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1 SUMMARY

The proposed new 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. For 2017/18, this must be completed by 1st January 2018.
 - Have played at least one tournament in the age category for which they want to be ranked
- ❏ 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
- ❏ Players may only play in one age category per sanctioned event
- ❏ Players may 'play up' in higher age categories of sanctioned events. For silver events and below, this is with the Tournament Director's approval; for Gold 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, Gold, Silver, Bronze and Copper level). Rankings points will longer 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. In order to be ranked in any age category, the player must have played at least one sanctioned event in that age category
- ❏ The player must have completed an age-specific refereeing and marking course (to be developed by England Squash). For 2017/18, this must have been completed by 1st January 2018.

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.

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

2.6 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. The exception to this is if a player does not

have enough results to fill their full allocation (seven or six). In this scenario, up to four results from the lower age category may be transferred to the higher age category, at rate of 50% of their original value.

2.7 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:

- ❑ A player will only appear on the ranking list once they have played at least one tournament in that age category. This may be before or after they have officially 'aged up' in that age category
- ❑ A player's best four results at the lower age category will be transferred to their new age category ranking at the higher age category 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 already enough results from the older age category to fill their full allocation (seven or six) – i.e. once a player has played four (or three) tournaments at the older age category, only three results from the lower age category will be used and so on
- ❑ Once a player has enough results to fill their full allocation, a maximum of two results from the higher age category may be counted in a player's best seven results in the lower age category

2.8 Eligible tournaments

In order 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
- ❑ Junior Regional Closed Championships: Since these will no longer be mandatory events, some regional forums may decide not to run the event in their region, and not all players will have the opportunity to participate in the event in their region
- ❑ Junior County Closed Championships: Similarly, not all counties decide to run a Junior County Closed event. Where they do take place, entry numbers often mean that players are not able to play in their true/most appropriate age category

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.