






NATIONAL
SCHOOLS
CHAMPIONSHIPS




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1 EVENT CATEGORIES

1.1 Boys

-  National Schools Key Stage 5 Championship for Boys
-  National Schools Key Stage 4 Championship for Boys
-  National Schools Key Stage 3 Championship for Boys

1.2 Girls

-  National Schools Key Stage 5 Championship for Girls
-  National Schools Key Stage 4 Championship for Girls
-  National Schools Key Stage 3 Championship for Girls

1.3 Mixed

-  National Schools Key Stage 5 Championship for Mixed team (2 boys & 2 Girls)

2 SCHOOL ELIGIBILITY

The competition is open to representative teams from all England Squash affiliated senior schools and sixth form colleges. It is free for schools to affiliate themselves with England Squash. To do so contact the Membership Department on membership@englandsquash.com.

If a school from off the mainland of England, Wales, Scotland or Ireland wishes to enter, they may do so, however schools must be prepared to play **all** fixtures at away venues.

3 PLAYER ELIGIBILITY

3.1 Age Categories

- ❑ Key Stage 5, for players in school years 13 and below on 1st September 2023.
- ❑ Key Stage 4, for players in school years 11 and below on 1st September 2023.
- ❑ Key Stage 3, for players in school years 9 and below on 1st September 2023.
- ❑ Older players are not allowed to play for younger age groups.
- ❑ Pupils are eligible to play in more than one age group.
- ❑ Schools are not permitted to use the same player in more than 2 age categories.

3.2 Pupil Eligibility

- ❑ Pupils are eligible to play for their schools throughout the period of competition providing they are attending the school for full time education. A pupil is not eligible to be included in a team if he/she is only undertaking part time studies.
- ❑ Schools entering more than one team per category i.e. A and B teams, must register their squads in the same time frames. Players from B teams can play up in A Teams however players from A teams cannot play down in B teams.

3.3 Gender

- ❑ Each boys and girls team will consist of 5 male or 5 female players respectively. All pupils must play in their own gender category with the following exception;

'If a school does not enter a female team into the championships, but there is a female player/s at the school who wishes to participate, then that player may compete in the boy's team, provided they play in merit order. In the event that a girl/s compete in the boys team, the ratio of merit order must 3/2 boys to girls in any given fixture. This rule however does not apply to Male players. Male players may not play for Female teams.'

4 FORMAT

- ❑ The competition will be split into 3 different stages. Stage 1 will be based locally with schools playing in small groups against other local schools. **All teams** will advance from Stage 1 into Stage 2. Stage 2 will then split into two different competitions; the 'Plate' competition and the 'Championship' competition. Stage 3 will be the main finals for both 'Plate' and 'Championship'.

- 🚫 All schools are responsible for entering results.
- 🚫 It is the duty of every school to see that their team is arranged strictly in order of merit every game. Seedings will only be brought in for Finals.
- 🚫 If immediately before a tie, a reserve is required to play, he/she must be placed in strict merit order.
- 🚫 The order of play shall be 5, 4 and 3, 1, 2 on two courts (unless circumstances demand otherwise).
- 🚫 All orders of play must be shared with the opposing team 10 minutes before the commencement of the first game.
- 🚫 Team Managers must enter all results within **72 hours of play**. It is the responsibility of the Group Lead to ensure that this is fulfilled.
- 🚫 Teams withdrawing will be treated as null. No walkovers will be awarded. The final points total for the group will be based upon the fixtures between the remaining teams. Whereby a withdrawal affects the number of teams within the group in comparison to other groups within the competition, the progression of teams within the group will be based upon an average of points accumulated against other group sizes.

