



NORTHERNS SQUASH ASSOCIATION

BY-LAWS FOR LEAGUE PLAY

REVISED OCTOBER 2002

1. DEFINITIONS

“Association” shall mean Northern Squash Association.

“Fixture” shall mean a match between two teams distinct from the individual matches of which such fixtures consist.

“Match” shall mean an individual match between two players.

2. APPLICATION

- 2.1 The by-laws shall apply generally to all league fixtures in North Gauteng conducted by the Association or any other body affiliated to the Association. The Association must approve any amendment/s to these by-laws.
- 2.2 Where the contents of these by-laws conflict with the Constitution of the Association, the provision of the Constitution shall prevail.

3. LEAGUE SYSTEM and SCORING

- 3.1 A winter league shall be run each year for teams consisting of four (4) players each.
- 3.2 The commencement dates and the duration of all leagues shall be determined by the Association.
- 3.3 League teams shall play the fixtures laid down by the Association at the venues determined by the Association.
- 3.4 Scoring in a four-member winter league team shall be as follows:
 - 3.4.1 Each team shall score one point for each match won.
 - 3.4.2 The team winning the most matches shall receive two bonus points.
 - 3.4.3 In the event of both teams winning two matches, the games shall be counted and the team winning the most games will receive two bonus points.
 - 3.4.4 In the event of both teams having an equal number of matches and games, the point scores of each team shall be counted and the team having the most points will receive two bonus points.
 - 3.4.5 In the event of both teams having equal matches, games and point scores, both teams will receive two bonus points.



- 3.4.6 In the event of there being a tie between 2 or more teams at the conclusion of the league, the result will be determined by play-off. The play-off shall be on a round-robin basis with scoring as per league and the provisions of clauses 3.4.3 to 3.4.5 above.
- 3.5 In the event of a team withdrawing or being withdrawn from any league, all the fixtures played and points scored by and against the team at the time of such withdrawal, shall be cancelled and the league shall then be completed by the remaining teams.
- 3.6 The club of the team withdrawn as set out in 3.5 shall be penalised by having to pay a fine to the Association equal to the league entry fee for that team.
- 3.7 The Scoring system used for league matches shall be the 9-point scoring system. The player who scores nine points wins the game, except that on the score reaching eight-all for the first time, the receiver shall choose, before the next serve, to continue the game to nine points (known as "Set one") or to ten points (known as "Set two"). In the latter case the player who scores two more points wins the game. The receiver shall clearly indicate this choice to the Marker, Referee and the opponent.
- 3.8 Penalty points issued against transgressing players shall be on the basis that the transgressing player shall lose the respective match, and all players below the defaulting player (and in the same league side) shall by default have the matches awarded to their opponents, and the scorecard amended accordingly.

4. COMPOSITION OF LEAGUES

- 4.1 The basis of league shall be promotion - relegation. The top two teams in each league shall automatically be promoted to the higher league the following season. The bottom two teams will conversely be relegated to the lower league the following season.
- Note: At the end of the 2002 league season, one side will be relegated and two sides promoted for the 1st men's league side. No sides will be relegated and two sides promoted for the 1st ladies league side. This is in line to bring the men's and ladies 1st league sides up to ten sides. The Executive Committee will at its own discretion accommodate a Tertiary Institutional team in the 1st league. Leagues will be restricted to a maximum of 10 sides per league.
- 4.2 Clubs may however elect not to accept the promotion of a league side. This must be communicated to the Association in writing by no later than 14 days after the AGM of the Association. If the 14 days falls on a Public holiday, then the last working day before the 14 days. In the interest of squash and other club players, all club chairmen must ensure not to accept any league side/s for which they know their club does not have the necessary strength of players for that league side/s. If a club does exercise its right regarding this rule, the Association will have the final say.
- 4.3 If a club does not field a Blitz league side for the men's or ladies leagues, that club will be relegated to Reserve league and the next available side will be promoted.
- 4.4 In the case of a club waiving the promotion of a league side as per clause 4.2 herein, only clubs accepting the promotion will be promoted. The club placed third will not be given the option of promotion, unless in exceptional circumstances with the approval of the Association.



5. ENTRY OF TEAMS

5.1 Application for league sides will be done in accordance with the results of the previous season and in terms of the promotion - relegation principle. Clubs are to submit their applications to the Association for the following year, in writing, at the AGM of the Association.

Note: At the end of the 2002 season, all transfers of players should be finalised by the 30 November 2002. Application for league sides must be submitted in writing to the Association by no later than Friday, 6 December 2002.

5.2 Clubs are restricted to two sides in any particular league. The clubs must however obtain the sides through the process of promotion - relegation. The Association may at its discretion allocate a league side to a club making application for such league side where an opening arises by the withdrawal of another league side. Such application must be in writing and must be submitted to the Association before 14 January of each year.

