



INTER COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIPS

ADULT REGULATIONS

Adopted: 24/08/2017

**Please read the regulations carefully before entering
teams into the championships**

The regulations must be adhered to at all times

1. **TITLE:**
The competition is called "The England Squash (ES) Inter County Squash and Squash57 Championships".
2. **ORGANISATION OF THE CHAMPIONSHIPS:**
The Championships are organised by ES. (See Appendix A for the list of categories for this season)
3. **ENTRIES:**
Applications are made online through the League Master system, details of how to enter teams are forwarded to each county secretary or federation contact and must be completed no later than 5pm **28 July 2017**.

English counties must be members of ES, guest counties must pay the appropriate guest fee per team entered – see below

The finishing positions of the previous season determine which division a team is entered into in the current season, where there are multiple divisions within a category. Where possible, teams are grouped geographically within each division.

New teams are entered into the lowest division of the relevant category.

Any number of teams from a county can be entered into each category, with the following provisos:

- Only one team per county is allowed to play in the Premier Division or in a single category final.
- Players must play in strict order of merit i.e. top ranked 5 in 1st team, 6 – 10 in 2nd team etc. Players must not play down to strengthen the 2nd team.
- Results of County Closed Tournaments must be sent to ES on request.

All guest entries from outside England, i.e., Ireland, Scotland or Wales, must be entered by the appropriate Federation. There will be a charge of **£150** per team entered. ES reserves the right to revoke guest entries at any stage.

To protect the integrity of the competition, counties withdrawing a team from the Championships are liable to be fined. Details of the fines process for this season are set out in point 14.

Counties should not enter a team unless they have a SQUAD large enough to honour the entry commitment and can comply with the Championship Regulations.

4. **TEAMS:**
All teams consist of five players, with the exception of Men's Over 60, Men's Over 65, Women's Over 50 and Squash57 Over 40 which all consist of three players.
5. **QUALIFICATION:**
 - (a) **ES Membership**
All players representing teams in the Championships must be current members of ES at the time of participation, except those covered by the guest county fee. England Squash membership numbers must be entered into League Master except for non-English teams

Team captains have the responsibility to ensure that all players are members of ES prior to participation. If an ineligible player takes part the team that they represent will be scratched from the Championships. There will be no exception to this rule. Fines may be applicable at ES' discretion.
 - (b) **Player Eligibility**
 - i) **Players can only compete in the Championships if they are qualified to play for England, Ireland, Scotland or Wales for the relevant season.**

NOTE If not a British Citizen – Rights of Residency apply – a player must have resided (subject to all other points below) in the UK for 1 continuous year (365 days), and not have played for another country in the year preceding the current season's Championships.

- ii) A player may not represent more than one county in the Championships in one season.
- iii) Players are always (subject to [i] and [ii] above) qualified to play for their county of birth.

NB: In the case of the formation of a new county, players can elect to play for the new county at the time of its formation, or the old county – either through birth or residency qualifications. Once this choice is made it cannot be altered. The same applies if a change of county boundaries results in their birthplace or residence becoming situated in a different county.

- iv) A player is (subject to [i]) qualified to play for any county where they have resided continuously for three months preceding the start of the season and are still residing. (The season starts on the date of the first county fixture). **A fallow year is required when changing counties.**
- v) A residential qualification **cannot** be obtained through a school, university, college or other place of further / higher education or training unless a player's bona fide home is in the same county as the school or university, e.g., unless they are a permanent member of the resident staff.
- vi) A player can continue to represent a county that they have played for in the Championships through a residential qualification after they have stopped living in that county and provided that they have not played for any other county.
- vii) A player may request to represent a county (if it has a common border with the county of residence), to which they can demonstrate a strong link, if neither their county of residence, nor their county of birth, has entered the Championships. If a player wishes to play in the Championships, but has no county of residence, but was born in England, they must represent their birth county. If they were born overseas, and live overseas, they can apply to represent a county to which they can demonstrate a strong link.
- viii) In all cases where a player's qualification is in doubt, it is obligatory on the county they wish to represent to prove the qualification to the satisfaction of ES.
- ix) Age criteria specific to certain categories is shown in Appendix A.

