



JUNIOR

REGULATIONS

2025-2026

Updated August 2025

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

The regulations must be always adhered to.

1. TITLE:

The competition is called "The England Squash (ES) Junior Inter County Squash Championships."

2. ORGANISATION OF THE CHAMPIONSHIPS:

The Championships are organised by England Squash. (See Appendix A for the schedule of junior categories for this season).

3. ENTRIES:

Entry to the competition is online, a link and login will be sent to county secretaries and contacts. Entries must be made no later than the 16th November 2025.

It will be at the discretion of England Squash as to whether late entries will be accepted.

Counties will pay £100 per team of 5 players and £60 per team of 3 players. The fees will go towards the combined hosting of the event by England Squash.

- On submission of teams, a strict order of merit and ranking must be adhered to. Where counties have B teams, they must remain in order of merit. Split strengthening of teams is not allowed. England Squash holds the right to query the order of merit where required.
- The same order of merit must be applied to both Stage 1 and Finals of all ICC events. Adding players and strengthening teams at later events is not allowed. England Squash holds the right to query the order of merit where required. (This means that all players who are likely to play at all stages, must be added at Stage 1. Players cannot be added at later stages or Finals unless they are added to the bottom of the list.)
- Players are only permitted to compete in one team for their county. If a county enters multiple teams in the same age group, players must remain on the same team from Stage 1 through to the Finals. For example, if a county fields both an A and a B team in an age group, a player cannot switch between the A and B teams at any point during the competition.

Upon closure of entries, there will be no refunds for any team withdrawing.

In the event of cancellation or withdrawal, England Squash accepts no liability for further costs associated with the event such as hotels and travel.

By entering a team, counties and their players are agreeing to be bound by the rules and regulations of the competition and the England Squash Code of Conduct.

4. FORMAT:

New for 2025-26, Junior ICC will be split into Premiership and Championship leagues.

Premiership:

The top 8 teams from the 2024-2025 season will enter the Premiership and will play finals only. The bottom 2 teams in each age group will be relegated to the Championship for the following season. Matches will be best of 5.

Championship:

Remaining teams from 2024-2025 and new entries will compete in the new Championship league. Stage 1 local competition, winning teams from each region will qualify for the Championship finals. The top 2 teams in each age group at the Championship finals will qualify for the Premiership for the following season. All matches will be best of 3.

Championship - Stage 1 (10th & 11th January 2026):

To reduce travel for all counties, we are returning to a more local format for Junior Inter Counties Stage 1. Each

region will host its own Stage 1 event, involving only the counties within that region. Each regional event will be held over one or two days, depending on court availability and numbers of entries. The competition will follow a round-robin format.

Finals (21st & 22nd March 2026):

Both Championship and Premiership finals will be on the same weekend and will be a maximum of an 8 monrad draw (subject to number of entries per age group).

Stage 1

- Stage 1 will be split into 8 Regions: North East, North West, East Midlands, West Midlands, South East, South West, East and South.
- Please see appendix 1 for a breakdown of the region, each county has been assigned to. Counties have been placed with consideration to geographical location and county entries within the previous seasons. Counties can request to move regions as part of the final feedback loop. Requests must be made via email by a county official to junior.intercounty@englandsquash.com.
- A regional representative will be appointed to support our tournament director in the delivery of stage 1.
- Schedules will be distributed 4 weeks prior to the start of Stage 1 with timings for each fixture. No changes will be made to the schedule from the Wednesday before stage 1 unless all team managers are notified and agree to the changes.
- Hosting clubs will be organised by the regional coach within the designated regions. If a county/club wishes to host within their region, please contact us via email to register your interest at junior.intercounty@englandsquash.com.
- Stage 1 will see individual age groups playing across one day to reduce costs associated with travel and accommodation. E.g. BU11's playing on Saturday, GU11's playing on Sunday. Counties required to travel the greatest distances may be allocated more favorable match times during the group stage, where possible.
- Sport Manager will be used as the tournament software. Nominations will open 4 weeks prior to Stage 1.
- Contact names and numbers for organisers at each venue will be made available prior to Stage 1 as well as Tournament Director who will be the first point of contact.
- Team captains will have roles specified by England Squash prior to stage 1 so they know what to expect on the day.
- Matches will be best of 3 scoring system.

5. DATES:

Stage 1: 10th & 11th January 2026

Finals: 21st and 22nd March 2026

- Finals: All age groups will be played over both days.

6. TEAMS:

- Boys U13s, U15s & U17s teams will consist of 5 players.
- Boys U11s, BU19s and all Girls teams will consist of 3 players.
- Counties can enter multiple teams per age category.
- Players can only compete in one age category.
- Players can play up an age category subject to the regulation above.
- Players must play in a strict merit order.

7. QUALIFICATION:

a. England Squash Membership

All players representing teams in the Championships must be current members of England Squash throughout the Junior Inter County Championship season. England Squash membership numbers will be checked using the tournament software.

Team managers have the responsibility to ensure that all players are members of England Squash prior

to participation. If an ineligible player takes part the team that they represent will be scratched from the Championships.

b. Player Eligibility

- i. Players can compete in the Championships if they are a current British or Irish Citizen.
- ii. Players can only represent one county during the season.
- iii. Age eligibility will be based on the competition's entry date. If a player is of the correct age as of the entry closing date then they will be eligible for the remainder of the competition at that age category. For example, a player under the age of 11 may compete for a U11's team for the duration of the competition if they are of the correct age up to the closing date 16th November 2025. **Please note a 19-year-old playing in the final will have to wear eye protection. No exemptions.**
- iv. Players are qualified to play for their county/region of birth or residency agreed upon by England Squash under the existing residency rules. Players residing in boarding schools will have no exception to this.
- v. Overseas players who are at boarding schools or University may play for the county where they reside.
- vi. Whereby the county in which a player qualifies for, does not have a team, the player may make a request to England Squash to represent a different county along with an email from the county that does not have a team authorising the switch. It will be at the discretion of England Squash as to whether this request will be accepted.
- vii. A player may continue to represent a county that they have played for in the Championships after they have stopped living in that county, providing they have not played for any other county.
- viii. In all cases where a player's qualification is in doubt, it is obligatory on the county they want to play for to prove the qualification to the satisfaction of England Squash.
- ix. Girls are permitted to play within boys categories without need for consultation with England Squash as long as the county does not have a Girls team in that age group.

