



# **NATIONAL LEAGUE COMPETITION MEN**

## **Definitions**

### **CLUBS**

are those clubs in membership of Scottish Squash and Racketball Limited who also participate in Regional Leagues.

### **SQUADS**

are Teams plus reserves nominated for the National League Competition at the start of the competition

### **TEAMS**

are players nominated to play in a specific Tie.

### **TIES**

are between opposing teams.

### **MATCHES**

are between individual players.

### **CLUB PLAYERS**

are those players who are members of a Club and participate for that club in Regional Leagues as defined by eligibility rules.

### **PROFESSIONALS**

are players not Native to a Club as defined by eligibility rules and are not members of the Scottish Squash National Performance Programme.

### **SSRL**

is Scottish Squash and Racketball Limited

### **REGIONS**

are defined as West, Central, East, Tayside & Fife, Grampian, and Highlands and Islands.

## **1 National League - Men**

### **1.1 Purpose of National League**

The Scottish National League should be competitive; should be a competition in which elite teams aspire to participate; should strive for a higher standard of competition than Regional Leagues.

### **1.2 Eligibility to Participate in the National League**

#### **1.2.1 Team Eligibility**

Only teams that are representatives of clubs in membership of Scottish Squash and Racketball Limited (SSRL) will be invited to participate in the National League.

#### **1.2.2 Player Eligibility**

##### **a) Competition**

The competition is open to all men and boys who are in membership of Scottish Squash and Racketball.

##### **b) Registration**

All Scottish based players must hold current registration as a Competitive Membership of SSRL.

All non Scottish based players must hold current registration as an Associate Member of SSRL.

All performance squad players must be listed at the start of the season on the National League entry form.

##### **c) Scottish based players**

Members of the Scottish Squash National Performance Programme, both Senior and Junior, are eligible to participate for any club as long as they hold current registration as a Competitive Member of one SSRL club. Whilst any number of these players may be listed in the squad, a maximum of two National Performance Programme players may participate in each fixture and can only play for one team.

##### **d) Professional players**

It is recognised that professional players can add to the 'elite' element for the top players in the National League, and as such can provide an important addition to support the quality of the National League.

Whilst any number of these players may be listed in the squad at the start of the season, only one Professional may participate in each fixture and can only play for one team.

##### **e) Cup tying of players**

No player, having represented one team, will be eligible to play for another team in the National League in the same season.

## **1.3 National League Format**

### **1.3.1 Overview**

The structure of the National League is designed to make the National League more attractive to participants, to make more competitive, and to reduce the burden on player time as much as possible. It is recognised that regular National League fixtures, whether weekday or weekend, may prohibit participation due to social factors such as personal commitments. Therefore there is some flexibility in the setting of fixture dates within certain parameters. Fixture dates will be by mutual agreement but must be played within the competition schedule which will be published at the start of the competition. Failure to play fixtures by the given date will result in sanctions for both teams. In the event that the failure to play can be attributed to one team only, that team will be deemed to have lost the fixture.

No re-arrangements out with the schedule will be permitted.

### **1.3.2 Event Format**

- a) League
- b) The format of the National League will be dependent on the number of entries.
- c) Placing in each Group will be based on team seeding.  
All seeding will be completed by Scottish Squash and Racketball Limited.
- d) Scheduling will be completed by Scottish Squash and Racketball Limited.
- e) A player named by a Club receiving a walkover will be deemed to have played in the fixture

### **1.3.3 Fixtures**

- a) SSRL will organise Tournament Officials, Tournament Director and Tournament Referee, as appropriate.
- b) Ties will be played within the time frames set out in the fixture list.
- c) All clubs participating in the National League may be required to provide a venue for National League fixtures and provide their facilities free of charge.
- d) For week evening fixtures Ties will commence at 7pm.
- e) For weekend fixtures, morning ties will commence no earlier than 10am.
- f) For weekend fixtures, afternoon ties will commence no earlier than 2pm.

## **1.4 Squads and Teams**

### **1.4.1 Squad**

- a) Squad lists, up to a maximum of 10 players, must be submitted to the SSRL for approval 7 days prior to the start of the first match fixture.
- b) Squad lists (and order) must be approved by SSRL prior to play commencing.
- c) Squad lists must highlight PROFESSIONAL PLAYERS, PERFORMANCE PLAYERS and CLUB PLAYERS.
- d) Additions to Squad lists can be made throughout the season, but must be declared to and approved by SSRL 2 days prior to each match fixture commencing.
- e) Alterations to Squad orders can be made throughout the season, but must be declared and approved by SSRL days prior to each match fixture commencing.
- f) No Squad list or order alterations may be made throughout a scheduled fixture.

