

CHANGES TO NATIONAL JUNIOR RANKINGS



CURRENT SITUATION

Currently we offer ranking points for county competition which in our opinion (Competition Department and Performance Department) negatively impact players placings as these points are not available to all, as not all counties participate and/or players are selected.

The ranking system currently allows the inclusion of the ICC for Stage 1 and 2. These are entered as 'head to head' results with the winner receiving 50% of bronze points for one round, and are additional to a player's "best 7/6" results.

Points are also awarded for the Regional Closed (Regional point allocation level) and County Closed (Bronze level points).

The admin side of allocating the points is extremely excessive e.g. post County Closed event the data inputting alone takes a member of staff 3 solid weeks, plus additional time chasing results and dealing with errors or anomalies on results submitted.

PROPOSAL

We propose that for the 2017-18 season we will reserve dates in the calendar to carry out the below **optional** county activity:

- 🏸 Junior county training
- 🏸 County Closed event
- 🏸 Regional Closed event
- 🏸 Senior county training

These are optional and down to the individual counties to decide/organise with no support from England Squash HQ.

Regarding ranking points for County Closed and Regional Closed, as there is such inconsistency across the regions, this event often throws up ranking point anomalies which can then impact on ranking positions and seedings for some of the most prestigious junior tournaments. It is unfair to offer ranking points to any of these tournaments as it is not an "open market" to participate/ obtain ranking points. There is the possibility that some regions will not run the events and therefore ranking points should not be awarded.

Players should be proud to represent their county and should not be doing so to chase a few extra ranking points which skew the ranking system, particularly when juniors can play out of age group and there is a lack of consistency across the counties. The Performance Department will also be actively encouraging players to represent their county.

This removal of ranking points for ALL county competition is a decision is fully supported by the England Squash Performance Department.

We also cannot facilitate the allocation of ranking points from a resource point of view. The month that the county closed takes place, the rankings data takes a member of staff a minimum of 3 solid weeks to

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complete. With this volume of tournaments there is also additional staff hours on chasing results and clarifying anomalies/mistakes on received results. Due to the reduction in staff, this is something we cannot continue to undertake.

Please note that with the review of our events systems and the time benefits associated with this we may revisit this issue in the future.

TIME FRAME

These changes will come into affect for the 2017-18 season.