

**National Club
2023/24**



REGULATIONS

1. EVENT CATEGORIES:

1	Men's Championship (4 player team)	(PAR Scoring to 11)
2	Women's Championship (3 player team)	(PAR Scoring to 11)
3	Men's Non County Player Championships (3 player team)	(PAR Scoring to 11)
4	Mixed O35's (3 players – 2 Men & 1 Woman)	(PAR Scoring to 11)
5	Mixed O45's (3 players – 2 Men & 1 Woman)	(PAR Scoring to 11)
6	Mixed O55's (3 players – 2 Men & 1 Woman)	(PAR Scoring to 11)
7	Mixed Junior Championships (3 player team)	(PAR Scoring to 11)
8	Men's Squash 57 / Racketball Championship (4 player team)	(PAR Scoring to 11)
9	Squash 57 / Racketball Doubles (4 players – 2 men, 2 women)	(PAR Scoring to 11)

2. CLUB ELIGIBILITY:

The Championships are open to all clubs, centres and service units, which are affiliated to England Squash for the 2023/24 season.

To compete in the Championships, a club must have paid its affiliation fees in full for the year in which the competition is to be run, by the date of the first tie. Failure to do so will result in the tie being awarded to the opponents.

3. PLAYER ELIGIBILITY:

i) For a player to be eligible to represent a club in the Championships the following requirements must be fulfilled. A player must:

- Be a registered and paid Player Member of England Squash. "Registered" means that the details of and payment for a competing player have been received and can be verified by England Squash.
- Have represented the club in local, county or any of the national leagues in the current season. Clubs wishing to utilise players that do not meet this criteria MUST apply to England Squash.
- Non County Player Championship – No player who has not represented their county from U19 through to Over 55s can compete for their club.
- Players may only qualify to play for one club during the Men's, Women's, Men's Non-County, Mixed Age Group 2022/23 competition, but he / she are permitted to represent a different club in the Squash 57 / Racketball 2023/24 competition.
- Mixed Junior - Each team must field at least 1 girl in the team and the team can play in order of ability. (A team can consist of 3 girls or 2 girls and 1 boy or 2 boys and 1 girl)
- Be nominated for that team using the online system prior to them playing their first match

ii) PSA Player Eligibility:

A banding system has been implemented for PSA players who compete in the National Club Championships, which is in line with ESF (European Squash Federation) eligibility rules.

Players who are not members of PSA but have held a PSA ranking in the preceding 3 years prior to the Closing Date shall be "banded" as shown below, except:

- That if any such player nominated in a squad, is nationally ranked higher at the closing date

than any currently listed PSA member, or:

- That if any such player nominated in a squad is a non-national player and is considered by England Squash to be of a higher standard at the Closing Date than any currently listed PSA member

Then he/she shall be listed above the current listed PSA player and will be given the same notional 'band' and points as that player.

Men's Team: Maximum 60 Points per team in any match

Band		Points
A	Current ranking of 1-20	30
B	Current ranking of 21-50	20
C	Current ranking of 51-100	15
D	Current ranking of 101-150	10
E	Any ex-PSA member that had a previous PSA ranking <151 shall carry 10 Banding points forward until 45 years of age	10
F	Other	5

Women's Team: Maximum 40 Points per team in any match

Band		Points
A	Current ranking of 1-10	20
B	Current ranking of 11-30	15
C	Current ranking of 31-75	10
D	Any ex-PSA member that had a previous PSA ranking <76 shall carry 10 Banding points forward until 45 years of age	10
E	Other	5

- Teams may **not be strengthened** by the inclusion of any players who have not played in at least one match prior to the Quarter Final (Men's) and Semi-Final (All Other Events).
- For the Men's event there must be a minimum of three players, who qualify to represent England, Ireland, Scotland or Wales (qualification determined by rules laid down by the Home Associations), for the Women's event there must be a minimum of two players who qualify to represent. There is no limit to the number of "overseas" players representing a club during the Championship, as long as a maximum of one is used in any tie.
- Fielding ineligible players may result in that match and all below it in the tie being awarded to the opposing team.

4. **FINES:**

- i) Teams that reach the finals weekend but fail to contest their match/withdraw may be incurred a fine.
- ii) Clubs will have the right to appeal which must be made to the Tournament Director within 14 days, the appeal will be passed on to ES who will either uphold the appeal or reduce or sanction the fine. Clubs will be advised of the outcome within one week of the decision.
- iii) Any club that refuses to pay a fine may result in the club being banned from all future championships.

5. **FIRST AID:**

All hosting teams should note it is their responsibility to have a first aider present at all times. It is also the responsibility of the away team to check with the hosts that a first aider is available.

6. **NOMINATIONS:**

All Team Organisers must submit team nominations online in order of merit at least 48 hours before their first fixture. Players may be added during the championships so long as they are placed in the correct merit order, so long as rules 3. i) f) & 3. ii) c) are adhered to.