(c) **County Eligibility**

A county is eligible to apply to enter any of the categories in the Championships provided it is recognised as being a county (in England) a region (in Wales) a District (in Scotland) or a Province (in Ireland) by ES and is authorised to compete by the relevant Association / Federation.

6. **ORGANISATION OF THE CHAMPIONSHIPS:**

- a. The Championships are organised in local clusters, these are dependent upon entries per category.
- b. The Championships are held in two stages, each of which are played over a weekend when ES allocate a host county. Successful teams progress from Stage One to a Finals weekend.

Stage I: Group matches to determine the make-up of Stage II.

Stage II/Finals: Group matches to determine final regional positions and the promoted and relegated counties (where relevant).

All 8 teams in the Premier Division of the Men's and Women's Open categories contest a finals weekend playing for positions 1-8. The bottom 2 teams are relegated.

- c. All matches must be played on the published dates. Any postponement and subsequent rearrangement must be ratified by ES. See the England Squash website for dates.
- d. It is the responsibility of all host counties to ensure that a qualified first aider is present for the full duration of the event.
- e. When assessing group results for establishing the next round, if the number of teams in each group is not the same, results from the smaller group will be increased pro rata to enable comparison.

7. **HOSTING:**

- i) Counties (other than guest counties) are asked to host fixtures, and this is a requirement of entry.

- ii) All host clubs must be affiliated to ES.
- ii) **Host counties must be sympathetic to travelling counties in the choice of venue (subject to ii above) i.e. as centrally located as possible.**
- iii) An appropriate meal must be provided for all teams.
- iv) Sufficient court time must be allocated.
- v) A split venue is not acceptable, unless ratified by ES.
- vi) Adequate showering/changing facilities must be available.
- vii) A clear point of contact **MUST** be at the club for the duration of all matches.

8. **WEEKEND ORGANISATION:**

Each host county must appoint a Host Organiser who is responsible for administering and running the Championships. More detailed information about the hosts responsibilities will be emailed to the captain with fixture information.

9. **REFEREES:**

Host Counties should try to provide sufficient qualified referees. (Contact England Squash (inter.county@englandsquash.com) for a list of active referees in your area.) However, if this is not possible, players from each county must share the responsibility for refereeing.

10. **SCHEDULE OF MATCHES:**

i) **Format for Four Teams in a Group:**

The draw for ties in each stage is determined by the vertical order of the teams listed in the group.

County 1 is always the host county with No 2 being the closest to it geographically and so on.

Session 1	Sat	1300	1 v 4	2 v 3
Session 2	Sat	1700	1 v 3	2 v 4
Session 3	Sun	1100	1 v 2	3 v 4

Variations to these times are acceptable should all counties in a group agree. However ES must ratify any changes before they are made.

The first two sessions are played on Saturday and the third on Sunday, although Friday may be added to Over 45 / 50 / 55 / 60 if all Counties agree, so that only one match is played on each day. In the latter case, Friday matches should start at 1900. ES must ratify a Friday play date.

ii) **Format for Three Teams in a Group:**

The draw for ties in each stage is determined by the vertical order of the teams listed in the group.

County 1 is always the host county with No 2 being the closest to it geographically and so on

All matches should be played on the Saturday, **unless all 3 teams agree otherwise.** (ES must be notified of any change) The session times are:

Session 1	1100	1 v 2
Session 2	1400	2 v 3
Session 3	1700	1 v 3

iii) **Format for Two Teams in a Group:**

County 1 is always the host county

The host county is to set the match time

iv) **WOMEN OVER 40**

The Women's Over 40 League is played on Sundays with the following draw:

5 Team League

Time:	1100	1400	1700
1st Sunday (host 1)	1 v 4 & 2 v 5	2 v 4 & 1 v 5	n/a
2nd Sunday (host 3)	3 v 5	4 v 5	3 v 4
3rd Sunday (host 2)	1 v 2	1 v 3	2 v 3

