

Hong Kong Squash League Regulations

A1	<p><u>A. Introduction</u></p> <p>The Squash League is organized by the Squash League Sub-Committee (SLSC), under the Rules of <i>Squash Association of Hong Kong, China</i>. Any queries arising from these Regulations will be referred to the SLSC for final decision.</p>								
B1	<p><u>B. Format of the Squash League</u></p> <p>The Squash League comprises of Main, Ladies and Masters Leagues, and is divided into Divisions. Each team will, where possible, play the other teams in the same Division, on a home and away basis. However, in view of other considerations, there may be variations in the number of home and away matches, especially for Divisions playing 3 rounds of matches. The league fixtures are to be arranged and decided at the full discretion of Squash Association of Hong Kong, China.</p>								
B2	<p>The Squash League will consist of a series of scheduled matches announced at the start of each season (“The Scheduled Matches”). After the completion of the Scheduled Matches the teams finishing 1st, 2nd, 3rd and 4th will enter a play-off (“The Final Series Championship”).</p>								
B3	<p>Matches will be played under the Point-a-rally scoring (PAR) scoring system.</p>								
B4	<p>Matches will be played up to 11 points (PAR-11) for Div 1-5, Ladies 1 and M1. Games must be won by at least two clear points.</p>								
B5	<p>Matches will be played up to 15 points (PAR-15) for Div 6-19, M2-3, and Ladies 2-3. Games must be won by at least two clear points.</p>								
B6	<p>Matches will have the following number of rubbers based on Division: -</p> <table border="1" style="margin-left: auto; margin-right: auto;"> <thead> <tr> <th style="text-align: center;"><u>Division</u></th> <th style="text-align: center;"><u>Number of Rubbers</u></th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">D1 & L1</td> <td style="text-align: center;">3</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">M1 & L2, L3</td> <td style="text-align: center;">4</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">D2 – D19 & M2 – M4</td> <td style="text-align: center;">5</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	<u>Division</u>	<u>Number of Rubbers</u>	D1 & L1	3	M1 & L2, L3	4	D2 – D19 & M2 – M4	5
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D1 & L1	3								
M1 & L2, L3	4								
D2 – D19 & M2 – M4	5								
B7	<p>1 point will be awarded for each Rubber won, with a bonus point for the winning team.</p>								
B8	<p>At the completion of the League, if two or more teams have scored the same points then the final order of merit in any Division is decided based on all results in that Division by the following countback sequence:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) By greater number of Matches won 2) if two teams still equal, then by only the results of matches between the tying teams in the following sequence: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> (i) by greater number of Matches won (ii) if equal, then by greater number of Rubbers won (iii) if equal, then by greater positive difference between Games won and lost 								

	<p>(iv) if still equal, then by lottery</p> <p>3) if three or more teams have won the same number of Matches, then by the greater number of Rubbers won</p> <p>4) if two teams still equal, then apply Item 2</p> <p>5) if three or more teams still equal, then by greater positive difference between games won and lost</p> <p>6) if two teams still equal, then apply Item 2</p> <p>7) finally, if more than two teams still equal, then by lottery</p> <p>For final series, if the number of points, number of rubbers won and the number of matches is equal, then by lottery.</p>
B9	Trophies will be presented to the top 3 teams in each division – Division Champions, the 1 st and 2 nd Runner-ups, provided that the respective division has 8 teams or more. For those with fewer than 8 teams, only the Division Champions and the 1 st Runner-ups will receive trophies. The Final Series Championship winners will also receive plaques.
C1	<p><u>C. Conduct of Matches</u></p> <p>Order of Play</p> <p>Players must play according to the order in which they are registered for their team. In the event of a player playing below a team-mate who is registered in a lower position, that team will be recorded as a 3/0 loss. Where players play above their registered order the match results will stand.</p>
C2	<p>Location of matches</p> <p>Match schedule/fixtures are arranged at the full discretion of the League Office.</p>
C3	<p>Schedule of matches</p> <p>On Mondays to Fridays, matches are held at 7pm – 10pm, except Masters League matches which are scheduled at 6.30pm – 9.30pm. On Saturdays, matches start at 5pm till 8pm.</p>
C4	<p>Reschedule of matches</p> <p>Rescheduling of matches is not permitted for Div 1 and Ladies 1 matches unless there is prior permission given by the SLSC.</p>
C5	For Div 2-19, Ladies 2-3, and Masters Leagues, rescheduling of matches is subject to the mutual agreement of the relevant teams. It is necessary to inform the League office of the rescheduling within 48 hours in advance the original scheduled match date. If the team fails to notify the league office within 48 hours, 1 point will be deducted from the team who requested the rescheduling.
C6	Exception for the last 4 scheduled matches, all the rescheduling should be arranged within 2 weeks. For the last 4 scheduled matches, the rescheduled matches should be conducted within 7 days after the last scheduled match. It is necessary to inform the league office of the rescheduling before the original scheduled match date.

