



NATIONAL **SCHOOLS** CHAMPIONSHIPS

Regulations

2025-2026

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Eligibility 1

School Eligibility 1.1

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.

Teams must consist of players from one school only; combining players from different schools is not permitted.

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

Team Eligibility

1.2

Events:

Key Stage 5 – Boys, Girls, Mixed

Key Stage 4 – Boys, Girls, Mixed

Key Stage 3 – Boys, Girls, Mixed

1.3

Where a school has two or more teams, the 'A' team should be the strongest team based on the players England Squash Rankings (if no rankings, players placed based on ability or Squash Levels), and if applicable, the 'B' team should be stronger than the 'C' team etc.

Where a school has two or more teams in an event, a player may 'play up' on a maximum of one occasion without loss of eligibility in their lower team.

Once a player has represented a higher team on more than one occasion, from that point onwards, they are no longer eligible to represent the lower team.

1.4

An England Squash ranking cap applies in the Division 2 competition as outlined below:

Per fixture, only 1 player per team can have an England Squash ranking of top 100.

Player Eligibility

1.5

Pupils are eligible to play for their schools throughout the period of competition providing they are attending the school in an educational capacity.

1.6

Key Stage 5, this is for players in school years 13 and below on 1st September 2025.
Key Stage 4 this is for players in school years 11 and below on 1st September 2025.
Key Stage 3, this is for players in school years 9 and below on 1st September 2025.
Older players are not allowed to play for younger age groups.

- 1.7 A player can compete in a maximum of 2 age categories.
E.g. KS3 Boys and KS4 Boys.

**A player cannot compete in more than one competition per age category.
E.g. KS4 Girls and KS4 Mixed*.**

* A player nominated in a Division 2 Mixed team can play up in Division 1 Boys or Girls team of the same age group providing they aren't ranked inside the top 100 boys or top 50 girls on the England Squash rankings.

* A player nominated in a Division 2 Boys or Girls team can play up in Division 1 Mixed team of the same age group providing they aren't ranked inside the top 100 boys or top 50 girls on the England Squash rankings

- 1.8 Division 1: 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 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 competes in the boys team, the ratio of merit order must 4/1 boys to girls in any given fixture. This rule however does not apply to Male players. Male players may not play for Female teams.'

A mixed team, 4 players, will consist of minimum of 1 boy and 2 girls, the 4th player can be either a second boy or a third girl, played in strict order of ability. Boys and Girls can play against each other in this format.

- 1.9 Division 2 team will consist of 3 players. In the Mixed category a minimum 1 boy and 1 girl, 3rd player can be either a boy or girl.
- 1.10 Team nominations – deadline for player nominations is 5pm on Wednesday 17th September 2025. After this deadline if replacements are required, they must not strengthen the team.

Format

2

- 2.1 Division 1 - 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'.

Division 2 – will be a local stage only with schools playing in small groups against other local schools. (Please note we will try and keep the travelling distances as short as possible for all schools, but this will be dependent on the number of schools entering in each area)

- 2.2** All schools are responsible for entering results.
- 2.3** It is the duty of every school to see that their team is arranged strictly in order of merit for every game.
Seedings will only be brought in for Finals.
If before a tie, a reserve is required to play, he/she must be placed in strict merit order.
Reserve players should not strengthen a team.
- 2.4** Division 1 Boys and Girls - order of play shall be 5, 4 and 3, 1, 2 on two courts (unless circumstances demand otherwise).

Mixed Division 1 – order of play shall be 4, 3 and 1, 2 on two courts (unless circumstances demand otherwise)

Division 2 – order of play shall be 3, 1, 2.
- 2.5** All orders of play must be shared with the opposing team 10 minutes before the commencement of the first game.
- 2.6** Team Managers must enter all results onto Sports Mgr within **72 hours of play**. It is the responsibility of the Group Lead to ensure that this is fulfilled.
- 2.7** Teams withdrawing will receive no points and any results against that team will be null and void.
- 2.8** Division 1 - 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.

KS3 Girls Plate will use a Dunlop single yellow dot ball.

Division 2 will use Dunlop single yellow dot balls.

Stage 1

- 3** Division 1 & Division 2
- 3.1** Stage 1 will be played as Every Point Counts. Playing all 3 games. A team's collective score will be calculated based on every point, each player in the team scores during

the fixture.

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.

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

The team that accumulates the most points will win the fixture. (please see the appendix for more information on scoring systems).

No bonus points will be awarded.

- 3.2** Teams will be split into groups of approximately 4 schools per group. Schools will be informed of their groups by 4th October 2025.
- 3.3** Division 1 - 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.

Division 2 - all group games will be played at a central venue agreed upon by team managers within the group. Central venues must have a minimum of 2 courts to accommodate all teams involved. If a venue cannot be agreed upon, England Squash will intervene to select a venue.

