

Devon Squash & Racketball

Mixed League Rules

2016-2017

Amended rules for this season have been Underlined

1. Eligibility

1.1 CLUBS

(a) All clubs/teams must be paid-up members of England Squash. Clubs/teams will be suspended if membership subscriptions are still outstanding on October 31st.

(b) League entry fees will be determined by the Executive Committee and notified to the Annual General Meeting. Entry fees will be sent out after the fixture confirmation date and are due on 1st September.

A club that withdraws teams after the confirmation date for the coming season will be liable for the team entry fee. Teams that are withdrawn before this date will be exempt payment. Clubs who have not paid league fees by 30th September will have 5 points deducted per team. Clubs must also provide England Squash & Racketball with the total amount of players due for Individual Membership. Clubs who have not paid by 31st October or have not provided England Squash with the information will be liable for suspension for the rest of the season, at the discretion of the Executive Committee.

(c) **Any affiliated Club NOT represented at the Annual General Meeting will be charged an administrative levy of £20, which will be added to the invoice for the League team fees of that club.** Non-attendance at the AGM will mean that the club representative cannot receive the League Secretary's pack of match balls, scorecards etc which are handed out at the AGM to all League clubs thereby saving postage and delivery costs.

(d) Clubs/teams must appoint a Club Administrator as a point of contact for the League Secretary. They must provide the League Secretary with their e-mail address. They will be responsible for representing the club/teams affairs and will have a password allocated by the League Secretary. It is therefore essential that passwords are not divulged to others. The Club Administrator may delegate to a Club Captain, the inputting and verification of result cards and the addition of players to the club/teams Player Registration List. Should an Administrator wish to delegate this authority, they must provide the League Secretary with the Club Captains name and e-mail address in order that they can be allocated a password. It is the Club Administrator who remains ultimately responsible for the actions of their Club Captains.

1.2 PLAYERS

(a) Players must be fully paid-up members of the club/ organisation they represent.

(b) Players must have:

(i) their principal place of residence in Devon or within 10 miles of the boundary

or (ii) have been born in Devon

or (iii) be qualified to represent Devon in the current season in the Inter County event.

(c) No player having been nominated for and having played without prior nomination in a mixed league match for one club/organisation, may in that season play for any other club/organisation in a mixed league match, unless cleared to do so by the League Secretary. Such clearance will be given only in exceptional circumstances.

(d) Where a player's eligibility is in doubt, proof of eligibility must be provided by the club/organisation to the satisfaction of the League Secretary.

(e) Players must be fully paid up members of England Squash. The 'Club Administrator' is responsible for seeing that players meet this condition and that their Membership Number is input on the on-line Player Registration List.

(f) Non County (NC) players: Clubs are allowed to use 1 (NC) player per team in the Premier League. These players **MUST** be nominated to the team and the letters (NC) added after their name. A team may change its (NC) player at any time through the league secretary. These players **MUST** be unnominated, then opted out. The new player **MUST** then be nominated to the team. Any such players once withdrawn cannot be re-nominated throughout the season.

2. FACILITIES/ EQUIPMENT

- (a) Two courts are required for each match where there are two or more courts.
- (b) Home teams will provide adequate changing facilities and refreshments after the match.
- (c) Dunlop match balls must be purchased by clubs on a centralized purchase basis at 2 Doz. per team for each club to cover all home matches. Cost of balls for each team will be added to the invoice for county league affiliation fees to be paid before the start of the match season. All teams must use the Revelation Pro ball (double spot). The use of alternative speed balls is allowed if agreed in advance.
- (d) Players' clothing must comply with the England Squash Byelaws.
- (e) If it is considered that a condition exists on one or both courts which makes play hazardous or which may damage the court(s) the captains may elect to postpone the match in which case the entire match must be replayed and a report must be submitted to the League Secretary by both captains within seven days.

3. FIXTURES

(a) Each team will play each of the other teams in their division once at home and once away, unless the division is 7 teams or less then teams will play home and away in each half .

(b) The provisional fixture list must be confirmed online by club administrators by **23:59 on the 11th September.** Amendments to the fixtures list must be agreed between clubs, then sent to the league secretary by email to be changed. Matches can only be rearranged in the same half season as the original fixture and within the season dates.

(c) Each Club Administrator must submit to the League Secretary (preferably by e-mail), any changes to the Provisional Fixture List **by 23.59 on the 11th September.** Amendments will be processed by the League Secretary. Teams affected by changes will be notified. The penalty for failing to observe this rule will be five points for the team seeking the change (maximum of one penalty per team).

Club Administrators must confirm their fixture List online by clicking the button (Click to confirm dates of fixtures) **by 23.59 on the 11th September.** The Provisional fixture will then be adopted. The penalty for failing to observe this rule will be 5 points per team per week or part week in default.

(d) Rearrangements of fixtures after 25th Sept!

