

# BUCS SQUASH REGULATIONS

PUBLISHED | 1 SEPTEMBER 2019 (UPDATED 22 OCTOBER 2019)



**SQU i** The BUCS Squash Championships shall be conducted in accordance with the following BUCS sport specific regulations, the BUCS general regulations, and the World Squash Federation Rules of Squash. Further event specific requirements, rules, and regulations will be contained within the entry and pre-event information for each Championship.

**SQU ii** In the event that these regulations contradict the BUCS general regulations, these BUCS sport specific regulations will supersede, unless specifically stated otherwise.

**SQU iii** In the event that these regulations contradict those of the World Squash Federation Rules of Squash, these BUCS sport specific regulations will supersede, unless specifically stated otherwise.

**SQU 1 Championships** BUCS will host annually the following Championships:

**SQU 1.1 Individual Championships** The programme shall include the events listed in Appendix 1 ('BUCS Competition Offer and Associated BUCS Points'), subject to entry numbers.

**SQU 1.2 Team Championships** The programme shall include leagues and knockout competitions as per BUCS general regulations, Appendix 1 ('BUCS Competition Offer and Associated BUCS Points') and Appendix 10 ('BUCS Promotion, Relegation and Knockout Information').

**SQU 2** For all competitors under 19 years of age, eye protectors must be worn for all matches, as per England Squash regulations.

## Individual Championships

**SQU 3 Tournament structure and entries** See Appendix 1 ('BUCS Competition Offer and Associated BUCS Points') and the entry information for all competitions offered as part of the BUCS Squash Individual Championships. All competition specific event information will be available in the event entry information and pre-event information.

**SQU 3.1** In order to accommodate the large numbers of individual entries received each year, the entries will be distributed into an appropriate number of graded-type draws based upon the information on playing standard provided when the entries are made. Players will also be seeded according to NGB recommendations and results in the current season's BUCS Team Championships as well as details of current form/playing standard provided when the entries are made.

**SQU 3.2** The draw shall be made in the presence of a neutral referee.

**SQU 3.3** Wherever possible players from the same institution shall be placed in different quarters of the draw.

**SQU 3.4** The Tournament shall be played on a straight knockout basis, with each match being the best of five games.

**SQU 4 Disputes at events** In line with REG 7.7, should a dispute occur at an event, the event appeal panel for Squash shall comprise of the Tournament Director and a BUCS Staff Member.

## Team Championships

**SQU 5** There shall be separate Team Championships for Men and Women.

## SQU 6 Fixture administration and arrangements

**SQU 6.1 Court bookings** Failure to book the minimum prescribed time below will result in the home team forfeiting any rubbers not completed should the match not be completed:

	<b>5 players</b>	<b>4 players</b>	<b>3 players</b>
<b>First court</b>	2 hours	1.5 hours	2 hours
<b>Second court</b>	2.5 hours	1.5 hours	1 hour

**SQU 6.2 Order of play** The order of play for all matches shall be as follows:

	<b>5 players</b>	<b>4 players</b>	<b>3 players</b>
<b>First court</b>	String 5 then 4	4 then 2	3
<b>Second court</b>	3 then 1 then 2	1 then 3	1 then 2

## **SQU 7 Team selection and ranking lists**

### **SQU 7.1 Team size**

**SQU 7.1.1 Men's Premier Tier/Tier 1/Tier 2 and Championship/Trophy** Teams shall consist of five players.

**SQU 7.1.2 Men's Tier 3 and below** Teams shall consist of three players.

**SQU 7.1.2.1** Three player teams will only be promoted to a Tier where teams of five players are required if they are able to guarantee five players for the following season.

**SQU 7.1.3 Men's Conference Cup** Teams shall generally consist of five players, unless one or both teams involved in a match are from Tier 3 or below, in which case three players shall be the requirement (unless both teams agree to play with five players).

**SQU 7.1.4 Women's Premier Tier and Championship** Teams shall consist of five players.

**SQU 7.1.5 Women's Tier 1 and below and Trophy/Conference Cup** Teams shall consist of four players.

**SQU 7.1.6** Where teams should consist of five players, a minimum of three players must play; where teams should consist of four players, a minimum of three players must play; and where teams should consist of three players, a minimum of two players must play.

**SQU 7.1.6.1** Where an institution/Playing Entity has multiple teams playing on the same day, the fixtures of the higher team(s) must be prioritised from the top down when fulfilling teams. E.g. An institution/Playing Entity cannot send only three players for their 1<sup>st</sup> Team which should comprise of five players, whilst also putting out a full 2<sup>nd</sup> Team.

