



**2008 / 2009
REGULATIONS**

1. The Premier Squash League ("the League") is an official competition of England Squash. The Rules of England Squash ("the Rules") and the WSF Rules of the Singles Game and the Regulations hereinafter contained (insofar as the same are applicable and are not inconsistent with these Regulations) shall be observed in the League.
2. The Board of Directors of England Squash ("the Board") as defined in the Rules shall appoint a Premier League Panel ("the Panel") to supervise and control the running of the League. Membership of the Panel shall be determined by the Board in its sole and absolute discretion. The League will be managed by an administrator who shall be the England Squash Competition and Events Manager, unless otherwise appointed.
3. Any club located in England, and is a full member of England Squash on 1 January preceding the relevant season shall be eligible for inclusion in the League. It shall cease to be eligible to participate if at any time during the period of the League it ceases to be a full member. No club shall have more than one team in the League.
4. The Premier Squash League will comprise of two geographically split groups, save that the structure of the League may be amended by the Board at any time at its sole and absolute discretion.
5. The selection, election and re-election of clubs shall be the responsibility of the Panel.
6. Each club wishing to enter the League shall pay an entry fee of £435 with their application.
7.
 - i) Teams shall comprise five players, at least one of whom must be a woman. In the event of two women playing for one team, the lower ranked woman will play the woman on the opposing team. The higher placed woman will play to the men's rules both for scoring and tin height.
 - ii) A tie shall consist of five (5) matches. (NB: ties are overall contests between clubs; matches are played between individual players). Each match shall be the best of five games.
 - iii) Each club shall play two ties, one at home and one away, against each other club in its group, and shall score one point for each game won, and in addition shall score five points for each tie won.

- iv) Each **season** will conclude with a play-off whereby the winners of each group play the runners-up from the opposite group in a one off Semi-Final. Group Winners have the right to play their semi-final at their home venue.
 - v) The Final to be held on a date to be set prior to the start of the season. The date of the Final will only be changed if it co-insides with a PSA event (4* or above). The Final venue TBC.
- 8.
- i) Premier Squash League ties will commence at 7.00pm. Introductions will precede the above denoted times.
 - ii) The League programme will be compiled by the Panel who reserve the right to change the date, day, time or venue of any tie at their discretion.
- 9.
- i) The league administrator has the sole authority to enforce a change in match dates.
 - ii) Ties may be played at other times, on other days, or at other venues in exceptional circumstances by permission of the league administrator and with the mutual agreement of the clubs concerned. Any such request must be made to the league administrator, in writing, by both managers.
 - iii) When a club considers it has valid reason for a re-arrangement but cannot obtain the agreement of its opponents, it should make application as above enclosing £50.00 (non refundable) and notify its opponents of the submission. The opponents then have the right to submit information as to why the re-arrangement should not be approved. (This information must be submitted to the league administrator within 7 days of the club receiving notification of the application).
 - iv) When necessary, the league administrator shall decide the venue, date and time for the tie, and may order changes, without application, at its discretion.
 - v) In the event of severe weather conditions or other extreme problem, the managers must obtain the agreement of the league administrator to authorise the postponement of a tie.
10. When a club is responsible for the postponement of a tie, whether or not it is with the consent of the Panel, the club may be liable to reimburse the

other club in respect of any loss incurred as a result of the postponement. The amount shall be agreed by the clubs concerned. In case of dispute, either club may appeal to the Panel who will arbitrate. Its decision shall be final.

11. Any club which, without just cause, fails to fulfil a League fixture shall be liable to expulsion from the League if the Panel so decides, and may also be liable to pay a fine and / or compensation to England Squash and / or other clubs affected. In no single instance will the financial penalty exceed £200.00. A deduction of points may also be made.

PLAYER ELIGIBILITY:

12. Each team in any tie must include a minimum of two English players and may include a maximum of two non British or Irish players. WSF regulation G3 controls this eligibility.

‘... a player is ineligible to represent a country if they have represented another country in the three years preceding the Start Date of the Championships in a recognised International Squash Team Championship (e.g. WSF World Championships, regional team championships, matches between WSF member countries etc.) in any age group..’