The re-arrangement of fixtures after this date may only be made with the PRIOR consent of the League Secretary. He/she must be e-mailed giving the reason for the change of date by the team seeking the change. Consent for change will only be given if exceptional circumstances exist. (I.e. Courts out of action, no electricity). A fixture cannot be changed due to player shortages or illness, no matter what the circumstances. One exceptional circumstance is where a club hosts a Super League match, the date of which is fixed after the season starts. In this event, at least 14 days notice of the change of fixture must be given or that club loses its right to have the fixture changed.

(e) Matches will normally start at 1930, unless adopted on the fixture list.

(f) At least three players from each team must be ready to play at the scheduled starting time. Any other players arriving late must arrive before the last game has been finished (Unless a time has been agreed between Captains). If not then they will be deemed not to have turned up. In that case or where a player fails to arrive at all, that player's tie and all lower ties will be forfeit.

If any player wishes to leave early then the opposing Captain must be contacted in advance of the match, if this is not possible then the player must stay until the last game has finished (if their game has not yet been played). If their opponent has not turned up then the above is imposed.

(g) **Every League match must be refereed.** The home team will supply referees for three of the ties and the away team two. All matches will consist of five ties, each being the best of five games. A playing order of strings 5, 4, 3, 2, 1 shall be adopted unless agreed between teams. The rules of play shall be as laid down by the World Squash Federation. Points may be deducted for failure to meet this rule.

(h) Points will be awarded for each fixture on the basis of each game won plus five for the team winning the greater number of ties.

(i) Where a club has two or more teams in the same Division/Section all matches between those teams must be played before the last 4 matches of the season.

(j) All matches must be played by the last day of the season.

(k) Fixtures may be changed by the league secretary up until the fixture confirm date (rule3c) as fixtures are provisional until after this date.

Team's wishing to drop out of the leagues before the fixture confirm date **will be exempt the team entry fee.** The league secretary if necessary may move teams into another division and re run the fixtures in the necessary leagues. The teams that may be moved would be dependent on the previous year's finishing positions.

For team's that drop out of the leagues after this date will be withdrawn from the league **and will be liable for the team entry fee**. This means the team will be greyed out and moved to the bottom position of that league and would be one of the 2 relegated teams in that division.

4. TEAM COMPOSITION

(a) Registration:

The registration/nomination of players is the responsibility of each Club Administrator.

- All players must appear on their clubs Player Registration List (PRL), before they play. The PRL will define order of play through ability.
- Each team must 'Confirm' on-line its PRL and declare its Nominated players by **23:59 on the 24th September**. Dispensation is granted to Exeter & Plymouth University due to their academic year. They must 'Confirm' on-line, their PRL before the Clubs (not team's) first match of the season. Failure to 'confirm' the PRL on time shall result in a 5-point deduction per team, per week, or part week overdue.
- New players may be added to the PRL prior to 7.30pm on the night of a match or, if earlier, the published start time of a match (not tie).
- Players who are un-registered or who play out of order shall forfeit both that and all lower ties.
- Once confirmed, the players Rank Order can only be amended during the following 'windows'.
1st window 30th Oct – 4th Nov. (window will have closed on the 5th Nov.)
2nd window 1st Jan – 7th Jan. (window will have closed on the 8th Jan.)
3rd window 19th Feb – 25th Feb. (window will have closed on the 26th Feb.)

(b) Nominated Players: **This rule now applies to Racketball.**

- Each team must nominate 5 players who must play at least 2 times in that half of the season for that team.
- Should a nominated player not play 2 matches in a half season then 5 points shall be deducted from the team for each of the matches not played.
- Failure to 'Confirm' the nominated 5 players on-line before the **26th September** shall result in a 5-point penalty per week or part week thereafter.
- No player may be nominated for more than one team.
- Nominated players may not play for a team in a lower Division. Players in breach of this rule shall forfeit that and all lower ties.
- A team can change its nominated players during the 2nd window.
- A team may 'de-nominate' nominated players, in either the 1st or 3rd quarters of the season (the cut off date being the end of the 1st and 3rd windows), but the following conditions apply.
- The League Secretary has to be informed by e-mail of any change. A new player must be nominated in place of the de-nominated player. This newly nominated player must play 2 times for that team in that half season, or face the penalty in 4(a) above. The matches this newly nominated player might already have played for the team in that half, shall count towards the 3.
- A de-nominated player is not permitted to play Devon League squash for a team in a lower, or, a different team in the same division, in that half season.

(c) Any player becomes ineligible for a team as soon as that player has, in the current half season, represented the club on 3 occasions in any Division higher than that in which that team participates (E.g. a nominated Division 4 player who has played in that half once in Division 3 and twice in Division 2 is ineligible for Division 4). An ineligible player shall lose that tie and all lower ties.

(d) No player, nominated or not, having played for one team in a Division, may play for any other team in the same Division during the half season. A player in breach of this rule shall lose that tie and all lower ties. At the end of the first half, if a player has played less than 3 times for that team then the stat will be reset and that player may if they wish play for the other team. If the player has played 3 or more times for that team in the first half then the player stat will not be reset and that player will have to remain tied to that team.