**SQU 7.1.6.2** Any string match conceded through not having a full team will be scored as a 3-0 win to the opposition (11-0, 11-0, 11-0). A winning team who has had games conceded to them will still be entitled to the applicable bonus points for the full team size. Bonus points for the match should still be calculated based on what the correct team size should have been.

**SQU 7.1.6.3** If a team arrives with a full complement of players, and one or more of those players is found to be unable and/or unwilling to play a competitive match in their designated position prior to the fixture commencing, then they shall be removed from the team and the fulfilment of the highest rubbers should be prioritised. If a team arrives with a full complement of players, and one or more of those players is found to be unable and/or unwilling to play a competitive match in their designated position after the fixture has commenced, then the team will forfeit that rubber and all rubbers below, regardless of whether they have already played/won any of these rubbers. The exception to this is that in knockout competitions both teams may agree to play best of three for a dead rubber.

**SQU 7.1.6.4** For the Championship and Trophy Finals teams are expected to field full teams or face a fine of £500.

**SQU 7.2 Ranking lists** This regulation supersedes REG 11.1.3 and REG 11.1.6.

**SQU 7.2.1** Ranking lists must be completed on BUCS Play prior to the start of each season. These lists must be completed no later than the deadline in the BUCS Sport Specific Affiliations Document. Failure to submit this information will result in sanctions being imposed as outlined in the BUCS Sport Specific Affiliations Document and the possibility of further disciplinary action. **This ranking information will be available [here](#) for ease of reference.**

**SQU 7.2.1.1** Ranking lists will be locked until the opening of the re-ranking windows, and cannot be changed outside the set re-ranking windows under any circumstances. Re-rankings only come into effect at the end of the re-ranking windows. The dates for the re-ranking windows will be displayed in the BUCS Sport Specific Affiliations Document.

**SQU 7.2.1.2** Institutions/Playing Entities may request to add a player to the bottom of their ranking list when the re-ranking windows are not open. Requests must be submitted and approved by the BUCS Executive in advance of the player competing in any fixtures. This is to encourage the fulfilment of fixtures and must not be manipulated. Teams found to be attempting to manipulate the rankings using this regulation will face disciplinary action under REG 5.

**SQU 7.2.2** Players must play in rank order in all matches.

**SQU 7.2.3** Teams for a fixture day must be selected in rank order, in all league, knockout and playoff competitions, and teams must be selected as if all teams were playing that day. This applies across all teams, e.g. A player ranked number 8 cannot play in the 1<sup>st</sup> team if the player ranked number 7 is playing for a lower team's match that day, or, a player ranked number 1 should not play for the 2<sup>nd</sup> team because the 1<sup>st</sup> team do not have a match that day.

**SQU 7.2.4** The order on the ranking list shall be determined by each institution/Playing Entity with the best player ranked as 1 and the second best as 2 and so on. The order is at the discretion of each institution/Playing Entity. It does not need to be in accordance with any external ratings/ranking systems but institutions/Playing Entities ranking players out of ratings order may be requested to justify their ranking lists to the BUCS Executive. Failure to justify the rank order or institutions/Playing Entities deliberately ranking out of order will be referred to the BUCS Executive for disciplinary action.

**SQU 7.2.5** If a player is listed in the top five rankings and has not played any matches prior to the January re-ranking window, then that team is required to resubmit their rankings during this window, removing any such 'top five' players from the ranking list. An exception will be made at the discretion of the BUCS Executive on a case-by-case basis if sufficient proof can be provided to explain the above scenario (e.g. medical note).

**SQU 7.2.6** Teams found to be attempting to manipulate the ranking lists will face disciplinary action under REG 5.

## **SQU 8 Scoring system**

**SQU 8.1** The World Squash Federation Rules of Squash shall be used including the PAR 11 scoring system. Each player shall play the correspondingly ranked player of the opposing team, for the best of five games. The team winning the majority of rubbers shall be the match winners.

**SQU 8.1.1 Women's Tier 1 and below and Trophy/Conference Cup** Where a match ends two rubbers each, SQU 9 will be applied to identify the winner.

**SQU 9 Ties in knockout competition matches** In the event of a draw in a knockout fixture, the winner shall be determined as follows:

**SQU 9.1** The team winning the highest number of games. If a tie still results;

**SQU 9.2** The team winning the highest number of points. If a tie still results;

**SQU 9.3** The team which won the first string match (i.e. 1v1).

## **SQU 10 League points**

**SQU 10.1** League points will be awarded to each team according to the number of games won. The winning team will also score additional bonus points: 5 players per team = 5 bonus points, 4 players per team = 4 bonus points, 3 players per team = 3 bonus points.

**SQU 10.2** Where a walkover has been awarded/conceded (REG 13), the non-offending team will be given the maximum number of points available to them and the offending team will be deducted 10 points.