7. **SCORING:**

- i) All events will be played with PAR scoring to 11. Should players reach 10-10 in any game a tie break will operate, the winner needing to win by 2 clear points.
- ii) Squash57/Racketball Doubles will be best of 3 games, all others will be best of 5 games
- iii) Should a Men's Squash or Squash 57 / Racketball match finish at 2 rubbers each, the winner will be decided on games won, should this be equal it is then decided on points won, if points are equal then which ever teams number one or mixed "A" pairing in Squash 57 / Racketball Doubles has won shall be the winning team.

8. SUBMITTING RESULTS:

It is the responsibility of both Team Organisers to submit the results using the online system on the night of a fixture or the latest within 3 days.

9. FORMAT:

- Men's event will be played between teams of 4 players,
 - Women's & Non-County events between teams of 3 players.
 - Mixed Juniors team can consist of 3 girls or 2 girls and 1 boy or 2 boys and 1 girl
 - Mixed O35's, O45's and O55's between teams of 3 players (2 men and 1 woman).
 - The Men's squash 57 / Racketball event will be played between teams of 4 players.
 - Squash57 / Racketball Doubles will be teams of 2 men & 2 women, playing 2 mixed doubles (A & B pairing), a men's & a women's doubles all best of 3 games
- ii) All teams shall play players strictly in descending order of strength, i.e., merit order. Including Squash57 / Racketball mixed doubles with an A & B pairing.
- iii) The **home team** must offer their opponents, by telephone, a choice of at least three dates within three days of the receipt by them of the draw for the Knock Out Stage & within seven days for the Group Stage, two of which must be at different weekends and two weekday evenings. The first date offered must provide a minimum of seven days notice. A response to the offered dates should be made within three days. **Should the away side receive no offer of dates within the prescribed three days, the away team should initially attempt to make contact with the home side, and if unsuccessful the Tournament Director should be contacted immediately.** If the home team has offered dates as described, the away side must accept one but if no mutual agreements can be reached the "play by" date listed becomes the play on date.
- Time extensions beyond round dates can only be granted by the Tournament Director, and will only be agreed in very exceptional circumstances. Teams are strongly encouraged to make contact within the time stipulated to avoid the danger of elimination if matches cannot be arranged.
- iv) Clubs who organise unauthorised extensions to round closing dates are liable to disqualification. Cancellation of ties with less than 48 hours' notice will constitute a walk-over to the opposing team unless exceptional circumstances prevail, e.g., extreme travel difficulties. The judgement of exceptional circumstances will be the responsibility of the Tournament Director.
- v) Matches will be played under the WSF Rules of the Game and the England Squash Code of Conduct.
- vi) **The format for each event will depend on entry numbers.** If possible, we will run regional group stages, with the winners moving into a knockout stage to guarantee a minimum 2 or 3 matches. Where necessary the right is reserved to give byes.
- vii) It is the responsibility of the home club to book and pay for adequate court time for the tie to be completed, including time required in respect of delayed commencement. The home team must also provide and pay for a post-match meal for players. The cost of drinks and responsibility for refereeing is shared between the teams.
- viii) The Dunlop Pro squash ball & Dunlop Black Squash57/Racketball ball are the official balls of the championships & shall be used for the finals weekend. These are the default balls for all previous rounds but may be changed by agreement of both captains provided it is a ball approved by England Squash.
- ix) Prior to the commencement of the tie, captains will exchange teams in order of merit, and also confirm the order of play. In the Men's Squash & Racketball events ties should be played on two courts with the order of matches being 4 & 3 on one court and 1, 2 on the other. In the Women's and Mixed Age Group events, one court should be used with the match order 3, 1, 2. Squash57 Doubles should start on 1 court for women's followed by men's then 2 courts for the 2 mixed matches. The order may only be varied by agreement between both captains. Should any player fail to arrive within 30 minutes of the scheduled

starting time, or having arrived fail to play the match, that string shall be forfeited and a further forfeiture may be imposed by the Tournament Director.

- x) The finals weekend will be held at Hallamshire Tennis & Squash Club on Saturday 1st – Sunday 2nd June 2024.
- xi) The Tournament Director reserves the right to declare certain matches, involving considerable travel as neutral venue matches. In such circumstances the Tournament Director will appoint one team to make adequate arrangements suitable to both parties. Any costs incurred should be split between the participating teams.

10. **ENTRIES / ADMINISTRATION:**

- i) There is an entry fee of £48 (4 person team) or £36 (3 person team) per event category. Entries close midnight 21st January 2024.
- ii) **Draws will be available using an online system. Team Organisers must use the online system for submitting nominations & results to enable the smooth running of the championships.**
- iii) All enquiries relating to the Championships should be directed to the Tournament Director at nationalclubchamps@englandsquash.com Any complaints relating to ties must be made in writing within 48 hours of the complaint arising.
- iv) The decision of the Tournament Director and England Squash shall be final.