<p>C7</p>	<p>Conceded Rubbers & Walkovers</p> <p>If a team is unable to field a full team for a match, that Team's Convenor is encouraged to contact the opposing Convenor in advance to notify them of that fact. If a reduced team size is reported to the opposing Convenor at or before 12 noon on the scheduled match day, the missing matches will be considered as Conceded Rubbers (CR) and not Walkovers (W/O). The complete team will be awarded a win for each conceded rubber, but no penalty point shall be deducted in respect of those missing players. Such report should be made by email to the opposing Convenor and the League Office. After the deadline (i.e.12 noon), the team size may not be increased beyond the number declared available.</p>
<p>C8</p>	<p>The order of playing for main league matches may be agreed by the two team convenors concerned. However, in the absence of any arrangements agreed in advance between the two teams, and if one team already has their entire team present, late arrival by the other team will be penalized as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> *15 minutes late – Walkover for No.5 position *30 minutes late – Walkover for both No.5 and No.4 positions *45 minutes late – Walkovers for No.5, No. 4, and No.3 positions *60 minutes late – Walkovers for No.5, No.4, No.3 and No.2 positions *75 minutes late – Walkovers for the whole team <p>For final series matches, the order of playing must be played by the order 1,2,3,4,5.</p> <p>If one team already has their entire team present, late arrival by the other team will be penalized as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> *15 minutes late – Walkover for No.1 position *30 minutes late – Walkover for both No.1 and No.2 positions *45 minutes late – Loss of match <p>Dead rubbers are suggested to be played but not compulsory.</p>
<p>C9</p>	<p>If a player due to go on court is not available within 15 minutes from the match start time or finish of the last rubbers played on the next available court, then a walkover may be claimed by the opponent team.</p>
<p>C10</p>	<p>Teams giving walkovers will be penalized one point for each walkover given.</p>
<p>C11</p>	<p>The players who do play in a team which gives one or more walkovers or conceded rubbers must play in the correct order of the players actually playing, leaving the lowest seeded rubber(s) unplayed. Failure to do so will result in the application of the Order of Play rule stated in Rule C1.</p>
<p>C12</p>	<p>Match Balls</p> <p>Non-marking Double xx / Double Yellow Dot balls approved by the World Squash Federation (WSF) will be used for all matches. The home team is recommended to provide at least two new balls for each match.</p>
<p>C13</p>	<p>Verification of Players Identity</p> <p>Players may ask the opposing team members to prove their identity by showing photo ID (For example, HKID or e-membership card of the Squash Association of Hong Kong, China) when playing their</p>

	<p>matches. Any team which has deliberately fielded players under false names will be disqualified from further participation in the League and the SLSC has the discretion to impose penalties on the player(s) involved.</p>												
C14	<p>Code of Conduct</p> <p>The “Section 15 – Conduct” of the latest WSF Singles Rules will be applied. All players must observe all regulations and the spirit of the game.</p>												
C15	<p>Submission of Results</p> <p>The <u>winning team</u> is responsible for submitting the match result. Results must be recorded on the standard league results card, and may be submitted by one of the following means,</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Mail: G/F, Hong Kong Squash Centre, 23 Cotton Tree Drive, Hong Kong ● Fax: 2869 0118 ● E-mail: league@hksquash.org.hk ● WhatsApp: 5226 7262 												
C16	<p>The score card must be signed and certified as correct by a representative of each team and must reach the League Office <u>not more than seven days after the match</u> has been played. If the result is not provided to the League Office within that time, the winning team will be penalized one point.</p>												
D1	<p><u>D. Registration of Players</u></p> <p>Initial Registration</p> <p>The number of players each team may register is as follows,</p> <table border="1" style="margin-left: auto; margin-right: auto;"> <thead> <tr> <th style="text-align: center;"><u>Division</u></th> <th style="text-align: center;"><u>Number of Registered Player</u></th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">Div 1 & L1</td> <td style="text-align: center;">3 – 10</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">Div 2 – 19</td> <td style="text-align: center;">6 – 12</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">L2 & L3</td> <td style="text-align: center;">5 – 15</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">M1 – M3</td> <td style="text-align: center;">6 – 15</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">M4</td> <td style="text-align: center;">6 – 20</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	<u>Division</u>	<u>Number of Registered Player</u>	Div 1 & L1	3 – 10	Div 2 – 19	6 – 12	L2 & L3	5 – 15	M1 – M3	6 – 15	M4	6 – 20
<u>Division</u>	<u>Number of Registered Player</u>												
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Div 2 – 19	6 – 12												
L2 & L3	5 – 15												
M1 – M3	6 – 15												
M4	6 – 20												
D2	<p>Full details of all players must be submitted, including name of the team, division, rank/position, the year he/she last played in the league, etc. It is the responsibility of the Team Convenor to register and seed his/her players according to their playing ability and standard, and to ensure that he/she is eligible to play in the division that the team has applied for. The SLSC has full discretion to accept or reject any player or team registration.</p>												
D3	<p>Notwithstanding acceptance of a team registration, if the SLSC has a substantial reason to support that a player has clearly been registered in a substantially incorrect position, it may deduct points won in matches in which that player has taken part, or may disqualify the team from the league.</p>												
D4	<p>The team convenor is required to confirm the team order by a formal notice to the League Office on or before the team order confirmation deadline of the coming season. If such notice is not received the provisional order previously submitted will be taken as confirmed.</p>												