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 England Squash and is authorised to compete by the relevant Association/Federation.

8. ORDER OF PLAY

3 player teams: 3,1,2 (all matches on one court)

5 player teams: Court A: 3, 1, 2
Court B: 5, 4

9. MARKING OF MATCHES:

Players will be required to act as markers/referee for games. In a 3-player tie, the 2's will mark/referee first, followed by the players who have just finished playing. In a 5-player tie, the 2's and 4's will mark/referee first, followed by the players who have just finished playing.

Parents and coaches should refrain from interfering with the markers during matches.

10. SCORING:

ALL MATCHES WILL BE PLAYED USING PAR TO 11 SCORING:

- a. A match is played between individuals.
- b. Matches in the Championship will all be best of 3 matches.
- c. Matches in the Premiership will all be best of 5 matches.
- d. A tie is a series of five matches played between two counties. With the exception of ALL Girls & Boys U11 & U19 categories which involve three matches.
- e. One point is awarded for each county game won in a match.

- f. Five bonus points are awarded to counties winning a best of 5 tie. Three bonus points when teams consist of 3 players.
- g. At the end of the stage 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 is 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

11. RULES OF PLAY:

WSF Rules of Squash apply. The Championships must be played on courts that comply with WSF specifications. All competitors must wear goggles also within the specifications.

12. DISCIPLINARY ISSUES:

England Squash may disqualify a player or county from the Championships, fine a player or county, or deduct points from a county during 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 England Squash. All out-of-pocket expenses incurred in connection with such an appeal shall be paid by the party or parties to the appeal and in such a manner as England Squash determine.

13. CODE OF CONDUCT:

It is the responsibility of competing counties to ensure that the team manager complies with England Squash [Child Protection](#) criteria and that all players in their teams abide by the England Squash Code of Conduct.

Instances of unacceptable behaviour will not be tolerated and will be dealt with severely.

14. MATTERS NOT COVERED BY THE REGULATIONS:

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

APPENDICES

A: JUNIOR PLAYER'S WELFARE AND BEHAVIOUR

B: REGIONS

APPENDIX A

JUNIOR PLAYER'S WELFARE AND BEHAVIOUR

Squads competing in the Junior Inter County Championships will be deemed to fall within the control of the appointed Team Manager, both on and off court, for the duration of each competitive fixture.

England Squash advises Team Managers to obtain the following information concerning juniors in their team:

1. Contact details of Parents / Guardian.
2. Contact details of Family Doctor.
3. Emergency contact.
4. Medical history, condition and requirements, e.g., asthma, heart condition, diabetes, fits, fainting or blackouts, allergies.
5. Special dietary requirements.
6. Any addition information which may be relevant.

THIS LIST IS NOT EXHAUSTIVE

Each Team Manager (and not the Host Organiser) is responsible for ensuring that players adhere to the ES Code of Conduct on court.

OFF COURT

In public places, especially hotels, consideration should be given to other guests in all respects.

The purchase and consumption of alcoholic drinks is strictly forbidden by any player under the age of 18. Any player 18 years or over wishing to purchase and consume alcohol may only do so with prior permission by the Team Manager.

Dissent to a match official or organiser is not acceptable, and players who show dissent or abuse will be severely sanctioned.

It is recommended that each team member is given a copy of this Appendix so that the importance of responsible behaviour is made clear to them. Players should sign a sheet before each weekend, acknowledging their understanding and willingness to abide by these regulations and guidelines.

PARENTS / MANAGERS

Parents / Managers must refrain from interference in matches. All complaints should be directed to the Host Organiser. ES reserves the right to ban any manager or parent from courtside at any event should it be felt necessary to do so.

Appendix B

Region 1: North East

County Name	Region
Durham and Cleveland	North East
Northumbria	North East
Yorkshire	North East
Scotland	North East

Region 2: North West

County Name	Region
Cheshire	North West
Cumbria	North West
Lancashire	North West
Merseyside	North West
North Wales	North West

Region 3: East Midlands

County Name	Region
Derbyshire	East Midlands
Leicestershire	East Midlands
Lincolnshire	East Midlands
Northamptonshire	East Midlands
Nottinghamshire	East Midlands

Region 4: West Midlands

County Name	Region
Herefordshire	West Midlands
Shropshire	West Midlands
Warwickshire	West Midlands
Worcestershire	West Midlands

Region 5: South East

County Name	Region
Kent	South East
Middlesex	South East
Surrey	South East
Sussex	South East

Region 6: South

County Name	Region
Berkshire	South
Buckinghamshire	South
Hampshire	South
Oxfordshire	South
Wiltshire	South

Region 7: East

County Name	Region
Bedfordshire	East
Cambridgeshire	East
Essex	East
Hertfordshire	East
Norfolk	East
Suffolk	East

Region 8: South West

County Name	Region
Avon	South West
Cornwall	South West
Devon	South West
Dorset	South West
Gloucestershire	South West
Somerset	South West
South Wales	South West