- 3.4** Division 1 only- 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.

- 3.5** If teams are tied on points, groups will be decided by ties won.
- 3.6** If the above are equal, the greatest positive difference between total games won and total games lost.

Stage 2

4

Division 1 only

- 4.1 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).
- 4.2 All schools progress from Stage 1 but teams will split into Championship & Plate.
- Groups will be split into approximately three to four teams for both Championship & Plate.
- 4.3 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.

Plate

- 4.4 All games will consist of 5 players (4 players for mixed) with scoring set as first to 11, **playing all 3 games**, every point counts.
- 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.
- 4.5 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.
- 4.6 If the above are equal, the greatest positive difference between total games won and total games lost.

Championship

- 4.7 All fixtures will consist of 5 players (4 players for mixed matches) with scoring set as PAR to 11, games tied at 10-10 will be 'next point wins', **Best of 3 games**. One point shall be awarded for each game won in a match.
- 4.8 The team that wins the most matches wins the fixture.
Five bonus points shall be awarded to the schools winning the fixture.
- 4.9 The team who accumulates the most points in each group will advance through to the 'Championship Final'.
- 4.10 If teams are tied on points, groups will be decided by ties won.
- 4.11 If the above are equal, the greatest positive difference between total games won and total games lost.

Stage 3

5

- 5.1** 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.
- 5.2** Monrad draws of 8 teams with all teams playing best of 3 games (Please see **appendix** for more information on draws).

Plate Finals

- 5.3** All games will consist of 5 players (4 players for mixed) with scoring set as first to 11, playing all 3 games, every point counts.

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

The team that wins the most matches wins the fixture.

If teams are level on number of matches won, it will then go on number of games won, and then points won.

Championship Finals

- 5.4** All fixtures will consist of 5 players (4 players for mixed matches) with scoring set as PAR to 11, games tied at 10-10 will be 'next point wins', Best of 3 games. One point shall be awarded for each game won in a match.
- 5.5** The team that wins the most matches wins the fixture.
- 5.6** If teams are level on number of matches won, it will then go on number of games won, and then points won.

Dates

6

- 6.1** 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.
- 6.2** **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 **5 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.
- 6.3** Stage 1 - Delivered from a central venue on:
Key Stage 3 – Tuesday 18th November 2025
Key Stage 4 – Wednesday 19th November 2025
Key Stage 5 – Thursday 20th November 2025
- 6.4** Stage 2 - Delivered from a central venue on:
Key Stage 3 – Tuesday 3rd February 2026
Key Stage 4 – Wednesday 4th February 2026
Key Stage 5 – Thursday 5th February 2026
- 6.5** Finals - Delivered by England Squash at a neutral venue:
Mixed Finals – Monday 2nd March 2026
Key Stage 3 – Tuesday 3rd March 2026
Key Stage 4 – Wednesday 4th March 2026
Key Stage 5 – Thursday 5th March 2026

Seeding

7

7.1

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 (schools.competition@englandsquash.com) 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.

7.2

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.

Rules of play

8

8.1

Eyewear

[WSF certified](#) or British Standard BS7930.1 protective eyewear is mandatory for participation in all stages of the National Schools Competition. Eyewear must be always worn by all junior players while on court. This includes appropriate prescriptive protective eyewear or iMask in front of spectacles

8.2

Referees should mark where possible, but competitors should also be encouraged to do so.

8.3

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.

8.4

There will be no reimbursement of travelling or court hire expenses.

8.5

The competition will be played in accordance with the Rules of the Game as published by World Squash Federation

8.6

England Squash reserves the right to disqualify a school should it in their opinion contravene the foregoing rules and Conditions of Entry.

8.7

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>

Disputes

9

- 9.1** Any requests to England Squash for a decision on the rules or any other issues must be made by the Team Manager within 24 hours of the game finishing date to which it relates and must be sent in via email to the competitions team at schools.competition@englandsquash.com
- 9.2** 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.
- 9.3** 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.

Entries & Administration

10

- 10.1** There is an entry fee of £75 for boys and girls teams and £60 for mixed teams entering division 1 and this must be paid online via Sport Manager. There will be no invoicing for payment this season.
- Entry fee for Division 2 - FREE
- 10.2** All enquiries relating to the Championship should be directed to the England Squash Competition department.
- Contact: schools.competition@englandsquash.com

Appendix

Scoring System

- 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 (33-3) | 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 |
| | (135-106) | |

| Team | Won | Drawn | Lost | Points For | Points Against | Total Points |
|----------|-----|-------|------|------------|----------------|--------------|
| School A | 1 | 0 | 0 | 135 | 106 | 135 |
| School B | 0 | 0 | 1 | 106 | 135 | 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, win 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 | v s | 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 |
| | | | | | | |

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;

| 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 | 13 4 - 98 |
| School H | | School F | | School F | |