



ADM10-G01 National League Competition Men's Rules

VERSION CONTROL

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7.0	15/08/2023	(Club) Development Advisory Group	August 2024
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National League Competition – Men's Rules

Definitions

CLUBS

Are clubs who participate in National League.

SQUADS

Are teams, plus reserves, nominated for the National League Competition at the start of the competition or other identified points throughout the competition.

TEAMS

Are players nominated to play a specific tie.

TIES

Are between opposing teams.

MATCHES

Are between individual players and is best of 5 games.

GAMES

A game is first to 11 points, PAR scoring (a player must win by 2 clear points if the score is tied at 10-10).

National League – Men’s League Rules

1. Purpose of National League

The Scottish National League will be a competitive league which teams aspire to participate in.

2. Eligibility to participate in the National League

- a. Club Eligibility
 - i. Clubs who wish to compete in the National League will be required to have a Squash in Scotland ‘Squash+’ club membership.
- b. Player Eligibility
 - i. The competition is open to men (of all ages) who have an active Squash in Scotland player membership.
 - ii. All squad players must be listed at the start of the season on the clubs National League entry form
 - iii. No player, having represented one team, will be eligible to play for another team in the National League in the same season.

3. Event Format

- a. The format of the National League will be dependent on the number of entries. Scottish Squash will release the format following the closing date.
- b. In the event of group stages being used in the competition, placing in each group will be based on team seeding (See Section 11). All seeding will be completed by Scottish Squash.
- c. Scheduling of fixtures will be completed by Scottish Squash. Scheduling will factor in practicality and fairness for all teams in completing fixtures.
- d. A player named by a Club receiving a walkover will be deemed to have played in the fixture.

4. Fixtures

- a. Ties will be played within the time frames set out in the fixture list.
- b. All clubs participating in the National League will be required to provide a venue for National League fixtures. Scottish Squash will endeavour to spread fixtures fairly and have a variety of host clubs, however depending on entries and scheduling (see Section 3c), it is not guaranteed clubs will host home fixtures.
- c. Should a club host multiple clubs and fixtures in one day, Scottish Squash will agree an hourly court rate with the club. This rate is applicable for any Ties that the club do not feature in themselves, at 3 hours per Tie.
- d. For midweek evening fixtures all Ties will commence at 19:00.
- e. Any fixtures may be rescheduled if both captains agree. A new fixture date must be notified to Scottish Squash (by emailing info@scottishsquash.org) immediately upon rescheduling.

5. Squads and Teams

- a. Squad

- i. Squad lists, up to a maximum of 10 players, must be submitted to Scottish Squash for approval by the specified date prior to fixtures commencing.
 - ii. A team captain must be identified to Scottish Squash by the specified date prior to fixtures commencing.
 - iii. Squad orders must be submitted to Scottish Squash one week prior to the club's first fixture. For PSA ranked players, squad orders will be determined by world ranking.
 - iv. Changes to squad order mid-season must be submitted to Scottish Squash one week prior to play commencing on any given fixture. For PSA ranked players, squad orders will be determined by world ranking.
 - v. A mid-season window will be available for clubs to request to add to registered squads for remaining places which have not been filled in the team. Clubs may also change up to three players in their squad list during this window. [Example: original squad list of 8 players means a club can change 3 of the original players and add 2 new players, bringing the squad list up to 10]. The dates of this window will be confirmed by Scottish Squash and communicated to team captains when the league schedule is understood. No amendments to squad lists will be allowed after the window closes. The dates for this window will be communicated to all team captains at the start of the season.
- b. Team
 - i. Teams consist of 4 male players.
 - ii. Teams must play in order of ability (strings 1-4).
 - iii. Teams must play in order of ability (strings 1-4) as defined by their Team's Squad order (section 5a. i-ii).

6. General

- a. The WSF Dunlop Pro XX yellow-dot ball will be used during all matches.
- b. All players under 19 are required to wear approved eye protection as set out in [Scottish Squash's Eye Protection Policy](#).
- c. Ties will be played according to 'The Rules of the singles game of squash', please refer to the [Scottish Squash website](#) for a copy of the rules.

