

Sheffield and District

SQUASH LEAGUE

Rules and Regulations

1. League Format and Regulations

- A. Teams in the open divisions are made up of **four** players. Women's and Racketball teams are made up of **three** players.
- B. The leagues will consist of as many divisions as there are teams available. Each division will normally consist of between 6-10 teams. League structure is agreed at the AGM each year.
- C. The winter season will be from September to March, with each team playing every other team at home and away. The season will also take into account half-term breaks.
- D. Clubs must pay an entry fee of £30/team to enter the league.
- E. Juniors must wear eye protection or forfeit the match.
- F. Players (including referees and spectators) are expected to abide by the England Squash Code of Conduct. Disciplinary proceedings are in line with the Yorkshire League rules.
- G. The rules of play shall be the World Squash Federation's current edition, and the ball used shall be the Dunlop Pro double yellow spot for open divisions one to three. The Racketball league shall use the Black ball.

2. Match Management

- A. Where 2 teams from a club play in the same division, they must complete their fixtures before the end of January.
- B. Division one matches shall take place on Monday nights.
- C. Matches must normally commence by 7:40. The home club is responsible for ensuring adequate courts are booked.
- D. All matches must be completed on the fixture's day and played entirely on the courts of the home club
- E. All matches allocated for the first half of the season must be played by Christmas. Doubling up is not permitted.
- F. Teams can only rearrange fixtures with express, written permission from the opposing team. Club reps are responsible for updating fixture dates and ensuring all parties have agreed to the change.
- G. A 2-point penalty will be awarded for each walkover, 16 points for a team walkover.
- H. The home team must mark all matches.
- I. All ties will be the best of five games. Point-a-rally (PAR) 11 scoring will be used in division one and Racketball. All other divisions will play to 15. Each game counts one point, the team winning the match gets **four** bonus points. Racketball and Women's leagues are **three** bonus points).
- J. The home team should aim to submit results within 48 hours of the fixture.
- K. The home team is responsible for providing refreshments and hospitality after the match. As a matter of courtesy, the away team captain is responsible for informing the home team captain if any away team member will not be staying after the match.
- L. The home team must ensure that the courts are safe to play on.

3. Qualification and Nomination of Players

- A. All players must be entered into the Players List in LeagueMaster. Teams must be nominated in LeagueMaster in merit order a week before the first fixture date.
- B. Teams must play in nominated order and must be re-nominated at the halfway point. The fixtures secretary may make exceptions. It is recommended to use Squash Levels as a guide; the league permits some discretion where players are ranked very close. If players are not nominated in merit order, the league reserves the right to seek clarification and request a change if necessary.
- C. Teams may nominate players up until the Christmas break. Any player who was nominated in the first half but did not play will need to be removed from the second-half nominations, and team captains are expected to adjust their second-half nominations accordingly, with players in the correct merit order.
- D. Each team will play in order of merit, as nominated. Team captains are responsible for ensuring each fixture is played according to Rule 27, and any queries relating to individual players must be made to the other captain or the Fixtures Secretary within 24 hrs of the fixture being completed.
- E. All players must be bona fide members of the club they represent.
- F. Players may play for their nominated or higher team but not a lower team.
- G. Players may play up to a higher team three times throughout the season. If they play up a fourth time, they will be team-tied to the higher team for the remainder of the half-season.
- H. The players within a team must play in club-nominated order, including those playing up.
- I. If a player plays out of order, the string and all strings below will be awarded to the opposition.
- J. Any team playing a non-nominated player will have that player's match, and all those below them will be void, and the points will be awarded to the opposition. In the first half of the season, teams may nominate players until the Christmas break; however, they must be registered on LeagueMaster at least 24 hours in advance of any fixture.
- K. No player may play for two different clubs in the League or two teams in the same division during a season.
- L. Teams may register new players until the Christmas break. They must have played a game before this date to be eligible to play for the rest of the season (unless there are exceptional circumstances and with permission of the League Secretary, e.g. If a player was injured in the first half or if a team needs a player to fulfil a fixture but may only request a player at the lower order below string 3 using squash levels as a guide, each request is dealt with on a case-by-case basis, the decision of the league secretary is final. No team will be permitted to bring a player in at numbers 1 or 2, which is deemed as obtaining an unfair advantage and being anti-competitive.

4. Promotion, Relegation and Trophies

- A. Promotion and relegation shall typically be two up and two between divisions. It will be decided by the number of points won by teams during the season. If two teams are level on points, the aggregate of points in the matches played between the two teams will decide. Should this be the same, there shall be a playoff match at a neutral venue unless agreed otherwise by the two captains.
- B. The league winners will be awarded trophies, which will be presented at the S&D AGM or another suitable event.
- C. In order to maintain balance between divisions, it is often necessary to adapt the promotion and relegation format. Any alterations will be voted on at the AGM.

5. Disputes & Discipline

- A. All disputes shall be submitted in writing to the League Secretary, who will either decide the matter or refer it to the League Referees. The League Secretary will compile a log of disputes over the season for review at the end.
- B. All decisions from previous seasons cannot be used as an argument for any current season.
- C. All decisions are final. Should a season be truncated before the halfway point, play and tables to that point will be declared null and void. If, after the halfway point, the divisional tables as they stand shall be taken as the final tables.
- D. Any disciplinary outcomes are open to an appeals process; in the first instance, team captains must write to the League Secretary to start an appeal. Once the appeal has been reviewed and a decision has been made, the league secretary will write to each club affected by the decision. The committee's decision is final.
- E. The League reserves the right to overturn any decision should new evidence or information be necessary to alter a previous decision. All decisions consider the competitive balance and fairness in the league so that clubs/teams and fixtures are treated equitably.

6. Amendments to the SnD Format and Rules

- A. Changes to the Sheffield & District Format and Regulations shall be agreed upon at the S&D AGM, where practical, or at the committee's discretion when necessary.