4 Team League

Time:	1100	1400	1700
1st Sunday (host 1)	1 v 2	2 v 3	1 v 4
2nd Sunday (host 3)	2 v 4	1 v 3	3 v 4

There is a finals weekend for the top team within each group.

v) WOMEN OVER 50

The Women's Over 50 League is played on Sundays with the following draw:

5 Team League

Time:	1100	1400	1700
1st Sunday (host 1)	1 v 4 & 2 v 5	2 v 4 & 1 v 5	n/a
2nd Sunday (host 3)	3 v 5	4 v 5	3 v 4
3rd Sunday (host 2)	1 v 2	1 v 3	2 v 3

4 Team League

Time:	1100	1400	1700
1st Sunday (host 1)	1 v 2	2 v 3	1 v 4
2nd Sunday (host 3)	2 v 4	1 v 3	3 v 4

There is a finals weekend for the top team within each group.

vi) ORDER OF PLAY

Teams of 5 should use 2 courts:

Court A: Court B:
String 3 String 5
String 1 String 4
String 2 (First available)

Teams of 3 should use 1 court:

Court A:
String 3
String 1
String 2

11. SCORING:

Point a Rally to 11 is used for all categories except for MO55, MO60, MO65 AND WO50 who use PAR 15.

(a) Each stage of the Championship is scored separately.

Definitions

A match is played between individuals.

A tie is a series of five matches (3 in categories involving 3 player teams) played between two counties.

(i) One point is awarded for each county game won in a match.

(ii) Five bonus points are awarded to counties winning a tie (3 points in categories involving 3 player teams).

(b) At the end of the stage the counties are placed:

(i) Firstly on the number of ties won.

(ii) Secondly on the number of points.

(iii) If the above are equal for two counties, on the result between the two counties.

(iv) If the number of points are equal for three counties, on the number of matches won.

(v) If the above are equal, the greatest positive difference between total games won and total games lost.

(vi) If all above are equal the total positive difference between total points won and total points lost.

12. **PROMOTION AND RELEGATION:**

Within categories with multiple divisions, two teams will be promoted and relegated each season. Each season teams will be reassigned into regional groups. This gives all participating counties the opportunity to progress to the finals weekend

13. **RULES OF PLAY:**

WSF Rules of Squash apply. Courts must comply with WSF specifications.

14. **WITHDRAWALS / FINES**

Withdrawals

If a county withdraws from the Championships, **the team captain must immediately:**

1. Contact ES - in writing (email is acceptable), stating reason for withdrawal. A telephone message is not acceptable.
2. Contact the host county organiser, and follow up in writing 1 week from date of withdrawal.
3. Contact all other county organisers in group, and follow up in writing 1 week from date of withdrawal.
4. A county that withdraws from Stage I will be excluded from Stage II, unless agreed by ES.

Please note that there is a flat rate fine of £80.00 for any withdrawal up to the 8 day or less rule

- £80.00 per team for withdrawals notified to ES from a week after entries closing up to 8 days prior to the start of the event.
- £100 per team for withdrawals notified to ES 8 days prior to the start of the event.
- Thereafter a £10 increase to the fine per each extra day. i.e. 4 days before event £140, to a maximum of £180.00.
- Persistent breaches of this rule may result in the team or county being banned from the Championships for a period determined by ES.
- On receipt of a withdrawal ES will advise the County Secretary of any fine incurred.
- Once notification of a fine has been received the County has a right of appeal, and has 14 days in which to lodge its appeal with ES.
- ES will refer the appeal to the National Forum who will either uphold the appeal, reduce, or sanction the fine. Counties will be advised of the outcome within one week of the decision.
- Once this process is complete counties must settle any fines imposed within 7 days. Failure to do so could jeopardise a team's participation in future seasons.

Counties that incur costs relating to late / unacceptable withdrawals by others should apply in writing to ES for consideration of monetary compensation. Any compensation is met from fines received from the withdrawing team.

