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|------|--|---|
| 1 | SUMMARY..... | 2 |
| 2 | Detailed breakdown | 3 |
| 2.1 | Junior Ranking Eligibility..... | 3 |
| 2.2 | Ranking system to be used..... | 3 |
| 2.3 | Rankings points | 4 |
| 2.4 | Divisory and qualifying period..... | 4 |
| 2.5 | Playing 'up' in older age categories | 4 |
| 2.6 | Mixed Under 9s ranking | 4 |
| 2.7 | Transferring points between age categories | 4 |
| 2.8 | Moving between age categories | 5 |
| 2.9 | Eligible tournaments | 5 |
| 2.10 | Introduction of Diamond level ranking points | 5 |

1 SUMMARY

The national junior rankings will have the following features:

- 🎯 Rankings will be based on a finishing position system, with points assigned based on the tournament category, draw size and finishing position.
- 🎯 To appear on the rankings, players must:
 - Have a valid and up to date membership
 - Have completed an age-appropriate online refereeing course. New course to be updated in October 2021.
 - Have played at least one sanctioned England Squash competition.
- 🎯 Players may be ranked in multiple age categories.
- 🎯 A flat points structure will be used (points awarded will be the same across all age categories). Points awarded will be equivalent to current Under 19 points.
- 🎯 Plate positions to be recorded as main draw finishing positions.
- 🎯 A player's best seven results (best six for Under 19) obtained within the 12 months prior to date of publication will be used to determine a player's ranking score.

***Due to the extended period of inactivity caused by COVID-19 the eligibility period for results has been extended on a temporary basis to results obtained within the 22 months prior to date of publication (this will include 8 months' worth of active results). When we reach the 1st February 2022 rankings update, the eligibility period will change to results obtained within the 8 months prior to the date of publication. This eligibility period will increase month by month until the second update June 2022 where the eligibility period for results will resume under its usual 12-month period. ***

- The extended period will cover the following:
 - September 2021 v1 Rankings: Results from 28th November 2019 to 27th August 2021
 - September 2021 v2 Rankings: Results from 12th December 2019 to 11th September 2021
 - October 2021 v1 Rankings: Results from 28th December 2019 to 27th September 2021
 - October 2021 v2 Rankings: Results from 12th January 2020 to 11th October 2021
 - November 2021 v1 Rankings: Results from 28th January 2020 to 27th October 2021
 - November 2021 v2 Rankings: Results from 12th February 2020 to 11th November 2021
 - December 2021 v1 Rankings: Results from 28th February 2020 to 27th November 2021
 - December 2021 v2 Rankings: Results from 12th March 2020 to 11th December 2021
 - January 2021 v1 Rankings: Results from 28th March 2020 to 27th December 2021
 - January 2021 v2 Rankings: Results from 12th April 2020 to 11th January 2021
- The extended period will reduce from 22 months to 8 months. An extra month will be added until we reach a 12-month eligibility period again.
 - February 2021 v1 Rankings: Results from 28th May 2020 to 27th January 2021
 - February 2021 v2 Rankings: Results from 12th June 2020 to 11th February 2021
 - March 2021 v1 Rankings: Results from 12th June 2020 to 27th February 2021
 - March 2021 v2 Rankings: Results from 12th June 2020 to 11th March 2021
 - April 2021 v1 Rankings: Results from 12th June 2020 to 27th March 2021
 - April 2021 v2 Rankings: Results from 12th June 2020 to 11th April 2021
 - May 2021 v1 Rankings: Results from 12th June 2020 to 27th April 2021
 - May 2021 v2 Rankings: Results from 12th June 2020 to 11th May 2021

June 2021 v1 Rankings: Results from 12th June 2020 to 27th May 2021

June 2021 v2 Rankings: Results from 12th June 2020 to 11th June 2021

- ❏ Players may 'play up' in higher age categories of sanctioned events. For Bronze events and below, this is with the Tournament Director's approval; for Silver, Gold, Diamond and Platinum events this is only with the England Squash Performance Team's approval
- ❏ Points may be transferred between age categories using the following rules:
 - A maximum of two results from the age category immediately above can be included in a player's best seven results in any age category
 - When a player 'ages up' into a new age category, their best four results from the previous age category will be carried over at a rate of 50% of their original value. These four results will be replaced by results in the new age category as they are added
- ❏ In order to achieve fairness and consistency, ranking points will only be assigned to England Squash sanctioned events (Platinum, Diamond, Gold, Silver, Bronze and Copper level). Rankings points will not be assigned to Junior Inter County Championships, Junior Regional Closed and Junior County Closed tournaments

2 Detailed breakdown

2.1 Junior Ranking Eligibility

Eligibility to appear on the National Junior Rankings system is based on the following:

- ❏ A valid England Squash membership for the ranked player (linked to an England Squash ID).
 - Should a ranked player's membership expire, ranking points shall be retained, but the player will not have a published ranking
 - Ranking points will not be earned for any tournament played during which time the player does not have a valid membership
- ❏ Players are eligible to be ranked in multiple age categories. To be ranked in any age category, the player must have played at least one sanctioned competition within the eligibility period.
- ❏ Players will automatically appear in their new age category when 'ageing up' with their best four results from the previous age category carried over at a rate of 50% of their original value.
- ❏ The player must have completed an age-specific refereeing and marking course (to be developed by England Squash). The 2021/22 will be available online in October.

