping Damage

If an order arrives with shipping damages, contact Customer Service immediately for a replacement. If a replacement part will not correct the problem right away, a Return Authorization Number will be issued.

## LIMITED WARRANTY

Lobster Sports warrants that each Lobster Sports ball machine purchased will be free from defects in material and workmanship for 2 years from the date of purchase except for the battery and server wheels which are warranted for 6 months. Demonstration models and reconditioned machines have a 1 year warranty. Said warranty to be determined by Lobster Sports at time of purchase. Any part of ball machine which proves to be defective in material or workmanship within the 2 year warranty period will be repaired or replaced at Lobster Sports' option with a new or functionally operative part. Warranty extends only to the original customer and may be enforced only by such person.

This warranty does **not** cover the following conditions: A) Damage resulting from misuse, neglect, alteration, accidents, tampering, abuse, fire, war, insurrection, civil disorder, flood, acts of God or any other casualty; B) Failure of Customer to properly follow operating instructions provided by Lobster Sports at time of delivery; and C) Damage caused by use on circuits or voltages other than indicated on the applicable nameplate.

**This limited warranty is in lieu of all other express warranties. Any implied warranties of merchantability and fitness for a particular purpose shall coincide in duration with the 2 year limited warranty. The exclusive remedy of the Customer hereunder shall be repair or replacement as stated above. Under no circumstances shall Lobster Sports be liable to the Customer or any other person for incidental or consequential damages of any nature, including, without limitation, damage for personal injury or damages to property; and however occasioned, whether alleged as resulting from breach of warranty by Lobster Sports, the negligence of Lobster Sports.**

No agent, employee or representative of Lobster Sports or any other person is authorized to modify this warranty in any respect. This warranty gives you specific legal rights and you may also have other rights, which vary, from state to state.

This limited warranty is void unless Customer completes and returns the attached **warranty response form** to Lobster Sports within 30 days of receipt of the ball machine.



## MACHINE SETUP

### Intended Use

This tennis ball machine is intended to be used in a dedicated tennis facility. For safety reasons, players should stand on the opposite side of the tennis net at a minimum of 35 feet away from the machine. This tennis ball machine is designed to throw **tennis balls only**.

### Unpack and Assembly

- Remove the machine from the box.
- Detach the hopper and flip the hopper over.
- Reattach by pushing the hopper onto the case knobs, start with the front knob (furthest from handle), then attach hopper to the back knob.
- **Do not remove the wire deflectors.**

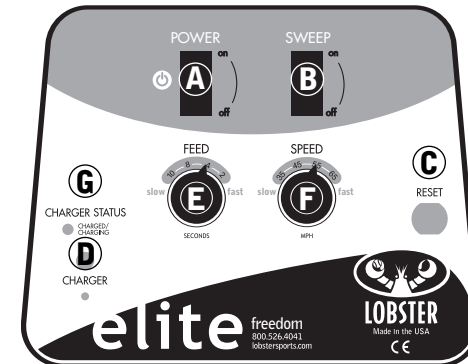
### Handle Operation

To raise the handle, simply lift up on the handle until a click is heard or felt. The handle will then be in the locked, upright position. To fold the handle, stand behind the machine and place hands on the outer sides of the handle hinges. Press the lock buttons on the outside of the hinges and push the top of the handle forward over your machine.

### Transporting

The machine weighs approximately 38 lbs, and may be lifted into a vehicle by one or two people using the molded handholds on the underside of the machine. Before transporting, invert the hopper to cover the machine and fold the handle over the hopper.

## CONTROL PANEL



- A. Power Switch** – Powers the machine on and off.
- B. Sweep Switch** – Turns on and off the random horizontal sweep.
- C. Reset Button** – If the button pops out, turn off the machine; push the reset button back in, and power up machine. Call Customer Service at 800.526.4041 if problem persists.
- D. Basic Charger** – Connect the basic charger here.
- E. Feed Knob** – Turn clockwise to adjust the feed from 10-2 seconds.
- F. Speed Knob** – Turn clockwise to adjust the speed from 35-65 mph.
- G. Battery Charge Indicator** – This LED indicates the battery's charge. Low battery blinks rapidly. Solid green indicates a fully charged battery.



## OPERATING INSTRUCTIONS

### Court Placement

To ensure the best position and widest range of sweep, use the white line marker on the bottom of the machine and place the machine at the center mark on the baseline.

