



# NATIONAL LEAGUE COMPETITION MEN'S RULES

## VERSION CONTROL

Version	Date	Amended	Reason
1.0	02.11.2017		
2.0	24.09.2018	Competitions Advisory Group	Update
3.0	26.10.2018	Competitions Advisory Group	Update
4.0	27.09.2019	Competitions Advisory Group	Update
5.0	30.10.2019	Competitions Advisory Group	Update

## **Definitions**

### **CLUBS**

Are those clubs in membership of Scottish Squash 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.

### **Scottish Squash ASSOCIATE MEMBERS**

These players must be competitive members of Scottish Squash member clubs.

### **REGIONS**

Are defined as West, Central, East, Tayside & Fife, Grampian, and Highlands & 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 Limited 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 Limited.

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

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

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

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

##### **c) 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 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) Placing in each Group will be based on team seeding.  
All seeding will be completed by Scottish Squash Limited.
- c) Scheduling will be completed by Scottish Squash Limited.
- d) A player named by a Club receiving a walkover will be deemed to have played in the fixture

#### **1.3.1 Fixtures**

- a) Ties will be played within the time frames set out in the fixture list.
- b) 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.
- c) For midweek evening fixtures all Ties will commence at 7pm.
- d) Any fixtures may be rescheduled if both captains agree. A new fixture date must be notified to the Head of Coaching & Competitions immediately upon rescheduling.

### **1.4 Squads and Teams**

#### **1.4.1 Squad**

- a) 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.
- b) Squad orders must be submitted to Scottish Squash prior to play commencing on any given fixture.
- c) A window during the Christmas break will be available for any clubs to request to add to registered squads for remaining places which have not been filled in the team. No amendments to squad lists will be allowed after this date. This date will be communicated to all Team Captains at the start of the season.

#### **1.4.2 Team**

- a) Teams consist of 4 male players.
- b) Teams must play in order of ability (strings 1-4).
- c) Teams must play in order of ability (strings 1-4) as defined by their Team's Squad order.

### **1.3 Match Rules**

#### **1.3.1 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 Limited'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 at [www.scottishsquash.org/index.php/get-involved/rules-of-thegame](http://www.scottishsquash.org/index.php/get-involved/rules-of-thegame).

#### **1.3.2 Team Administration**

- a) The order of play must be 4,1,3,2 unless agreed otherwise by the Tournament Director.
- 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 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.

#### **1.3.3 Refereeing**

- a) Scottish Squash will invite qualified Referees to each match fixture to officiate matches.
- b) Every tie in the National League MUST be marked.
- c) Players may be required to Referee matches.

#### 1.3.4 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 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.

#### 1.3.5 Results

- a) Results should be processed on SportyHQ 24 hours after completion of the Tie by the winning team captain.

#### 1.6 League Format

- a) The general format of the National League will be a Round Robin. The winning team at the end of the National Leagues 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 title 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:
  - 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 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.

### **1.7 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) As in rule 1.3 (g), any fixtures may be rescheduled if both captain's agree. A new fixture date must be notified to the Head of Coaching & Competitions immediately upon rescheduling.
- d) 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 17 points;
  - b. Any team failing to fulfil 75% of the scheduled ties will automatically be eliminated from the National League or be eligible to enter the following season. Consideration for re-entry will only be accepted two years on.
- e) Scottish Squash 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 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).

### **1.9 General**

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