4.1 Stage 1

- 🚫 Stage 1 will be played as Every Point Counts. A team's collective score will be calculated based on every point, each player in the team scores during the fixture.
- 🚫 Stage 1 will be a local based event with teams being split into groups based upon location.
- 🚫 Teams will be split into groups of approximately 4 schools per group. Schools will be informed of their groups by 13th October 2023.
- 🚫 All stage 1 group games will be played at a central venue agreed upon by team managers within the group. Central venues must have a minimum of 3-4 courts to accommodate all teams involved. If a venue cannot be agreed upon, England Squash will intervene to select a venue.
- 🚫 All stage 1 games must be completed within the allotted time frames unless agreed upon by England Squash. For times frames please see [section 5.1](#)
- 🚫 All games will consist of 5 players with scoring set as PAR 11, Playing all 3 games, Every Point Counts (please see [appendix](#) for more information on scoring systems).
- 🚫 Games tied at 10-10 will be 'next point wins'.
- 🚫 Cumulative points will be used for each fixture with a team's final points tally consisting of every point, each player in their team scored.

- 🚫 The team that accumulates the most points will win the fixture.
- 🚫 No bonus points will be awarded.
- 🚫 The top two teams in each group will advance through to the 'Championship' competition in Stage 2.
- 🚫 The remaining teams will progress to the 'Plate' competition.
- 🚫 If teams are tied on points, groups will be decided by ties won.
- 🚫 If the above are equal, the greatest positive difference between total games won and total games lost.

4.2 Stage 2

- 🚫 Stage 2 will be a Regionalised competition based on England Squash Regional Forums (x8). Regions: North West, North East, West Midlands, East Midlands, East, South West, South East, South (Where possible).
- 🚫 All schools progress from Stage 1 but teams will split into Championship & Plate.
- 🚫 Groups will be split into approximately four teams for both Championship & Plate.
- 🚫 All stage 2 group games will be played at a central venue agreed upon by team managers within the group. Central venues must have a minimum of 4 courts to accommodate for all teams involved. If a venue cannot be agreed upon, England Squash will intervene to select a venue.
- 🚫 All stage 2 games must be completed within the allotted time frames unless agreed upon by England Squash. For time frames please see [section 5.2](#).

Plate:

All games will consist of 5 players with scoring set as PAR 11, 3 games, every point counts (please see [appendix](#) for more information on scoring systems).

Games tied at 10-10 will be 'next point wins'.

Cumulative points will be used for each fixture with a team's final points tally consisting of every point, each player in their team scored.

The team that accumulates the most points will win the fixture.

No bonus points will be awarded.

The top teams in each group will advance through to the 'Plate Final'. All other teams will be eliminated.

If teams are tied on points, groups will be decided by ties won.

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

Championship:

Performance focused.

All fixtures will consist of 5 players with scoring set as PAR 11 (by 2 clear points), **Best of 3 games**.

One point shall be awarded for each game won in a match.

The team that wins the most matches wins the fixture.

Five bonus points shall be awarded to the schools winning the fixture.

The team who accumulates the most points in each group will advance through to the 'Championship Final'.

If teams are tied on points, groups will be decided by ties won.

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

4.3 Stage 3

- 🎱 Stage 3 will be the main 'Finals Event' for both Plate and Championship competitions.
- 🎱 The finals will be hosted by England Squash - venue to be confirmed.
- 🎱 Monrad draws of 8 teams with all teams playing best of 3 games (Please see [appendix](#) for more information on draws).

Plate:

All games will consist of 5 players with scoring set as PAR 11 (by 2 clear points), Best of 3 games.

One point shall be awarded for each game won in a match.

The team that wins the most matches will win the fixture.

Championship:

Performance focused.

All games will consist of 5 players with scoring set as PAR 11 (by 2 clear points), **Best of 3 games**.

One point shall be awarded for each game won in a match.

The team that wins the most matches wins the fixture.

5 DATES

England Squash has set aside the following dates in the competitions calendar for each stage of the competition. All participating schools must coordinate within their assigned groups, the organisation of a central venue upon which all teams can compete on the same day. Each age group has a separate date set aside in the calendar. Groups will be based upon geographical boundaries and the location of schools entering each age group.