D5	<p>Changes to Registered Teams</p> <p>After commencement of the Scheduled Matches, team order can only be changed <u>twice</u> during the league season. Team Convenors should submit the application of changes to League Office. A minimum of one week notice is required. The application result and effective date will be informed the Team Convenors in written within 5 working days.</p>
D6	<p>Where a change involves only the addition of a new player, such changes shall not be counted within the maximum two changes permitted above. The SLSC will not permit the transfer of player(s) to a lower Division or other team in the same division unless there is special reason justifying such application.</p>
D7	<p>Further, all changes to team order including the addition of new players are subject to the full discretion of the SLSC with the view to ensuring teams are registered in descending order of ability and teams are registered in the correct Divisions.</p>
D8	<p>No changes will be permitted to teams following the commencement of the last four playing weeks of the Scheduled Matches and Final Series matches.</p>
D9	<p>New players must first become members of Squash Association of Hong Kong, China before applying to play in the league. Team Convenors must make written application to the League Office one week in advance, providing full details on the playing standard of the new player (e.g. past records showing his/her participation in a squash league in Hong Kong or elsewhere). The new player can only participate in the league subject to approval by the SLSC. In case of doubt, the SLSC may require the new player to be assessed.</p>
E1	<p><u>E. Eligibility of Players</u></p> <p>Players must be fully paid-up members of Squash Association of Hong Kong, China and registered with their team with HK Squash prior to playing in the Squash League. The Team Convenor is responsible to collect and pay the membership subscription for his/her players together with the team entry fee when the team application is submitted.</p>
E2	<p>For players who wish to join the Squash League during the season, they should first apply to join Squash Association of Hong Kong, China and pay up their membership subscription. The penalty for fielding a non-paid-up player will be the deduction of one point per match in which the player plays prior to payment of their membership subscription.</p>
E3	<p>Players may only play for the team for which they are currently registered except as provided under Draw Up rules detailed in Rules F2-F6 below.</p>
E4	<p>Except for Div 1, Ladies 1 and Ladies 2, players must have played a minimum of 5 matches during the season to be eligible to play in the Final Series Championship. This minimum is reduced to 4 if a division has 16 or fewer scheduled matches.</p>
E5	<p>Masters League</p> <p>Except for Masters 1 (M1) division, Men and ladies who have reached the age of 40 by the scheduled date of any given match are eligible to play in the Masters League. For M1, the minimum age is reduced to 35, but a maximum of two players aged 35-39 for any team in a match could be allowed.</p> <p>Teams may comprise of both men and ladies. Players are required to provide proof of age upon the request of SLSC.</p>