15. **DISCIPLINARY ISSUES:**

ES has the authority to disqualify a player or county from the Championships, fine a player or county, or deduct points from a county during participation in the Championships. Players or counties shall have the right of appeal which should be in writing within ten days of receipt of a disciplinary ruling. Any appeal will be heard at a place and time at the discretion of ES. All out-of-pocket expenses incurred in connection with any appeal is to be paid by the party or parties to the appeal and in such a manner as ES determine.

16. **CODE OF CONDUCT:**

It is the responsibility of competing counties to ensure that all players in their teams abide by the ES Code of Conduct. (Available on the website)

17. **MATTERS NOT COVERED BY THE REGULATIONS:**

Any matters arising regarding qualification which are not covered by these Regulations should be submitted to ES not less than fourteen days before the date on which a decision is required so that a ruling can be given.
The decision of ES in all matters in relation to the Championships is final.

APPENDICES

A: EVENT CATEGORIES

B: CODES OF CONDUCT

C: ICC CALENDAR 2016 - 2017

APPENDIX A:

EVENT CATEGORIES – including eligibility criteria

MEN'S

1. Men's Championship
2. Over 35 Championship
3. Over 45 Championship
4. Over 50 Championship
5. Over 55 Championship
6. Over 60 Championship
7. Over 65 Championship

WOMEN'S

1. Women's Championship
2. Over 40 Championships
3. Over 50 Championships

OPEN

1. Squash57 Open
2. Squash57 Over 40

MEN'S CHAMPIONSHIP:

This is an open age event – players of any age may participate.

MEN'S OVER 35:

Players are eligible to participate on, and after, the day of their thirty fifth birthday.

MEN'S OVER 45:

Players are eligible to participate on, and after, the day of their forty fifth birthday.

MEN'S OVER 50:

Players are eligible to participate on, and after, the day of their fiftieth birthday.

MEN'S OVER 55:

Players are eligible to participate on, and after, the day of their fifty fifth birthday.

MEN'S OVER 60:

Players are eligible to participate on, and after, the day of their sixtieth birthday.

MEN'S OVER 65:

Players are eligible to participate on, and after, the day of their sixty fifth birthday.

WOMEN'S CHAMPIONSHIP:

This is an open age event – players of any age may participate

WOMEN'S OVER 40:

Players are eligible to participate on, and after, the day of their fortieth birthday.

WOMEN'S OVER 50:

Players are eligible to participate on, and after, the day of their fiftieth birthday.

SQUASH57

This is an open event – players of any age and gender may participate – mixed teams are allowed.

SQUASH57 OVER 40

Players are eligible to participate on, and after, the day of their fortieth birthday – mixed teams are allowed.

Proof of date of birth in all age categories must be supplied on request

APPENDIX B

CODES OF CONDUCT

1. GENERAL

The ES Code of Conduct is designed to secure the future well-being in squash and Squash57. Different aspects of the Code may have relevance to players, officials, spectators and administrators involved in a squash or Squash57 tournament or competition. The Code, therefore, applies to all these categories and should be understood by all concerned with competitive squash.

2. EVENTS ADMINISTRATION

Organisers of squash or Squash57 tournaments and competitions must ensure that clear and comprehensive regulations are prepared and available to all competitors in time to permit compliance with such regulations.

Administrative instructions, which require particular actions by players and / or officials, must be clearly stated and communicated to those concerned.

Adequate arrangements must be made to permit the proper conduct of a tournament or competition.

3. OFFICIALS

Officials should be competent to handle the level of match to which they are appointed, and must ensure that it is conducted in accordance with the Rules of Squash. These officials are responsible for ensuring the good conduct of players during a match.

4. PLAYERS

The Code of Conduct for players (and their managers and coaching staff where applicable) applies to individuals and teams. Players who enter tournaments or competitions thereby accept all regulations associated with the event, and shall subsequently comply with them.

No players shall withdraw from an event after submitting an application to enter without the consent of the event organiser. Such consent will normally only be given in the following circumstances:

- a) When the player has incurred accidental injury or ill-health after submitting an entry application.
- b) When the player application to enter is turned down following completion of the draw.