Any player not so qualified shall be termed an ‘overseas’ player for the purposes of these regulations.

13. Each team must include an English man or woman, aged 23 at 1 September 2008, in a minimum of 50% of matches per season. In order to be eligible, players must be ranked outside the World Top 25 (PSA rankings) or the World Top 20 (WISPA rankings) on 1 June 2008.
14. All players must accept and sign a Player Nomination Form by the squad nomination date and, by competing, agree to be bound by the England Squash Code of Conduct for the duration of that season's League.
15. No player shall play for more than one club in the League in any one season.

MEN:

16.
 - i) Each squad may include a maximum of two players ranked in the World Top 25 on 1 June 2008.
 - ii) Where a signed World Top 25 player falls out of the top 25, as at 1 December World Rankings, a team will be allowed to sign an

additional World Top 25 player. Any nomination must be in writing to the league administrator by 31 December 2008.

WOMEN:

17. A squad may include two women in the World Top 30 (WISPA rankings) on 1 June 2008 of whom only one can be ranked in the World Top 15 (WISPA rankings) on 1 June 2008. If no top 15 player is signed, 2 players from the 16 - 30 bracket can be included.

TEAMS:

18. Each club must nominate its squad of players in writing to England Squash no later than 1 September 2008.
19. The number of nominated players shall be limited to a maximum of fifteen per club. In the event of a team withdrawing, its nominated players may be added to the list of other teams which do not have the maximum permitted number, except that no amendments can be made to the nominated lists within fourteen days of the start of the respective League cycles, and nominated players cannot be dropped to make way for such players after the deadline identified in Reg. 18.
20. All nominations shall be made on League Player Nomination forms, signed by the player and team manager. In the event of a player being registered for two clubs, the first registration received by the league administrator shall be accepted. (Proof of posting date shall not be relevant, only the date of receipt).
21. Details concerning national eligibility must be included for every nominated player and further details concerning national eligibility must be submitted upon request by the league administrator.
22. Two additional nominations, to raise the maximum to 17, may be made after the date of the last match before Christmas. The nominations must be in writing to the league administrator by 31 December 2008.
23. A player nominated by a club, but who has not played a match for that club may be transferred at any time up to 31 December 2008 deadline subject to the agreement of both clubs and by giving notice to the league administrator, subject to the requirements of Regulations 19 and 22.
24. A club shall be entitled to sign a replacement for a player with a long-term injury at any time during the season. The replacement must be

ranked below the injured player and agreed by the league administrator. Once a replacement is confirmed it shall hold firm for the duration of the league with the replaced player unable to return. Regulation 28 must be satisfied before replacement players are eligible to play in the end of season play off's.

25.
 - i) All players in a team shall play in strict order of merit. England Squash will supply a nominated merit order to clubs.
 - ii) The merit order shall be that produced by England Squash for the purpose of national ranking and event seeding.
26. In the event of a team not being able to field a full team, they shall be entitled to utilise reserves that fall below the strength of the lowest player in the relevant nominated listing and have not been nominated by another club. These are in addition to the 14 (or 16) maximum nominated players.
27. The league administrator may order a change in merit order at any time and will issue periodic amendments, the frequency and timing of which will be at its sole and absolute discretion.
28. Players shall not represent the club in the Premier League Semi-Finals and Final unless they have represented the club in the League in at least two ties in the season.
29.
 - i) Team managers must exchange team orders (including reserves) by 6.30 pm (or half an hour before other commencement time) on the day of the tie.
 - ii) The match order shall be determined by the home manager. The home manager must inform the away manager of the match order at least 24 hours prior to the commencement of the tie.
 - iii) The league administrator, however, has the right to instruct teams on match order on any day.
30.
 - i) Players are not required to be present when team orders are exchanged (half an hour before commencement time), but all players must be present at the venue at the time stipulated for the commencement of the tie. If at this time any of the players listed in the exchanged team orders have not arrived and so the team is incomplete, all players should move up the order accordingly, and eligible reserves used as necessary to make the team complete.

Players subsequently arriving in these circumstances cannot be reinstated into the team.

