

Guidance for Tournament Organisers

Only Copper & Bronze level competitions will be sanctioned including County Closed (Bronze) and Regional Closed (Bronze) until the end of August 2021.

Competitions will receive ranking points. The National Junior Rankings table will not be updated until September 2021. All points for the competitions between June to August will be included as part of the September update.

Tenders for 2021-22 season (September onwards) will be available in July.

England Squash reserves the right to un-sanction any competition that does not adhere to the UK Government and England Squash guidelines. The competition will be removed from our website and all entries refunded.

General

Indoor restaurant/bar/café areas are able to open and must be operated in line with the relevant guidance.

All sanctioned competitions must adhere to the UK Government and England Squash Back to Squash guidelines.

Tournament organisers are required to update the hosting venues COVID risk assessment with any relevant changes required to host a competition.

Tournament organisers must appoint a COVID officer (this can be themselves) for the competition and this must be communicated to all participants prior to attending. Any participant experiencing symptoms of COVID19 at the competition should report this to the COVID officer who must then follow the relevant guidance outlined in the [England Squash Back to Squash guidelines](#).

For indoor sports, the total number of participants, coaches, officials, and spectators must be in line with the facility guidance on ventilation rates and maximum capacity, and must not exceed 1,000 spectators, or 50% of the club's maximum capacity (whichever is lower). A facilities maximum capacity should be measured by 100sqft per person.

Tournament organisers are responsible for finding out the host venue's maximum capacity and shaping draws, schedules, and any relevant protocols to ensure that capacity is not exceeded.

COVID Guidelines

Spectating at competitions is permitted. Spectators must adhere to government guidance around social gatherings (maximum groups of 30 outdoors and maximum groups of six, or two households indoors). Social distancing and England Squash COVID guidance must be adhered to. Spectators should refrain from shouting or raising their voices.

There are currently no requirements in the UK Government guidelines for the use of lateral flow tests for sports competitions, however we strongly recommend that tournament organisers request that all participants attending their competition test for COVID within 24 hours of the competition start date.

If your host venue requires those attending to test for COVID before arriving at the venue, then please communicate this to England Squash and all entrants. We will update this information as part of the online entry process.

The NHS is offering free lateral flow tests that can be used at home. The tests are available at your local pharmacy or alternatively you can order them online at <https://www.gov.uk/order-coronavirus-rapid-lateral-flow-tests>

Tournament organisers must request that all participants attending their competition complete a COVID symptoms declaration within 24 hours of attending their competition. A draft version of the COVID symptoms declaration form can be found here

The tournament organiser is responsible for ensuring that the host venue's test and trace protocols are followed by all participants.

Establish a plan for what to do if someone develops symptoms at your competition, including:

- Maintaining social distancing
- Advising them to return home if safe to do so and manage their symptoms in line with the relevant advice.
- If the person is unable to travel home safely, they should be isolated from others and someone from their household contacted to make safe arrangements. If this is not possible then phone 111 and follow instructions.
- Identifying other players/staff/workforce who may have come into contact with that person, notify them and direct them towards the relevant advice.
- See the advice below for draws and schedules.

All competitions will be administered via the England Squash website and Club Locker. Entry into the competition must be made via englandsquash.com.

Entries

The England Squash levy fee per player entered still applies to all Copper and Bronze competitions.

	<p>Tournament organisers are allowed to cap entry numbers for their competition to comply with the venue capacity guidelines.</p> <p>Capped draw sizes will be decided on a first come first served basis. All entrants will be organised based on the date they entered the event. Players who enter after the cap has passed will be placed on a waiting list and will be refunded if they do not make the final draw.</p>
	<p>Normal competition entry policies apply with regards to refunds (No refund within 7 days of the competition start date unless agreed by the tournament organiser and England Squash) unless it is a COVID-related withdrawal. Examples of COVID-related withdrawals may include; testing positive for COVID19, requirement to self-isolate or experiencing symptoms of COVID19.</p> <p>COVID-related withdrawals will receive a full refund of their entry fee.</p>
<i>Draws</i>	<p>Tournament organisers are responsible for finding out the host venue's maximum capacity and shaping draws, schedules, and any relevant protocols to ensure that capacity is not exceeded.</p> <p>We recommend that organisers remain inclusive of all age categories. Where age categories become oversubscribed, we recommend exploring alternative ways to include players such as spreading the competition across multiple days, running two separate same age category draws (A and B draw), changing the scoring format to best of 3 to reduce timings.</p>
<i>Seeding</i>	<p>The National Junior Rankings will remain suspended until September 2021. We recommend that organisers seed their competitions using the frozen April 2020 rankings.</p> <p>If a player has aged up during the inactive months, we recommend speaking with a local coach or a regional Aspire coach to support the seeding process.</p> <p>Tournament organisers should communicate their seeding policy with all participants for transparency.</p>
<i>Schedules</i>	<p>We recommend that organisers schedule age categories in blocks to prevent mixing with other age categories. This will reduce the risk of contamination in a competition format.</p> <p>When scheduling, organisers should leave enough time in between matches for the court to ventilate before the next match starts.</p> <p>Tournament Organisers should advise all participants to arrive no more than 5 minutes ahead of their match time.</p>

Upon arriving, participants should remain socially distant in an area away from the court if the match prior to theirs has not finished.

If the hosting venue has outdoor space available for warmups, players should be encouraged to use this maintaining social distancing.

Tournament Organisers should have a contact list for all participants readily available in the event of a delay between matches. Where a court is behind, organisers should contact the players next on court and ask that they remain in their car or an outside area until the delayed match is complete.

To host the competition within the current guidelines, organisers should explore alternative ways to run their competition including:

- Use best of 3 when required to shorten matches and create more space in the schedule.
- Use two days rather than one, separating age categories out across both days to reduce the number of people in the venue in one day.
- Work with neighbouring clubs to run the competition across two different venues, separating age categories out across two separate places to reduce contact risk.
- Make use of any outdoor space to keep players outside of the court areas in between their match times. Provide a list of public outdoor spaces where participants can travel to in between match times.
- Host multiple competitions during the summer to account for any players who were unable to compete and to provide as many opportunities as possible to juniors.