7. Team Administration

- a. The order of play must be 4,1,3,2 unless agreed otherwise by both team captains on the day of the fixture.
- b. If a player fails to appear within 15 minutes of the scheduled start time of the match, he will be deemed to have played at string 4 and lost. Players playing below the absent string, who have already started their ties and are therefore unable to move up the order, will forfeit any points gained and full points from these ties will be awarded to the opposition.

8. Refereeing

- a. The host club will be responsible for sourcing qualified referees or volunteer markers in the first instance. Scottish Squash will provide connection to qualified referees as required.

- b. The club will assume responsibility for any hospitality or facilities offered to referees.
- c. Every tie in the National League must be marked.
- d. Players will be required to referee matches in the instance of a qualified referee being unavailable for a tie or match.

9. Scoring

- a. The PAR 11 scoring system will be used with all games being played to 11 points with 2 clear points at 10 all, best of 5 games.
- b. The result of a tie between two teams shall be decided:
 - i. By the greatest number of MATCHES won;
 - ii. If equal, by the greatest positive difference of GAMES won and lost;
 - iii. If still equal, by the positive difference of POINTS won and lost;
 - iv. If still equal, by the result of the MATCH between the #1 string match.
- c. A point is awarded for each game won, with 5 bonus points being awarded to the winning team in each tie.
- d. Any team who does not field a full team for a fixture will be deducted a 2-point penalty.

10. Results

- a. Results should be input on SportyHQ within 24 hours after completion of the tie by the winning team captain.

11. League Format

- a. The general format of the National League will be a round robin. The leading team at the end of the National League season will be declared National League Champions.
- b. The National League title is decided as follows:
 - i. The team with the highest number of points in the league table will be placed first and the other teams will be placed in descending order according to the number of points.
 - ii. If a team has defeated all other teams in the league, that team will be awarded the National League titles based on them becoming the 'Grand Slam Winner'.
- c. Where the National League has multiple round robin groups; seeding will be used to determine group position:
 - i. 2 Groups:
 - 1. Pool A: Seeds 1, 4, 5, 8, 9, 12
 - 2. Pool B: Seeds 2, 3, 6, 7, 10, 11
 - ii. 3 Groups:
 - 1. Pool A: Seeds 1, 6, 7, 12, 13, 18
 - 2. Pool B: Seeds 2, 5, 8, 11, 14, 17
 - 3. Pool C: Seeds 3, 4, 9, 10, 15, 16
- d. All seeding will be completed by Scottish Squash
- e. Pool matches will take place over a number of scheduled week evenings and weekends between September and April (dependent on number of teams).
- f. Round robin scheduling will be completed by Scottish Squash.

12. Incomplete Fixtures

- a. All fixtures must be completed on the scheduled date and time.
- b. In exceptional circumstances Scottish Squash may postpone a fixture(s). Considerations will be given to weather warnings and dangerous driving conditions, in which case Scottish Squash will intervene and postpone any scheduled fixtures.
- c. Any fixtures may be rescheduled if both team captains agree. A new fixture date must be notified to Scottish Squash (by emailing info@scottishsquash.org) immediately upon rescheduling.
- d. Any team failing to fulfil scheduled tie will, in the absence of exceptional circumstance, have 8 points deducted from its total at the end of the season and the team gaining a walkover will be awarded 17 points.
- e. Scottish Squash will decide on what constitutes 'exceptional circumstances'.

13. European Club Championships

- a. The National League is the sole qualifying competition in Scotland for the Men's European Club Championships (ECC).
- b. The winner of the National League will be eligible to enter a Men's team in the ECC.
- c. If the winner is unable or does not wish to participate in the Men's ECC then the National League runner up will be eligible to enter a Men's team in the ECC.
- d. Applications to the ECC may only be made through Scottish Squash.
- e. All players entered in the ECC must meet the National League eligibility rules.
- f. Players must compete for a National League team in a minimum of two ties to be eligible for the European Club Championships (this is consistent with the ECC regulations).
- g. No extenuating circumstances will be taken into account if players are unable to meet this obligation.
- h. For further information on player eligibility please refer to the European Squash Federation website: www.europeansquash.com

14. General

- a. Alterations or additions to the rules may only be made by Scottish Squash.
- b. The decision of Scottish Squash is final.
- c. Any disputes should be forwarded to Scottish Squash in writing, Scottish Squash's decision is final.