Players must be familiar with the Rules of Squash and must make every effort to comply with them.

Players must conduct themselves at all times in a way which brings credit to the image of squash and Squash57 in the eyes of spectators, the media and sponsors. They must behave with dignity on court and recognise the need for continuity of play. They must recognise the legitimate interests of the squash and Squash57 media, and make themselves available to meet reasonable requests for interviews, photo calls and press briefings. They must also recognise their responsibilities to sponsors and event organisers, and meet reasonable requests to attend formal and informal functions associated with the event. Some specific aspects of behaviour on court, or in public which are considered contrary to creditable conduct are include in the following list which is not intended to be comprehensive.

- a) Swearing.
- b) Making offensive gestures.
- c) Disputing decisions made by a referee.
- d) Deliberate contact between players or between players and playing equipment.

5. SPECTATORS

Spectators must remain silent during rallies, and should not encourage extended and undignified delays between rallies by attempting to provoke discussion between players and officials, or between the players themselves.

6. DISCIPLINARY MATTERS

ES supports the Rules of Squash as published by the WSF. All tournaments and competitions organised in England under the auspices of or in conjunction with ES shall be played according to the rules of squash.

7. RULES OF SQUASH – CODE OF CONDUCT AND RESULTING PENALTIES

7.1. Are contained within the Rules of Squash and they outline the powers available to any referee for dealing with on court offences by players.

7.2. In addition, and provided that the referee is ES qualified, the referee must submit a report to ES within four days of awarding of Code of Conduct Penalties (stroke, game or match).

- 7.3. Accumulation of Code of Conduct penalties following the submission of these report forms will result in an automatic ban. Additional penalties may also be imposed, as denoted in 7.7.4 and 12.8.
- 7.4. A player will accumulate penalty points for each conduct offence: stroke – 1 point, game – 3 points. There is no sanction for a warning.
- 7.5. There is no penalty provision for the award of a match because this would be dealt with by the ES Disciplinary Panel on an individual case basis.
- 7.6. Only the most serious infringement in a single match shall be used for the purpose of point's accumulation. However, if the most serious infringement is repeated during the match, the point's accumulation shall reflect this by being totalled.
- 7.7. A Player will invoke automatic bans for reaching the follow levels in one calendar year to be added to any other sanction which a player may attract:
- 7.7.1. Game Awarded - One Week
- 7.7.2. Accumulation of Five points - One Month
- 7.7.3. Any additional two points (over five points), accumulated in the same year will result in a ban of one Further Month.
- 7.7.4. If a player is subject to a ban in each of two successive years, a further sanction may be imposed by the ES Disciplinary Panel.
- 7.7.5. Less than seven points in one year, but a combined ten point total in two adjoining years, will attract a two week ban.
- 7.7.6. A ban would prohibit a player from competing in any ES Sanctioned Event or Metropolitan/County League during the period concerned.
- 7.7.7. Any bans commence on the third Monday after the details of the conduct offence are received by the ES office. However, all periods of bans will fall within the months of October – April and may be carried over if necessary.
- 7.8. The ES office will collate the information relating to conduct offences (against which there is no right of appeal), and inform the offending player when a ban is imposed.
8. DISCIPLINARY MATTERS AT EVENTS RUN BY ENGLAND SQUASH
- 8.1. If not already covered in paragraph 2, will be dealt with by the ES Disciplinary Panel.
- 8.2. Any appeals will be dealt with by the ES Appeals Panel.
- 8.3. ES reserves the right to discipline an English player, official, spectator or administrator whilst involved in a registered event outside England.
- 8.4. The implementation of penalties relating to off-site offences as they affect a player in England will be dealt with on their merits by the ES Disciplinary Panel.
9. GUIDANCE DEALING WITH DISCIPLINARY OFFENCES, DISCIPLINARY HEARINGS AND APPEALS.
- 9.1. If not already covered in paragraph 2, alleged offender must be informed as soon as possible after the alleged breach of the Code of Conduct, that a report is to be submitted to the appropriate authority and that he/she may be the subject of a disciplinary hearing.
- 9.2. A written report and written statements must be submitted to the appropriate authority by the appointed tournament director, competition director or other appropriate person within seven days of the alleged breach.
- 9.3. The appropriate authority must notify the alleged offender in writing that a formal complaint against him/her has been received, and copies of the written report and statements referred to in paragraph 12.2 should be supplied to him/her. He/she must be invited to make a written report about the incident or incidents which gave rise to the allegation, and indicate whether they accept the accuracy of the supplied documentation, and in serious cases should be informed of his/her right to have the matter dealt with at a disciplinary hearing.
- 9.4. A Disciplinary Authority of not less than three persons should be appointed to consider the written reports and, if necessary, to convene a disciplinary hearing. The authority should be given clear guidance as to its powers to impose disciplinary sanctions should it find the allegations to be substantiated by the evidence. The authority may be standing or convened to consider a particular incident, and may not contain any person who has any connection with the parties involved.