- ii) In addition, each player must be on court ready to play within ten minutes either of the commencement time of the tie, or the conclusion of the preceding match, whichever is appropriate for the order of play defined in Regulation 28 (ii). If not, then that string and all below will be forfeited.
 - iii) All matches must commence within fifteen minutes of the conclusion of the previous scheduled match on the court concerned.
 - iv) Match orders may be revised by mutual agreement of both managers in accordance with Regulation 30 (ii), but must be done so a minimum of thirty minutes before commencement time. If the managers have agreed a revised match order it cannot be amended subsequently in the light of non-attendance of players.
 - v) Any changes required by non-arrival must be notified to the league administrator on the results card.
31. The Dunlop ball is the official ball of England Squash and must be used in all ties. England Squash will supply balls for use in all ties to all clubs free of charge. Balls for practice will not be provided.

COMPLAINTS:

32. i) Any complaint connected with the League must be made in writing and delivered to the league administrator, or sent by post, so as to arrive within 48 hours of the occurrence of the cause of the complaint. The league administrator shall then inform the Panel of the complaint.
- ii) Before considering the complaint and arriving at any decision the Panel shall forward to the alleged offender, being either a player or a club, a notice in writing stating the grounds of complaint and giving the offender an opportunity of being heard in person or, at the option of the offender, in writing. After considering the complaint the Panel will notify its decision to the complainant and alleged offender.
- iii) This regulation is without prejudice to the right of the league administrator to refer complaints to the Disciplinary Panel of the

Association should the league administrator consider such reference to be appropriate.

DISCIPLINARY POWERS OF THE PANEL:

- 33 i) The Panel shall help to keep order on the court and shall consult and decide upon any question arising out of the League, if summoned for that purpose by the Referee or Match Referee Co-ordinator (MRC), and if, when so convened, the misconduct of a player or club shall have been reported to it by a Referee, the Panel shall have the power (after giving to the alleged offending player or club particulars of the grounds of complaint, and an opportunity to be heard in person or at the player's or club's option in writing) to disqualify a club or player from the League, or fine a player or club up to a maximum of £500.00, or deduct points from the club's total points in the League.
- ii) Club misconduct shall include a situation in which they have been deemed to have fielded a team that is not considered to be full strength in relation to player availability.

CODE OF CONDUCT:

34. England Squash's Code of Conduct shall apply to the League. The Code, as drawn up by the Board and revised from time to time at its discretion, specifies penalties for violations and makes provision regarding their application.

SCORING:

35. i) Point a Rally scoring (to11) will be used for all men's and women's matches.
- ii) A 17" tin will be used for all men's matches.
A 19" tin will be used for all women's matches.

A rubber involving a woman playing a man at 4th string will be played as a man's match.

RESULTS:

36. i) Each team must phone, fax **or email** their intended team to the Press Officer by 4 pm on the day of the match.

- ii) The home team's Press Officer should telephone the full match results (or leaving these details on the answer phone) **immediately** after the end of the final rubber. (Score sheets must be at hand). A copy of any local press reports covering the tie should be sent by email to the league administrator by 11 am on the day following the tie.
37. A completed League result card (including the names of match officials) must be forwarded by the MRC by first class mail to the league administrator on the day following the match, signed by both captains / team managers.

LEAGUE PLACINGS:

38. i) In the event of a points tie for places the team having won the most ties shall be placed higher. If placings are still equal, then the order shall be determined by the greater number of matches won, then by the greater positive difference between the total number of games won and total games lost, then by the greater positive difference between total points won and total points lost.
- ii) In the event of a team withdrawing from the League before completion of both cycles of matches, all points awarded in ties played in an uncompleted cycle shall be deducted and ties declared void.

RESPONSIBILITY OF CLUBS:

39. The home club shall ensure that the courts to be used have been suitably repaired, cleaned and swept for the match. Match courts must have unsealed floors. The league administrator reserves the right to inspect and approve club facilities before the Panel allows a club to participate, or allows it to continue in the League.
40. i) Each club shall use the services of a Match Referee Co-ordinator (MRC), whose duties will include overseeing the appointment of match referees, and ensuring that provisions in these Regulations are adhered to.
- ii) An MRC for each club will be appointed by the Panel.
- iii) Clubs are responsible for paying the MRC and Referees, with payments being a minimum of £15.00 and a maximum of £25.00. Meals should also be provided.

