



Norfolk Squash League Rules

Winter 2025-26

- **League Membership**

- a) Any club based within Norfolk may enter teams. Other clubs and interested parties may enter teams, subject to approval by the League Secretary and the Committee prior to the league season.
- b) Each team must pay the Norfolk Senior Squash League fees before the start of the season.
- c) Any team applying for Norfolk Squash League entry must have at least two courts available (unless prior agreement with the Committee / League Secretary).

- **Eligibility**

- a) Clubs may be represented by anyone who meets the following criteria:
 - i) Has not played for any other active team in the same division during the current league season.
 - ii) Has been registered with the League Secretary prior to playing
 - iii) Has been ranked using Squash Levels in order to obtain their position in the team and club
 - iv) People without a Squash Levels ranking are still able to play but their position in the team and clubs will be based on a judgement call by the club. This can also apply to players who have only started using Squash Levels in the last season, as their Squash Levels ranking may not have reached the correct level yet. In these situations notifying the League Secretary will ensure fairness and transparency
 - v) Has been nominated for a team within the club they represent.
- b) Players:
 - i) A player playing for a team on four occasions cannot then play for another lower team.
 - ii) Any player that plays at No 1 or 2 for their nominated team cannot then play for a lower team.
 - iii) Players cannot play 2 divisions below their nominated team.
 - iv) There is no limit on how many times a player can play up for a team above their nominated team
 - v) To be eligible for the last 2 matches of a season, a player must have played at least twice for that team, or a lower team, in the current season. If a captain is

unable to field a team, then additional players may be brought in only if agreed by both captains.

c) Penalties / Punishments

- i) The rules are clear on what a breach is, and what defines an ineligible player. When a breach of the rules is detected, the League Secretary will be allowed discretion to decide the severity of the punishment. In situations where it is deemed an advantage has been gained through unsporting behaviour, the punishment will be more severe than if the same breach was determined to have happened accidentally. When a decision is made by the League Secretary it will be communicated to all captains in that division
- ii) Should anyone wish to appeal a decision, they can appeal to the Norfolk Squash Committee within 7 days of the original ruling. However, a failed appeal will result in a 10 point penalty to that team. This is deliberately designed to deter timewasting appeals.

● **League Management**

- a) The League Master system is used to manage the leagues with access through <https://norfolksquash.countyleagues.co.uk/>
- b) Each club will need a club administrator to enter players and results. Club and team passwords will be issued. Contact the League Secretary if you don't have login details.
- c) Before the first match of the season, all players in a team shall be nominated for each team in order according to Squash Levels. Players must then always play according to this order. This nomination list must be entered onto the League Master system prior to the first match. Playing players out of order is a breach of the rules (unless it falls into the definition of eligibility described above). The Squash Levels ranking will be taken at the start of each period and will remain for the whole period. This means the team nominations and the club nominations will be fixed for a whole period
- d) A second ranking list that covers the whole club will also be collated. This will also be in Squash Levels order. The purpose for this is so that if players play in a team above or below ... they must always respect the club ranking list, which will mean any team in a fixture will always be in ability order. Club rankings will be in Squash Levels order
- e) If a player does not have a Squash Level ranking - or they have only started using Squash Levels within the last season - then the captain can estimate their position and make the League Secretary aware of this at the point of submitting their teams
- f) Changes to team and club orders may happen at the end of Period 1 to reflect the Squash Levels at the midway point of the season.
- g) If any club has two teams in the same division, players must be separated into two squads, they are not allowed to play for more than 1 team in the same division.
- h) If you wish to add a player throughout the season, you may do this subject to the eligibility rules as stated earlier. Any player being added during the season will be placed in Squash Levels order in both the team, and the club rankings.
- i) All attempts must be made to play each fixture on the allocated date. Rearranging fixtures will not be allowed outside the standard Rearrangement Window. Outside this window, the only matches that can be rearranged are those to to extreme circumstances, and must be authorised by the League Secretary in the first instance, and then by mutual agreement by both captains
- j) A Rearrangement Window will be granted before the start of each period where captains may rearrange their fixtures with opposing captains. Any rearranged fixture must still fall within the same period. During this period, all captains MUST be flexible with their attitudes to rearranging

- i) if it is a Period 1 match, then the rearranged date must be before the start of Period 2
- ii) If it is a Period 2 match, then the rearranged date must be no later than 1 week after the final match of the season was originally scheduled
- k) Missing a player is not a reason to forfeit, cancel or rearrange a fixture. Play with 1 player less.
- l) If a team withdraws, all matches become null and void, and all players are then free to join other teams.