- 9.5. If a hearing is called, it is essential that the alleged offender be given reasonable opportunity to attend (minimum 14 days) and/or be represented, and statements taken from witnesses must have been served on him/her fourteen days prior to the hearing.
 - 9.6. Consideration of the alleged breaches of the Code of Conduct, whether involving a disciplinary hearing or not, should be dealt with as a clear priority. (It is impossible to set an arbitrary timescale to cover all levels of squash but, at the very least, the aim should be to complete the initial discipline process (excluding appeal) within one month of the alleged breach).
 - 9.7. Except in the case outlined in 9.3, the alleged offender should have the right to appeal to a superior authority against the findings of the Disciplinary Authority (the Authority receiving the disciplinary matter referred to in paragraph 2), and/or any penalty imposed. He/she should also have the right to convene an appeal hearing (see paragraph 12.9).
 - 9.8. A range of sanctions are available for application by a Discipline Authority which considers that the ES Code of Conduct have been breached. The range includes administrative action against event organisers, officials, players and spectators, which could affect their future involvement in squash competitions and tournaments. There is also provision for specific financial penalties.
 - 9.9. Any person wishing to appeal against a decision by a Disciplinary Authority must register an intention to appeal in writing, with the authority which issued the sanction within seven days of being notified of the Disciplinary Authority's decision. Persons appealing against a decision by the ES Disciplinary Panel must provide a deposit of £400.00 in the form of a cheque to ES. The deposit will be returned in full if the appeal is upheld. If the appeal is not upheld, the costs of the appeal will be taken from the deposit. Any penalty imposed by a Disciplinary Authority shall be suspended pending the outcome of the appeal. An appeal Authority should consider the reports and findings of the Disciplinary Authority who first handled the case and may call a further hearing. Those appointed to hear an appeal may confirm, set aside, reduce or increase any penalties already imposed.
 - 9.10. Any expenses of the Disciplinary Authority, the informant and witnesses involved in the first disciplinary hearing will be borne by the authority dealing with the alleged breach. The alleged offender must bear his/her own expenses unless the Discipline Authority otherwise decides. However, the Discipline Authority may, if it so decided, pass on costs reasonably incurred by the offender.
 - 9.11. All expenses incurred in an Appeal Hearing will be borne by the person making the appeal, unless the findings of the Disciplinary Authority (or any part thereof if there is more than one allegation), is set aside. These costs will then become the responsibility of the Authority whose decision has been appealed against.
 - 9.12. An alleged offender may be assisted by a legal adviser or supporter at a hearing if he/she so wishes.
10. **CIVIL OR CRIMINAL ACTION**
If civil or criminal proceedings are pending, all reports and statements should be collated as normal, but the disciplinary proceedings postponed until a decision by the civil or criminal authorities has been reached.
 11. **PENALTIES**
In order to ensure that punishments are as consistent as possible, all results of the disciplinary hearings should be given to the ES office immediately the appeal time limit has expired. Relevant information will then be circulated periodically to Clubs and County Associations.