41. Visiting players and team management / coaches shall have free access to view all matches (a maximum of ten persons). The league administrator will also be supplied, upon request, prime seats for England Squash guests at any tie. (See Regulation 52).
42. If requested at least fourteen days in advance of a tie, the home club shall make available without charge a maximum of two hours court time on the match courts on the day of the tie to the visiting club. Requests made within fourteen days of a tie may be complied with at the home club's discretion.
43. The home club shall provide substantial meals for members of the visiting team plus one reserve, visiting manager, MRC and the match officials following the tie. No charge should be made to the above in respect of such refreshments.
44. The home club shall ensure that comprehensive appropriate first-aid equipment is readily available.
45. The home club shall promote and present its ties in a professional manner. This includes publicity, hospitality, appearance, conduct, media communication and tie administration (e.g., stewarding spectators, comparing matches and having suitable public scoreboards).
46. Managers are required to enforce the League dress code for players.

Exclusive of any team requirement, teams shall ensure that players are introduced to spectators wearing team kit.

47. Each competing club shall appoint at its own expense a press officer who will act as liaison for national press co-ordination, and promote local and regional press interest and coverage for the club.

SPONSORSHIP:

48. The Team sponsorship name must be first authorised by the Panel to ensure compatibility with any league sponsors.
49. By agreement with the Panel, a club may incorporate the name of a sponsor as part of its name and may display the name, symbol or slogan of a sponsor on shirts subject to any media restrictions which may apply, e.g., television.

50. All players must wear similarly identifiable club shirts for the duration of each match in the League as well as any national and/or local publicity opportunities that promote PSL.
51. All shirts shall have the name of the club team and player on the back. This should be in the form of one or two horizontal lines.
52. All shirts shall include the PSL logo and League sponsors logo in a prominent position.
53. A sponsored club may not refuse to play a tie on the grounds that the opponents are sponsored by a similar or rival organisation, or for any other reason related to the commercial interests of the sponsor.

On behalf of league sponsors each club shall display the following (supplied by the league administrator):

- a) One or two tin sticker(s) on each match court or if preferred by the League sponsor, a banner (maximum dimensions 82 cms high by 244 cms wide) above the out of play line of the front wall of the match courts. In either case they shall be displayed for the duration of the League season. The tin area covered shall be a maximum width of 182 cms by either two x 91 cms stickers placed at each end or one x 6 foot sticker which may be placed at the discretion of the club. [Where multi-sided transparent courts are used for matches, clubs shall place a tin sticker(s) on the tin facing inside the court, and further sticker(s) on the exterior of the court (dimensions as above), behind the tin, facing the gallery or on the back wall facing into the court, or two banners above the out of play line of the front wall, one inside and one outside the court, dimensions as above].
 - b) One banner in the gallery or foyer area (as agreed with the league administrator) for the duration of each home tie. Clubs will also undertake to utilise other promotional material as notified and supplied. In the event of the League not being sponsored, England Squash reserves the right to enforce any or all of the above provisions on its own behalf.
54. i) In conjunction with the league administrator clubs will, for each home tie, produce a quality team sheet / programme incorporating fully the name of the League sponsor / League title.

- ii) Each club will also endeavour to include a supplied advertisement for League sponsors without charge to the League sponsor. In any event the League title and logo shall be included on the front cover or sheet and provide reasonable League name recognition in the run of pages.
55. Home clubs shall welcome and host any guests of League sponsors and press who may attend a tie. Upon request to the league administrator up to the following deadlines prior to any League tie, the sponsor may obtain without charge the following preferentially located tickets:

Seats	Deadline
6	28 days
4	14 days
2	24 hours

GENERAL:

56. The Premier Squash League trophy cannot be won outright and shall remain at all times the property of England Squash. The winning club of the preceding season shall return the trophy to England Squash not less than 28 days before the final tie date of the following season, as published in the Fixture Programme.
57. The Panel reserves the right to amend or revise these Regulations at any time.