If desired, move the machine closer to the net to narrow the sweep or move it back from the baseline to widen it. To reposition the machine, turn on the horizontal sweep and turn it off when the machine is in the desired position. It is not necessary to pick up and reposition the machine.

### Power the Machine

Turn the machine on by switching the Power button on the control panel. Ensure both the ball speed and feed dials are at their lowest setting.

- Turn the power on, set the feed to 10 seconds and the speed to 35 MPH.
- Put 3-4 balls in the machine. Confirm the trajectory and speed are appropriate. Adjust, if necessary. Once you have set the machine up properly, turn machine off, load the hopper full of balls, and then turn machine on again to play.
- To turn off the feed, turn off the power button.

### Elevation Hand Crank

The knob is located on the lower right side of the machine. Pull-out and twist the Elevation Knob located on the lower right side of the machine clockwise to raise your ball trajectory up and turn counter-clockwise to lower your ball trajectory. The ball indicator on the front of the case will allow the user to identify and return to preferred settings.

### Ball Consistency

The consistency of ball throws is dependent on the consistency of the tennis balls you use. Consistent balls will produce consistent ball throws. A mixture of new and old balls will produce inconsistent ball throws. Pressureless balls are recommended for use with a ball machine. For more information, call Lobster at 800.526.4041 or visit our website at [www.lobstersports.com](http://www.lobstersports.com).

## MAINTENANCE

### Storage

Store the machine in a clean, dry location. Never store the machine in a closed car trunk. A trunk's temperature can reach 180 degrees. Extreme temperatures and conditions can affect the machine's electronic board and battery. Exposure to rain and snow will damage the electronics.

### Cleaning

Turn the power "off" when cleaning the machine. The outside of the machine may be wiped down with a mild detergent. The inside of the machine may be vacuumed to remove tennis ball fuzz. In addition, remove all small debris (i.e. leaves, sand particles, dirt, etc.) from the tennis balls before refilling the hopper and playing. The Lobster storage cover is an ideal way to protect your machine from the elements.



## CHARGING INSTRUCTIONS

### Charging the Battery with the Basic Charger

Charge the machine for 12 - 16 hours before the first use. If you purchased a fast charger with the machine, you will not receive the basic charger.

- Insert the Basic Charger into the control panel jack.
- Plug the charger into a live AC outlet and charge the machine for 12-16 hours.
- To ensure that the battery will not be overcharged, disconnect the charger after no longer than 24 hours. Never charge the battery for longer than 24 hours in a row.

### Charging the Battery with the Premium Fast Charger or Fast Charger

Trickle charge technology ensures the battery will not be overcharged.

- For the **Premium Fast Charger** insert the round 3-prong battery charger connector into the round charger jack located on the left side of the red case. Plug the charger into a live electrical outlet. The battery will be fully charged in 2-3 hours.
- For the **Fast Charger**, insert the round 3-prong battery charger connector into the round charger jack located on the left side of the red case. Plug the charger into a live electrical outlet. The battery will be fully charged in 4-6 hours.
- A red light on either charger indicates the battery is charging.
- A green light indicates the battery is fully charged.
- For optimal capacity, charge the battery with the fast charger after each use.

### Using the Machine with the Premium Fast Charger or Fast Charger

The machine can be used with either the fast charger or the premium fast charger plugged in to extend your play time.

- Ensure the battery is mostly charged.
- Connect the round 3-prong battery charger connector into the round charger jack located on the left side of the red case.
- Plug either the Fast Charger or the Premium fast Charger into an electrical outlet. Power the machine and play.
- The fast charger can extend your playing time up to 1-2 hours. The Premium Fast charger can extend your playing time up to 3-4 hours. It will NOT fully charge the battery and power the machine at the same time. It will not work if the battery is dead.

FOR UNLIMITED PLAY YOU MAY PURCHASE LOBSTER SPORTS' EXTERNAL AC POWER SUPPLY. Please call Customer Service at 800.526.4041 or visit [www.lobstersports.com](http://www.lobstersports.com)

### Battery Capacity

While charging, a solid green LED light on your panel indicates a fully charged battery. Before storing the machine, ensure the battery is fully charged. When the machine is not in use (i.e. during the winter season or when in storage) charge the machine every month until the LED light is solid green. Never let the machine go uncharged for more than one (1) month. The most common reason for a dead battery is a dead AC outlet.