Flexibility of Dates - Please note that the dates set aside in the England Squash Competitions calendar have been done so to ensure all participating teams have advanced notice and can reserve the dates. These dates can be flexible to schools unable to make the fixed date. Team managers are encouraged to communicate with each other to arrange a new mutually convenient date if any team within the group is unable to attend. Any alternative dates must not be more than 10 days after the date set aside by England Squash unless agreed upon by England Squash. Cancellation of ties with less than 48 hours' notice will result in a walkover being awarded to the other teams involved in the group. If a date cannot be agreed upon by the teams involved, England Squash will intervene to set a date.

5.1 Stage 1

Delivered from a central venue on:

Key Stage 3 - Weds 8th November 2023

Key Stage 4 - Weds 15th November 2023

Key Stage 5 - Weds 22nd November 2023

5.2 Stage 2

Delivered from a central venue on:

Key Stage 3 - Wednesday 24th January 2024

Key Stage 4 - Wednesday 31st January 2024

Key Stage 5 - Wednesday 7th February 2024

5.3 Stage 3 Finals

Delivered from a central venue by England Squash on:

Key Stage 3 - Wednesday 13th March 2024

Key Stage 4 - Thursday 14th March 2024

Key Stage 5 - Friday 15th March 2024

6 SEEDING

- 🎯 Seeding will not apply to Stages 1 or 2. When organising groups, we will take into consideration the following factors;
 - Distance between schools - If your school is willing to travel further distances, please notify our competitions department via email and this will be taken into consideration.
 - Previous round activity - we will avoid pairing teams together who have played in previous rounds where possible.
 - Finishing positions in previous rounds - where possible we will always look to separate teams finishing 1st and 2nd within groups. If the first two criteria conflict, then teams may potentially meet.
- 🎯 England Squash competitions department will not complete a full comprehensive review of all players competing within the competition. Seeding for the main finals will therefore be based upon the England Squash Junior Rankings system and previous round performance.
- 🎯 Teams may also request special seeding consideration by submitting relevant Squash level rankings alongside 2 head to head results or any other relevant information against other players competing in the finals (Results can be from external competitions or the National Schools competition). All requests must be submitted by 9am 7 days in advance of the finals to be taken into consideration. Once draws have been completed all seeding positions will be final.

7 RULES OF PLAY

- 🎯 The ball to be used should be an England Squash approved Dunlop Double Yellow Dot Ball. However, if schools with cold courts feel that a better game can be obtained with a faster speed ball; this is quite in order by agreement of both teachers.
- 🎯 **THE WEARING OF ENGLAND SQUASH APPROVED EYE PROTECTION IS MANDATORY FOR ALL ENGLAND SQUASH JUNIOR EVENTS**
- 🎯 Referees should mark where possible, but competitors should also be encouraged to do so.
- 🎯 It is the responsibility of the **Group Lead** to ensure that all safeguarding aspects of the event and a qualified first aider is present for the full duration of the event.
- 🎯 There will be no reimbursement of travelling or court hire expenses.
- 🎯 All fixtures involving an English school should be played in England.
- 🎯 The competition will be played in accordance with the Rules of the Game as published by World Squash Federation
- 🎯 England Squash reserves the right to disqualify a school should it in their opinion contravene the foregoing rules and Conditions of Entry.
- 🎯 All players, teachers (coaches), volunteers, parents must adhere to the official England Squash Code of Conduct and safeguarding rules <https://www.englandsquash.com/about-us/governance/safe-squash>

8 DISPUTES

- 🎯 Any requests to England Squash for a decision on the rules or any other issues must be made by the Team Manager within seven days of the game finishing date to which it relates and must be sent in via email to the competitions team at juniorcompetitions@englandsquash.com.
- 🎯 England Squash reserves the right to request supporting documents and/or information that may be relevant to any dispute made. England Squash may in its absolute discretion consider any such request notwithstanding that the period of seven days has expired.
- 🎯 England Squash will hold final decision over disputes which may arise under the rules and may impose such penalties on an individual/s as it deems appropriate (including without limitation, the impositions of bans). England Squash shall also delegate these powers to its disputes committee. The disputes committee must be made up of a minimum of 3 members one of which must be female.
- 🎯 Any player or parent misconduct should be reported to England Squash. We hope that all Team Managers will adhere firmly to this disciplinary policy, and your co-operation is essential to the implementation of the necessary disciplinary procedures. Penalty measures for players will be strictly enforced by England Squash.

