



National Club Championships 2024/25 REGULATIONS

1. EVENT CATEGORIES:

1	Men's Championship (4 player team)	(PAR Scoring to 11)
2	Women's Championship (3 player team)	(PAR Scoring to 11)

2. CLUB ELIGIBILITY:

The Championships are open to all clubs, centres, and service units, which are affiliated to England Squash for the 2024/25 season.

To compete in the Championships, a club must have paid its affiliation fees in full for the year in which the competition operates, by the date of the first tie. Failure to do so will result in the tie awarded to the opponents.

3. PLAYER ELIGIBILITY:

i) For a player to be eligible to represent a club in the Championships they must meet the following requirements. A player must:

- Be a registered and paid member of England Squash, Just Play being the minimum. "Registered" means that the details of and payment for a competing player has been received and can be verified by England Squash. The membership must be valid for the whole period of the competition.
- have represented the club for a minimum of 2 matches in local (including Bath and Queens Cup), county or any of the national leagues in the current season.

ii) PSA Player Eligibility:

A banding system is applied for PSA players who compete in the National Club Championships, which is in line with ESF (European Squash Federation) eligibility rules.

Players who are not members of PSA but have held a PSA ranking in the preceding 3 years prior to the Closing Date shall be "banded" as shown below, except:

- That if any such player nominated in a squad, is nationally ranked higher at the closing date than any currently listed PSA member, or:
- That if any such player nominated in a squad is a non-national player and is considered by England Squash to be of a higher standard at the Closing Date than any currently listed PSA member

Then he/she shall be listed above the current listed PSA player and will be given the same notional 'band' and points as that player.

Men's Team: Maximum 60 Points per team in any match

Band		Points
A	Current ranking of 1-20	30
B	Current ranking of 21-50	20
C	Current ranking of 51-100	15
D	Current ranking of 101-150	10
E	Any ex-PSA member that had a previous PSA ranking <151 shall carry 10 Banding points forward until 45 years of age	10
F	Other	5

Women's Team: Maximum 40 Points per team in any match

Band		Points
A	Current ranking of 1-10	20
B	Current ranking of 11-30	15
C	Current ranking of 31-75	10
D	Any ex-PSA member that had a previous PSA ranking <76 shall carry 10 Banding points forward until 45 years of age	10
E	Other	5

- Teams may **not be strengthened** by the inclusion of any players who have not played in at least one match prior to the Quarter Final (Men's) and Semi-Final (All Other Events).
- For the Men's event there must be a minimum of three players, who qualify to represent England, Ireland, Scotland or Wales (qualification determined by rules laid down by the Home Associations), for the Women's event there must be a minimum of two players who qualify to represent. There is no limit to the number of "overseas" players representing a club during the Championship, if a maximum of one is used in any tie.
- Fielding ineligible players may result in that match and all below it in the tie being awarded to the opposing team.

4. FINES

- i) Teams that reach the finals weekend but fail to contest their match/withdraw may incur a fine.
- ii) Clubs will have the right to appeal which must be made to the Tournament Director within 14 days, the appeal will be passed on to ES who will either uphold the appeal or reduce or sanction the fine. Clubs will be advised of the outcome within one week of the decision.
- iii) Any club that refuses to pay a fine may result in the club banned from all future championships.

5. FIRST AID:

All hosting teams should note it is their responsibility to have a first aider always present. It is also the responsibility of the away team to check with the hosts that a first aider is available.

6. NOMINATIONS:

All Team Organisers must submit team nominations online in order of merit at least 48 hours before their first fixture. Players may be added during the championships so long as they are placed in the correct merit order, so long as rules 3. i) f) & 3. ii) c) are adhered to.

7. SCORING:

- i) All events will be played with PAR scoring to 11. Should players reach 10-10 in any game a tie break will operate, the winner needing to win by 2 clear points.
- ii) Should a Men's Squash match finish at 2 rubbers each, the winner will be decided on games won, should this be equal it is then decided on points won, if points are equal then whichever teams' number one has won shall be the winning team.

8. SUBMITTING RESULTS:

It is the responsibility of both Team Organisers to submit the results using the online system on the night of a fixture or the latest within 3 days of the fixture.

9. FORMAT:

- Men's event will be played between teams of 4 players,
 - Women's events between teams of 3 players.
- ii) All teams shall play players strictly in descending order of strength, i.e., merit order.
- iii) The **home team** must offer their opponents, by telephone, email or text, a choice of at least three dates within three days of the receipt by them of the draw for the Knockout Stage and within seven days for the Group Stage, two of which must be at different weekends and two weekday evenings. The first date offered must provide a minimum of seven days' notice. A response to the offered dates should be made within three days. **Should the away side receive no offer of dates within the prescribed three days, the away team should initially attempt to contact the home side, and if unsuccessful the Tournament Director should be contacted immediately.** If the home team has offered dates as described, the away side must accept one but if no mutual agreements can be reached the "play by" date listed becomes the play on date.

Time extensions beyond round dates will only be granted by the Tournament Director and will only be agreed in very exceptional circumstances. Teams are encouraged to make contact within the time stipulated to avoid the danger of elimination if matches cannot be arranged.

- iv) Clubs who organise unauthorised extensions to round closing dates are liable to disqualification. Cancellation of ties with less than 48 hours' notice will constitute a walk-over to the opposing team unless exceptional circumstances prevail, e.g., extreme travel difficulties. The judgement of exceptional circumstances will be the responsibility of the Tournament Director.
- v) The WSF Rules of the Game and the England Squash Code of Conduct will apply to all matches for this competition.
- vi) **The format for each event will depend on entry numbers.** If possible, we will run regional group stages, with the winners moving into a knockout stage to guarantee a minimum 2 or 3 matches. Where necessary the right is reserved to give byes.
- viii) It is the responsibility of the home club to book and pay for adequate court time for the tie including time required in respect of delayed commencement. The home team must also provide and pay for a post-match meal for players.
- ix) The Dunlop Pro squash ball is the official ball of the championships and will be used for the finals weekend. These are the default balls for all previous rounds but may be changed by agreement of both captains provided it is a ball approved by England Squash.
- x) Prior to the commencement of the tie, captains will exchange teams in order of merit and confirm the order of play. In the Men's Squash event ties should be played on two courts with the order of matches being 4 and 3 on one court and 1, 2 on the other. In the Women's event, one court should be used with the match order 3, 1, 2. The order may only be varied by agreement between both captains. Should any player fail to arrive within 30 minutes of the scheduled starting time, or having arrived fail to play the match, that string shall be forfeited, and a further forfeiture may be imposed by the Tournament Director.
- xi) The finals weekend will be held on 14th/15th June 2025. Venue to be confirmed.
- xii) The Tournament Director reserves the right to declare certain matches, involving considerable travel as neutral venue matches. In such circumstances the Tournament Director will appoint one team to make adequate arrangements suitable to both parties. Any costs incurred should be divided between the participating teams.

10. ENTRIES / ADMINISTRATION:

- i) There is an entry fee of £52 (4 person team) or £39 (3 person team) per event category. Entries close midnight 2nd February 2025.

- ii) **Draws will be available using an online system. Team Organisers must use the online system for submitting nominations and results to enable the smooth running of the championships.**
- iii) All enquiries relating to the Championships should be directed to the Tournament Director at nationalclubchamps@englandsquash.com Any complaints relating to ties must be made in writing within 48 hours of the complaint arising.
- iv) The decision of the Tournament Director and England Squash shall be final.