**SQU 10.3** No points will be awarded to either team in the case of a void fixture.

**SQU 11 Scorecards** Institutions/Playing Entities are required to maintain accurate records\* of the matches played by their teams in case of a tie on points within a league which requires additional score information to that on BUCS Play. In such circumstances, the BUCS Executive will contact the relevant institutions/Playing Entities for details of all their league matches in order to separate the teams.

\* 'Accurate records' are taken to mean precise details of all aspects of the fixture including rubbers, games and points; won and lost.

## **SQU 12 Incomplete fixtures**

**SQU 12.1** In the event of a fixture being incomplete due to a late start, with a team at fault, their opposition may claim any rubbers not completed or unplayed.

**SQU 12.2** In the event of a fixture being incomplete due to an institution/Playing Entity booking insufficient court time, their opposition may claim any rubbers not completed or unplayed.

**SQU 13 Match balls** The Dunlop Revelation Double Spot or an alternative WSF approved ball shall be used.

### **SQU 13.1 Women's Tier 2 and below league matches and Conference Cup matches**

A single yellow spot ball shall be used.

## **SQU 14 Premier Tier/Championship specific regulations**

**SQU 14.1** The National Premier league shall be played in two stages. Each stage shall be completed during a weekend competition involving three matches per team using the same format as England Squash's inter-county Championship.

**SQU 14.2** For Stage 1, the eight National Premier teams shall be divided on a broadly geographical basis into 'North' and 'South' groups of four teams each (on the basis of minimising travel distance/time as a prescribed method of deciding upon the composition of the two groups).

**SQU 14.3** Venues shall be selected on the basis of facility availability/cost and reasonable travel time for teams. Wherever possible, both Men's and Women's events shall be played at the same venue in each of the 'North' and 'South' groups. Costs will be split equally between all competing teams.

**SQU 14.4** Following completion of the Stage 1, the top team from each group will qualify for the upper tier group and compete for places 1-4. The bottom team from each group will be placed in the lower tier group and compete for places 5-8. The teams finishing in 2<sup>nd</sup> place in their group will play against the 3<sup>rd</sup> placed team from the other group in a one off playoff. The 2<sup>nd</sup> placed team will be at home. The winner will qualify for the upper tier group and the loser shall go into the lower tier.

**SQU 14.5** All eight teams shall progress to the BUCS Championship knockout competition, where they will be placed at the last 16 stage according to their finishing position in the National Premier league.

**SQU 14.6** Players retiring during a match may not play again in the same weekend. The only exception to this rule is if the cause of retirement is considered transitory (e.g. nose bleed, cramp, migraine, vomiting) and that the player has recovered fully for their next match. If the player then retires during a second match, their string and all strings below them shall be forfeited.

### **SQU 14.7 Promotion to and Relegation from the Premier Tier**

**SQU 14.7.1** The 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> place finishers in the National Premier league shall retain their place. They shall compete against the three 'best performing' runners-up across Tier 1 (Subject to them being a 1<sup>st</sup> team. Where they are not, the team in 3<sup>rd</sup> place will be considered, if they are an eligible 1<sup>st</sup> team and so on) in the last 16 stage of the Championship. These fixtures are solely knockout competition fixtures and have no bearing on promotion or relegation.

**SQU 14.7.2** The 4<sup>th</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> place finishers shall play against the five Tier 1 league winners (Subject to them being a 1<sup>st</sup> team. Where they are not, this place will be offered to the team in 2<sup>nd</sup> place, if they are an eligible 1<sup>st</sup> team and so on), in the Championship round of 16. The winners of these round of 16 matches will become the additional five Premier Tier teams for the following season.

**SQU 14.7.2.1** The five Tier 1 teams shall have the opportunity to determine seeding for the round of 16 draw, through the organisation of a Tier 1 playoff competition.

**SQU 14.7.2.2** The Tier 1 playoff competition shall take place on a weekend as listed in Appendix 2 ('BUCS Leagues and Knockouts – Dates and Deadlines), subject to the teams involved arranging, and agreeing to covering the costs of, all hosting requirements, e.g. venue, balls.

**SQU 14.7.2.2.1** Should a team decide to not enter the playoff, they will be automatically allocated a seeding below those teams who compete. In an instance of multiple teams not entering, this will be done randomly.

**SQU 14.7.2.2.2** Should a host not be identified then the weekend will not take place and the 5 Tier one teams will be randomly added to the round of 16 draw.

**SQU 14.7.2.3 Format** Each of the five teams will play each other once, (two matches per day, one morning, and one afternoon) and the final league standings from these fixtures will determine their seeding.

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