5.3 The requisite fee as laid down from time to time by the Association shall be payable each year by **28 February**. If the requisite fee is not paid by the end of April each year, a R30 levy will be charged for each team registered in that club per month until the requisite fee is paid in full. If the last date for payment can not be met, a club may submit a motivation in writing to the Association for the postponement of such payment to a mutually agreed date. This motivation must be submitted by the end of March each year. No further relaxation will be permitted.

5.4 Only bona fide members in good standing with their club, which are paid up members of the Association and registered with Squash SA, may play in the league.

5.5 All league players must be registered with the Association before playing any league matches for any side. Registration is done on the Northern website (www.northerns.org.za) and a player code is automatically forwarded to the player via the email entered.

6. SELECTION OF TEAMS

6.1 Each club participating in the League shall be required to have a system of ladder play. The selection of league teams shall be done in accordance with the rating of players on the club's ladder, arranged in descending order of merit.

6.2 The order of players in any team shall also be in accordance with the ladder rating.

6.3 Upon request, a club can be required to furnish the Association with its current ladder of relative strength.

6.4 A player shall not be allowed to play in a team lower than that in which he normally plays, unless he has been relegated on his club ladder.

6.5 Players who play out of order in terms of clauses 6.1 to 6.3 herein, shall be penalised in terms of clause 3.8 herein.

6.6 Where the above clause cannot be complied with in the selection of a team, the Association may be approached to make a decision before the fixture is played.

6.7 The decision of the Association shall be final.



7. PLAYERS

- 7.1 No player shall be eligible to play for any team representing a club unless he has been registered as a playing member of that club for the current year. **Registration is done on the Northerns website: www.northerns.co.za**
- 7.2 In the event of any team playing an unregistered player or a player ineligible in terms of by-law 6.2, the Association shall penalise the team in terms of clause 3.8 herein.
- 7.3 Players may only change clubs by completing the "Player Transfer Form". The form must be signed by the chairman of the club the player is leaving as well as the chairman of the club the player intends moving to. The decision shall rest with the two chairmen involved and only in the case of a dispute arising from the transfer, may it be referred to the Association for a final decision.

7.4 Outsider participation:

- 7.4.1 An outsider for the purpose of these league rules is defined as a person:
- 7.4.1.1 who is not normally resident in the Northern Gauteng region as defined in the constitution of the Association, and
 - 7.4.1.2 is not available for selection for the Association's provincial sides.
- 7.4.2 No more than **two** outsiders may play in a league team. Where clubs have more than one team in a league, only one outsider may play per side.
- Note:** This issue will be finalised at the first representatives meeting of 2003.
- 7.4.3 Teams that play with more than one outsider as per clauses 7.5.1 and 7.5.2 herein shall be penalised in terms of clause 3.8 herein. The transgressing player shall be deemed to be the player in the lower position.
- 7.4.4 An outsider participating in a league must play 50% of matches in the current season in 1st League and/or Reserve League.
- 7.4.5 Teams that participate with outsiders in their team as in clause 7.5.1 above, and do not comply with clause 7.5.3 above, shall be penalised on the following basis:
- All matches in which the outsider participated shall be awarded to the respective opponents, and the overall results re-calculated.
- Note:** The Association may at its sole unfettered discretion waive clauses 7.4.3 and 7.4.4 where it deems it necessary, but only after receiving a written motivation from the defaulting club. Such motivation must be submitted to the Association not more than 14 days after the Association has informed the club of the penalty.

7.5 Marking & Refereeing Course Qualification:

All 1st league players who play 3 (three) or more matches in first league (men and ladies), must attend at least 1 (one) 'Marking & Refereeing Course' presented by the Association. Players who do not qualify in terms of the above will have all their matches awarded to their respective opponents during the year, and a penalty of



two points per player not qualifying in terms of the above deducted from the team played for.

Note: Players are encouraged to attend the above courses irrespective of the number of league matches they intend playing in the season, and must ensure that they are able to attend at least one if they need to qualify. Dates of the Marking and Refereeing Courses are posted on the website.

8. REFEREES (ALSO ACTING AS MARKERS)

- 8.1 Referees shall be appointed for all matches by agreement between the captains of the teams concerned. In the absence of an agreement, Referees will be provided by the home team.
- 8.2 In all matches, the rules of play shall be the rules laid down by Squash S.A.

9. TEAMS, FIXTURES AND MATCHES

9.1 Composition of Team

- 9.1.1 Where clubs enter more than one team in any league, they shall not permit any players to represent more than one team in the same league in any season.
- 9.1.2 No players may play in more than one league in any period of seven consecutive days, commencing on a Thursday.
- 9.1.3 Any player violating this rule shall forfeit his second match 3/0 to his opponent and be penalised in terms of clause 3.8 herein.