E6	Masters players with a playing standard equivalent to Div 4 or above in the Main League must register to play in M1 unless with justification and the approval of SLSC.
E7	Referee Refresher Clinic All registered players of Div 4 -19, Ladies 2 and Ladies 3 who have not previously attended a Referee Refresher Clinic by Squash Association of Hong Kong, China since 2015 must attend such a course conducted in either Chinese or English before 31 January of the current season. It is the responsibility of the team convenor to ensure that all his/her players have attended the Referee Refresher Clinic by Squash Association of Hong Kong, China.
E8	If, for any reason, a player has not attended a course by 31 January of the current season, one point per match will be deducted from the team scores for each match in which the player has played on or after 1 February of the current season until he/she has attended such a course. All penalty points taken away are irrevocable.
E9	Newly registered players must attend the next available course in an appropriate language. Failure to do so will result in the deduction of one point for each match that the player has played following the date of the relevant course. All penalty points taken away are irrevocable.
E10	All players must have met the Referee Refresher Clinic attendance requirement to be permitted to play in the Final Series Championship. Otherwise, it will result in the application of the Order of Play rule stated in Rule C1.
F1	<u>F. Seeding of Players and Drawing Up from Lower Divisions</u> Graded Players - Div 1 and Ladies 1 The SLSC will issue a list of Graded Players. Graded Players must play in No. 1 position.
F2	Drawing Up Players from Lower Divisions Apply to D2-D19, M1-M4 & L3 Teams may draw up players to play in a higher Division from teams in a lower Division. However, players can only be drawn up to the same team throughout the whole season. For avoidance of doubt, players may not interchange between teams in the same Division. Subject to the exceptions stated in F5 and F6 below, a player who plays in a higher Division team on the 5th occasion cannot revert to his/her original Division.
F3	No draw up is permitted in the Final Series Championship (FS), except Div 1 and Ladies 1. Any player who has once been drawn up to Div 1 and Ladies 1 during the season is eligible to play in FS.
F4	A player who is required to move to a higher team because of excessive “draw-ups” will not count as a change of order regarding maximum number of changes of order during the season.
F5	Div1 There are no restrictions on the number of times players can play up for Div 1 team. Teams from lower divisions may draw up players multiple times to play in a D1 team without any limitation. For example, players are allowed to draw from D10 to D2 and draw to D1 again. The draw up request should be submitted to League office by 12pm the game day.

F6	<p>L1 & L2</p> <p>There are no restrictions on the number of times players can play up for a L1 & L2 team.</p>
G1	<p><u>G. End of Season Team Promotion/ Demotion</u></p> <p>In accepting teams for any season, the SLSC will adopt the following guidelines,</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. With the exception of teams in Div 1, L1 and M1, Division Champions, 1st runners up and Final Series Winners are required to promote to the next division up. If a division only has 7 or fewer teams, the 1st runners up are excluded from this requirement. 2. Individual players who were never ranked higher than 3 in their team for that season can request to remain in the same division. 3. The bottom two teams in any division may move down to the next lower division. 4. These guidelines may be varied if there are convincing reasons for the SLSC to do so.
H1	<p><u>H. Disputes</u></p> <p>Protests</p> <p>Either team involved in a match may lodge a protest regarding any breach of these Regulations. Any protests requiring a ruling by the SLSC should reach the League Office within three days of the match being played.</p>
H2	<p>Notwithstanding the three days rule, the SLSC may at its discretion investigate any protest arising from the League at any time.</p>
H3	<p>Powers of the SLSC</p> <p>The SLSC shall have the power at any time to demand from any team, or teams, information regarding the circumstances under which any match has been played, or respecting any matters thereto, and in the event of any team declining or neglecting to supply such information within the specified time set down by the SLSC, such team(s) and/or player(s) may, as considered appropriate by the SLSC, be subject to any such penalties, including disqualification from the League.</p>
H4	<p>The SLSC shall have the power to order any match to be replayed, either wholly or in part.</p>
H5	<p>The SLSC reserves the right to amend at any time, interpret and enforce these Regulations in the best interest of Squash Association of Hong Kong, China.</p>
H6	<p>Disciplinary & Appeal Procedures</p> <p>Complaints will be handled by the SLSC. For incidents requiring disciplinary action, the SLSC may inform the subject(s) of the complaint and require an explanation within a specified time limit. The SLSC shall investigate the matter and, if necessary, convene a meeting comprising the Chairman and two members, the affected player(s) and/or the Team Convenor(s) concerned. At the conclusion of the investigation, the SLSC shall send a full report outlining its findings to the Disciplinary Sub-Committee of Squash Association of Hong Kong, China.</p>

H7	The Disciplinary Sub-Committee of Squash Association of Hong Kong, China will review the case. The Committee may invite the player(s) and/or Team Convenor(s) concerned to submit their views for their consideration. The Disciplinary Sub- Committee will then decide and communicate its decision, in writing, to the player(s) and/or Team Convenor(s) concerned. Any appeal against the disciplinary action taken against the player(s) and/or Team Convenor(s) concerned must be submitted, within 7 days, in writing to the LeagueOffice.
H8	The Executive Committee of Squash Association of Hong Kong, China will form a Special Panel to hear the appeal. The decision of the Special Panel will be final.
<p>Squash Association of Hong Kong, China has the right to revise or amend the above Regulations, or to issue new Regulations from time to time without prior notice. All such Regulations are binding on teams and players participating in the Hong Kong Squash League. (August 2023)</p>	