### **1.4.2 Team**

- a) Teams consist of 4 male players.
- b) Teams must play in order of ability (strings 1-4).
- c) A maximum of one (1) Professional may play for each team in any given fixture.
- d) Teams must play in order of ability (strings 1-4) as defined by their Team's Squad order.

## **1.5 Match Rules**

### **1.5.1 General**

- a) The WSF Dunlop Revelation Pro XX Championship 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 and Racketball Limited's Eye Protection Policy.
- c) Ties will be played according to "The Rules of the Singles Game of Squash", please refer to the SSRL website at [www.scottishsquash.org/index.php/get-involved/rules-of-the-game](http://www.scottishsquash.org/index.php/get-involved/rules-of-the-game).

### **1.5.2 Team Administration**

- a) Team lists must be given to the Tournament Director prior to the start of the morning matches for approval.
- b) The order of play must be 4,1,3,2 unless agreed otherwise by the Tournament Director.
- c) 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 number 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.

### **1.5.3 Refereeing**

- a) SSRL will appoint a Tournament Referee to administrate the officiating at each National League match fixture where appropriate and at the National League finals weekend.
- b) SSRL will invite qualified Referees to each match fixture to officiate matches.
- c) Every tie in the National League MUST be marked.
- d) Players may be required to Referee matches.

### **1.5.4 Scoring**

- a) The PAR 11 scoring system will be used with all games being played to 11 points with 2 points clear at 10 all, best of 5 games.
- b) The result of a TIE between two teams shall be decided:
  - a. by the greatest number of MATCHES won;
  - b. if equal, by the greatest positive difference of GAMES won and lost;
  - c. if still equal, by the positive difference of POINTS won and lost;
  - d. if still equal, by the result of the Match between the #1 players of the Tie.
- c) A point is awarded for each game won, with 3 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.

### **1.5.5 Results**

- a) Results will be co-ordinated by the Tournament Director.
- b) Match cards should be returned to the Tournament Director on completion of the Tie.
- c) All results will be placed on Squash Matrix [www.squashmatrix.co.uk](http://www.squashmatrix.co.uk).

## 1.6 League Format

- a) The general format of the National League will be a Round Robin followed by a play off at the end of the season.
- b) The Round Robin format of the National League will be dependent on the number of entries
  - a. 1-4 entries: 1 Round Robin Group (home and away)
  - b. 5-8 entries: 1 Round Robin Group
  - c. 9-12 entries: 2 Round Robin Groups
  - d. 13-18 entries: 3 Round Robin Groups
- c) Where the National League has multiple Round Robin Groups; seeding will be used to determine group position:
  - a. 2 Groups
    - i. Pool A: Seeds 1, 4, 5, 8, 9, 12
    - ii. Pool B: Seeds 2, 3, 6, 7, 10, 11
  - b. 3 Groups
    - i. Pool A: Seeds 1, 6, 7, 12, 13, 18
    - ii. Pool B: Seeds 2, 5, 8, 11, 14, 17
    - iii. Pool C: Seeds 3, 4, 9, 10, 15, 16
- d) All Seeding will be completed by SSRL.
- 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 SSRL.

## 1.7 Incomplete Fixtures

- a) All fixtures must be completed on the scheduled date and time or be defaulted.
- b) In exceptional circumstances Scottish Squash and Racketball Limited may postpone a fixture. This will be re-scheduled by 31<sup>st</sup> March in any given season.
- c) Any Team failing to fulfil a scheduled Tie will, in the absence of exceptional circumstances:
  - a. Have 8 points deducted from its total at the end of the season and the Team gaining from the walkover will be awarded 15 points;
  - b. Any Team failing to fulfil 75% of the scheduled Ties will automatically be eliminated from the National League and the results of all the matches it previously played during the season will be declared void.
- d) Scottish Squash and Racketball Limited will decide on what constitutes “exceptional circumstances”.

## 1.8 European Club Championships

- a) The National League is the sole qualifying competition in Scotland for 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 and Racketball Limited.
- 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 (2) Ties to be eligible for the European Club Championships [this is consistent with 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](http://www.europeansquash.com).

### General

1. Alterations or additions to the rules may only be made by SSRL.
2. The decision of a Tournament Director is final.
3. Any disputes should be forwarded to SSRL in writing. SSRL's decision is final.