2.2 Ranking system to be used

Following internal review (including consultation with other federations who have used both systems), a finishing position ranking system will be retained (rather than moving to a 'rating' style system). Points will be awarded based on the tournament category, draw size and finishing position.

Use of a finishing position system will allow a more transparent view of how ranking points are allocated, but also appears to bring other benefits (feedback indicates rating systems are less responsive to individual events, and can in some cases can incentivise participation in smaller or lower level events). Use of this system should not prevent the introduction of any ratings system, which could be integrated alongside the 'official' junior ranking system.

2.3 Rankings points

- ❏ In order to provide a disincentive to playing in older age categories for the pursuit of higher points, a 'flat' points structure will be used, whereby equivalent points are awarded at the same rate in each age category.
- ❏ To avoid ambiguity, finishing positions from any plate competitions are to be recorded as main draw places, i.e. in a 32 draw tournament with a plate competition for first round losers, 1st place in the plate will be recorded as 17th position, 2nd place as 18th and so on
- ❏ Points will be awarded at the rate currently assigned to Under 19 tournaments
- ❏ To assist with transparency, points awarded should be published on the website in the form of a table showing the number of points awarded for each finishing position in every draw size and tournament type

2.4 Divisory and qualifying period

Current rules regarding the qualifying period and number of tournaments that contribute to a player's ranking will be retained for consistency. A player's ranking will therefore be calculated using a player's best seven results obtained within the previous 12 months at Under 11, Under 13, Under 15 and Under 17 age categories, and the best six results in obtained within the previous 12 months at Under 19 level.
 Please see the updated qualifying period in Summary 1 above

2.5 Playing 'up' in older age categories

Existing rules around playing in age categories above a player's 'true' age category will for the most part be retained:

- ❏ For Copper and Bronze events, players must obtain the permission of the tournament organiser in order to be able to play in an older age category
- ❏ For Silver, Gold, Diamond and Platinum events, players may only play in older age categories with the prior permission of the England Squash Performance Team

2.6 Mixed Under 9s ranking

For the 2021/22 season a mixed under 9s age category will be eligible at Copper and Bronze level competitions. Both boys and girls players are eligible to compete in the division. The same rankings policies will apply with the following exception:

- ❏ Players competing in the mixed under 9s division will not carry up results to other age divisions. Points earned in the mixed under 9s division will only count towards the mixed under 9s rankings table. Players can still compete and earn ranking points in the older age divisions.

2.7 Transferring points between age categories

Players may transfer a limited number of results between age categories, based on the following rules:

- ❏ Points may only be transferred to an age category immediately above or below the age category in which they were earned (i.e. points earned at U15 may be used in U15 or U17 rankings, but not U19). Points converted into a higher age category are transferred at 50% of their original value
- ❏ A maximum of two results from a higher age category may be counted in a player's best seven results in the lower age category
- ❏ A maximum of two results (after conversion) from a lower age category may be counted in a player's best seven results in the higher age category

- ❏ Players competing in the mixed under 9s division will not carry up results to other age divisions. Points earned in the mixed under 9s division will only count towards the mixed under 9s rankings table. Players can still compete and earn ranking points in the older age divisions.

2.8 Moving between age categories

Players 'age up' in the next age category on the date of their appropriate birthday (13, 15, or 17). When a player moves into a new age category, their ranking will be determined as follows:

- ❏ Players will automatically appear in their new age category when 'ageing up' with their best four results from the previous age category carried over at a rate of 50% of their original value.
- ❏ The four results from the lower age category will only be used to 'backfill' where there aren't enough results from the older age category to contribute to the best seven – i.e. once a player has played four tournaments at the older age category, only three results from the lower age category will be used and so on

2.9 Eligible tournaments

To eliminate inequality in opportunities for earn ranking points, only England Squash sanctioned events will be eligible for ranking points. This means that the following tournaments will no longer attract ranking points:

- ❏ Junior Inter County Championships. Not all counties choose/are able to enter teams in all age categories, while others enter multiple teams in a single age category. This means that not all players have an equal opportunity to play in Inter County Championships matches

With Junior Inter County matches no longer attract ranking points, the need to assign ranking points for any head-to-head matches is removed, thus simplifying the rules on points awarded.

2.10 Introduction of Diamond level ranking points

The 2021/22 season will see the introduction of Diamond level ranking points. This level will be applied solely to the English Junior Championships and British Junior Championships. The updated ranking levels will be the following.

- ❏ Level 1 Copper, Level 2 Bronze, Level 3 Silver, Level 4 Gold, Level 5 Diamond, Level 6 Platinum.
- ❏ Diamond level ranking points will sit above Gold level but will remain below Platinum level ranking points.
- ❏ All previously assigned ranking points at the 2020 English Junior Championships will remain at Gold level.
- ❏ All previously assigned ranking points at the Surrey Gold 2020 will remain at Gold level.