9.2 Fixtures

- 9.2.1 Every fixture shall be played on the date and time and at such courts as laid down in the fixture list drawn up by the Association. No league fixture shall be played on a Public Holiday unless unavoidable, and no postponement of matches or fixtures shall be allowed except upon the prior resolution of the Association which shall grant such postponement only on the grounds of an individual, team or club having other commitments to squash.
- 9.2.2 The scheduled starting time for all league fixtures is 18h00, and the first match shall commence by not later than 15 minutes after the starting time and thereafter play is to be continuous, i.e. matches between players at the venue are to commence within 10 minutes of the completion of a match where play cannot be continuous.
- 9.2.3 Should both teams be guilty of transgressing rule 9.2.2, no points shall be awarded for the fixture.
- 9.2.4 Should a team fail to turn up for a fixture, such team will be penalised with two additional penalty points.



- 9.2.5 Matches which are not played at the scheduled time, and for which no postponement has been granted by the Association in terms of clause 9.2.1 herein shall invoke a penalty in terms of clause 3.8 herein and be applied to both sides.

9.3 Matches

- 9.3.1 Each player of a team shall play one match to consist of the best of five games.
- 9.3.2 Should a nominated player fail to arrive for a match, the match shall be awarded to his/her opponent and the team penalised in terms of clause 3.8 herein.

9.4 Claiming a Match

- 9.4.1 A team may claim a match at 15 or more minutes after the starting time, provided that:
- 9.4.1.1 The team has 4 players present and ready to play, and
 - 9.4.1.2 It has not been possible to commence the match due to the opposition not being present and ready to play.
- 9.4.2 The team claiming a match shall submit a fully completed Result sheet and a written explanation for the 6/0 claim. The Disciplinary Committee will (subject to an appeal) apply penalty points in accordance with rule 11 to the defaulting team.
- 9.4.3 If one or more matches have been completed before 19h00 and there is not another pairing present and ready to play, the remaining matches may not be claimed until 19h00. At this time the result of any matches played would stand and the remaining matches must be claimed as 3/0. A written explanation for the claim should be included on the result sheet. The League Stewards will apply [penalty points in accordance with] rule 11 to [the defaulting team] resolve the matter. If a home club decides to play on 2 courts and the home side's players are not present to continue play, the visiting team may claim matches by 19h00.

10. SCORE CARDS

- 10.1 The captains of both teams concerned in any fixture shall prior to the commencement thereof, produce an official score card which shall be completed in detail by the captains of the opposing teams showing the name of each of the players in order of play in their respective teams. Team captains must ensure that players are registered before playing any league match.
- 10.2 The result of each match shall be recorded on the scorecards and signed by the respective captains.



- 10.3 Both captains will be responsible for arranging that the score card in respect of the match be faxed or delivered to the administrative secretary of the Association within two days after the fixture. Posted results must follow within 7 (seven) days after the fixture, should faxing facilities not be available.
- 10.4 If score cards are not received by the Association within four days from the date of the fixture and or no fax has been received, no points will be awarded to both teams.
- 10.5 For incomplete score cards (no league level indicated i.e. first, reserve etc., club names omitted, or no date, or incomplete results), **no results shall be entered.**
- 10.6 Players registering in Northern as from 18 February 2001 are issued a player code in the form 'NSA****'. This code is retained for life regardless of the club for which the players plays. All existing players use the code they were issued in the 2000 league season regardless of they club they may have moved to, and also retain this code for life.

11. OBJECTIONS / APPEALS

- 11.1 In respect of any fixture, either of the teams concerned may object against any alleged contravention of the Constitution of the Association and/or these By Laws on the part of the opposing team.
- 11.2 The captain of the objecting team shall make an objection in writing to the Association within two days of the date of the fixture concerned.
- 11.3 The Association shall consider any objection made and shall be entitled in its sole discretion to uphold, reject, defer or otherwise deal with such objection, and in the event of it being upheld, to award the fixture or any of the matches thereof to the objecting team or to direct that the fixture be replayed.

12. BALL

- 12.1 The official balls are:
for Professional/Advanced Players the Revelation Competition ball,
for Competition/Club Players the Max Progress
the Max ball (12% bigger) for Learners/Beginners.
- 12.2 All first league and Provincial/National events will use the Pro ball.

13. GENERAL

- 13.1 To obviate confusion the Home Team shall be responsible for the court bookings, whether at their own club or not, and for the supply of the regulation type squash balls. The Home Team will be indicated on the league fixture lists.
- 13.2 League Standings
The results of all league matches will be entered directly onto the website. The results are therefore available on the website. League standings, team results and individual results are all available on the website.



13.3 Entry of results

The onus is on each team captain to ensure their respective results have been correctly entered by going onto the website regularly and checking they have been entered.

13.4 Limited By-Law amendments

Where amendments apply to these By laws as advised by the Association and which are applicable for a limited period, such amendments must be circulated to the members and posted on the website.

13.5 Amalgamation of clubs

Amalgamation between clubs shall only be permitted in accordance with the Constitution and the approval of the Association.