• Matches

- a) Each club is required to play every club in its division twice on a home and away basis.
- b) Fixtures will be shown on League Master.
- c) Home captains are to confirm matches more than 7 days before the match takes place with their opposition captain. This includes the match start time.
- d) **Non-Premiership Divisions** - In the event of a team playing with an insufficient number of players, the top player will be drawn against the opponent's top player. The unplayed lower matches will be scored 3-0.
- e) Teams must play according to their ranking list.
- f) Home teams are responsible for providing England Squash approved squash balls.
- g) Food and drink to be provided after the match by the home team.
- h) Matches to be marked/refereed by home players.
- i) Every effort should be made to avoid walkovers occurring, such as rearranging. Not having your strongest team is not a reason to try and postpone a match. If necessary, play the fixture with fewer players and forfeit the missing rubbers.
- j) Any team defaulting a match will afford the other team maximum points.
- k) If anyone in a team plays out of the order given on the nomination list will be considered a breach, which may be subject to punishment as seen fit by the League Secretary.
- l) Should any team drop out of the league in the season, all matches against that team will be considered not to have been played.
- m) All markers must ensure that the code of conduct is used for marking matches.
- n) Any bad language or behaviour must be reported to the League Secretary and / or Committee directly after the match.
- o) The rules of Squash as approved by England Squash shall apply.

• Teams and Scoring

Division	Players Per Team	Scoring
Premier	5	Best of 5, PAR 11
Division 1	4	Best of 5, PAR 11
Division 2	4	Best of 5, PAR 13
Division 3	4	Best of 5, PAR 13

- a) Premier teams shall consist of 5 players, all other divisions shall consist of 4 players, although squads nominated on League Master can have as many players as teams choose.

- b) Premier and Division 1 shall be best of 5 games, **PAR scoring up to 11**. 2 clear points at 10-10.
- c) All other divisions shall be best of 5 games, **PAR scoring up to 13**. 2 points clear at 12-12.

- **Results**

- a) One point is awarded for each game won (best of 5 games). The team winning the most games/matches is awarded 4 bonus points. If the games won are tied, the team winning most matches would take 4 points. In the event matches and games are tied, then the bonus points are split between the teams
- b) At the end of the season, points total will decide league positions. In the event of a tie, the following will determine the final league positions:
 - i) The difference between For & Against points
 - ii) Points For
 - iii) Points Against
 - iv) If this is tied, then head-to-head results count.

- **Match Results**

- a) Match scores must be entered on League Master by the home team within 48 hours of playing a match. Both teams must validate the match scores at that time.
- b) If you claim a walkover, you must still submit the result on League Master with a written reason why the points were taken in the comments section.

- **Disputes / Players Conduct**

- a) Details of a dispute must be notified to the League Secretary by email within 7 days of the incident.
- b) Players must adhere to the player Code of Conduct available on the Norfolk Squash website.
- c) If the Code of Conduct is breached and a report has informed Norfolk Squash, the individual will be informed of the nature of the breach as laid against him/her as soon as possible and will have the opportunity and the right to state their case before any decision regarding the appropriate disciplinary action is taken.
- d) When the facts have been established and responsibility is clear, disciplinary action can comprise of one of the following:
 - i) Verbal warning
 - ii) Written warning
 - iii) League suspension

- **Promotion / Relegation**

- a) The bottom team in each division will be relegated and the winner of each division will be promoted. Note any promotion / relegation is subject to any wider league restructuring undertaken by the League Secretary in conjunction with the clubs / teams.
- b) New teams will start in the lowest division unless they make a successful case for higher entry to the League Secretary.

- **Any other issues**

Any breaches of rules - or any matters not covered by the rules - will be decided on by the League Secretary and Committee, who will decide on any action that needs to be taken. Their ruling will be final.

- **Premier Specific Rules**

There are a few changes that affect the Premier only. These have been made with full support of all Premier teams to make the division more competitive, exciting and reduce the likelihood of cancellations and walkovers.

1. The expansion of the Premier division to accommodate more teams means that some clubs will have more than 1 team represented. In order to support the most competitive league, it is requested that if this happens, clubs should attempt to make their teams as equal as possible. It is acknowledged that this may disadvantage some teams, but the bigger picture of having closer matches is deemed more important and avoiding weaker team being comprehensively beaten on a regular basis
2. The Premier will have 5 players per team. All other divisions will have 4. To support this and the extra number of teams, the restriction on "Playing Up" has been removed to support the extra number of players required to fulfill those matches. This will apply to all divisions
3. In the event that both captains agree that the disparity between the top string players is so great as to deem it a mismatch, they will be allowed to agree to award a walkover at the number 1 match, and play the remaining fixture using 4 players per team. This is 100% at the captains discretion as losing a number 1 player can totally distort a fixture. It is the responsibility of the captains involved to keep all players informed so they don't turn up only to find their match has been awarded as a walkover