9 ENTRIES AND ADMINISTRATION

- 🚫 There is an entry fee of £12.00 per person in each team per team and this must be paid online via our tournament entry system.
- 🚫 All enquiries relating to the Championship should be directed to the England Squash Competition department.

Teams can now enter the 2023/24 National Schools Championships via [this link](#).

Main Contact

Tim Vail

Competition and Events

Email: juniorcompetitions@englandsquash.com

10 APPENDIX

10.1 Scoring Systems

STAGE 1 & PLATE COMPETITION

- 🔴 PAR 11 - The first player to reach 11 points wins the game.
- 🔴 Next Point Wins - When games are tied at 10-10, the next point in the game will decide who wins.
- 🔴 3 games - Players will play all 3 games regardless of whether one player is winning the tie by two games to none.
- 🔴 Every Point Counts - All points accumulated by both players in all three games will count towards their teams' final points total.

Please use the following example as a guide;

School A	vs	School B
Player A	11-1, 11-1, 11-1 (32-3)	Player A
Player B	11-10, 6-11, 11-7 (28-28)	Player B
Player C	9-11, 11-9, 9-11 (29-31)	Player C
Player D	11-3, 11-4, 11-4 (33-11)	Player D
Player E	4-11, 4-11, 4-11 (12-33)	Player E
	(134-106)	

Team	Won	Drawn	Lost	Points For	Points Against	Total Points
School A	1	0	0	134	106	134
School B	0	0	1	106	134	106
School C	0	0	0	0	0	0
School D	0	0	0	0	0	0

CHAMPIONSHIP COMPETITION

- 🎱 PAR 11 - The first player to reach 11 points wins the game. When scores are tied at 10-10 players must win by 2 clear points.
- 🎱 **Best of 3 games** - The first player to win two games, wins the match.
- 🎱 One point shall be awarded for each game won in a match.
- 🎱 The team that wins the most matches, wins the fixture.
- 🎱 Five bonus points shall be awarded to the schools winning the fixture.
- 🎱 The team who accumulates the most points in each group will advance through to the 'Championship Final'.
- 🎱 If teams are tied on points, groups will be decided by ties won.
- 🎱 If the above are equal, the greatest positive difference between total games won and total games lost.

Please use the following example as a guide;

School A	vs	School B
Player A	11-1, 11-1 (2-0)	Player A
Player B	12-10, 6-11, 11-7 (2-1)	Player B
Player C	9-11, 11-9, 9-11 (1-2)	Player C
Player D	11-3, 11-4, (2-0)	Player D
Player E	4-11, 4-11 (0-2)	Player E
	(6-5)	
+5 Bonus Points	(11-5)	

Team	Won	Drawn	Lost	Points For	Points Against	Total Points
School A	1	0	0	11	5	11
School B	0	0	1	5	11	5
School C	0	0	0	0	0	0
School D	0	0	0	0	0	0

10.2 Draw Types

Monrad Draw - A monrad draw is a multi-match draw format whereby all teams continue to play, win or lose through to a final finishing position.

Please use the following example of the Plate Finals Monrad as a guide;

NATIONAL SCHOOLS CHAMPIONSHIPS 2023/24 REGULATIONS



Round 1		Round 2		Round 3		Finishing Positions
School A		School A		School A		1 st School H
vs	139-106	Vs	130-100	vs	112-132	2 nd School A
School B		School D		School H		3 rd School E
						4 th School D
School C		School H		School D		5 th School B
vs	102-130	Vs	136-98	vs	102-136	6 th School G
School D		School E		School E		7 th School C
						8 th School F
School E		School B		School B		
vs	130-98	Vs	132-102	Vs	128-114	
School F		School C		School G		
School G		School G		School C		
vs	110-140	Vs	128-112	vs	134-98	
School H		School F		School F		