(e) The temporary indisposition of a player does not justify movement to a lower position. Where a team has been found to have played out of order, that tie and all lower ties will be forfeit and five points deducted from the team concerned. The two captains must exchange the order of play prior to the start of the match. Failure to do so may invalidate any complaint about the order.

(f) Infrequent player rule. **This rule now applies to Racketball.**

Before a team's last two matches of the season, the following condition must be met:

Each player must have already played two times for that team, or a lower team in the club, in the current season. If the condition can only be met by some players, then the remaining players **must** be chosen from players ranked lower on the registration list than those who do meet the condition. **All players must play in rank order**. If a player infringes this rule, that tie and all lower ties will be forfeit.

5. SCORES/ RESULTS

(a) **A Match Card containing, the Division, date, venue, names of players and scores must be signed by both team captains and kept by the Home team, (Match Card can be downloaded from the Devon SRA website). A copy should be kept by the Away team.**

The Club Administrator or Captain from both the Home and Away teams are responsible for submitting on-line, a record of the match, or for verifying the result input by the opposing team. A Home team has 4 days following a match, to input, or verify a result. The Away team has 7 days. In addition to this responsibility, where two teams from the same Club play each other, the signed Match Card (Not Photocopy) must be sent to the League Secretary for verification within 7 days. A team in breach of these rules will forfeit 3 points. In the event of a dispute over the score of a match, the League Secretary will request to see the signed Match Card which must be provided within seven days of being asked. Failure to comply with this rule will probably result in the forfeit of 3 points and may result in the withholding of points scored by the offending team.

(b) A club that wishes to give a walkover must inform the League Secretary. Failure to fulfil a fixture will result in the award of a walkover and the League Secretary must also be informed. The score cards must be confirmed online by both teams otherwise a 3 point penalty will be awarded for a late card. The names for the non offending team are to be put in, then select string conceded for string 1 on the offending side, select the date and confirm. If the League Secretary awards a walkover, then the non-offending team will gain 20 points (or 14 points where both teams are from the same club) and the offending team will gain no points.

(c) League placing's will be decided by the number of points won or, where teams are level on points, by the number of matches won or, if still level, by the superior for and against points difference. Failing that, for first place only a play-off will be arranged.

(d) Two winning teams will normally be promoted and two bottom teams relegated at the end of the season, except where several sections feed into one, only one from each section will be promoted and an appropriate number relegated. Premiership winners will compete in the National Knock-out Competition. A team in default of this rule will render itself ineligible for Premiership of the Devon League for the following season. Other changes may be made at the discretion of the League Secretary.

(e) In the event of a team that has won promotion not wishing to exercise its right for reasons that are satisfactory to the committee the team that would have been relegated should have the right to remain up. In the event of the team to be relegated not wanting to stay up, the runners-up in the lower division shall be offered promotion.

6. IRREGULARITIES/ MISCONDUCT

(a) The Executive Committee has discretion in the event of a dispute or rule interruption. It has the power to award penalty by deduction of points in the event of irregularity, indiscipline or breach of the rules or take any action it sees fit.

(b) Failure by a club to give at least 48 hours notice of its intention not to fulfill a fixture will be considered a case for deduction of points. In any case, the postponing / canceling team must refund all out-of-pocket expenses which the other team actually incurred.

(c) Other than for exceptional reasons, if a team has two walkovers awarded against it, it will be suspended from the League and all matches previously played by it will be declared void.

(d) **A Club whose team concedes two walkovers in the current season will have to reduce the number of teams it enters next season.**

(e) In the event of a player being ineligible, that player's tie and all lower ties will be forfeit.

(f) If a tie is awarded against a player because of bad conduct, that player will be ineligible for the next League match of the team being represented at the time and may not represent any other team in the meantime. A report must be submitted to the League Secretary who may, under the procedure set out in the Devon Squash Rackets Association's Disciplinary Procedure, convene a Disciplinary Sub-committee to consider further action.

(g) All further disciplinary matters shall be dealt with in accordance with the Association's Disciplinary Procedure.

(h) Procedure for rule changes in the Devon League or Cup to be brought to the AGM:

Whoever wishes to change any current rules or who wish to introduce any new rules for the following season must follow this procedure.

1. Rule changes by players must be sanctioned by their club and to be sent through their club to the league secretary.
2. Rule changes must be sent in writing or by email and must reach the league Secretary by the first Monday in May.
3. The League Secretary will then take it to the Committee's May Meeting to be discussed and voted on.
4. If the committee vote for the rule change then it will go to the AGM.
5. If the committee votes against the rule change it will not go to the AGM. However it is the clubs right to raise an item to the Hon. Secretary to go to the AGM, this must be submitted to the Hon. Secretary not less than 14 days before the AGM.

SUMMARY OF DEADLINES AND TIMELIMITS

(If these summaries are in conflict with the rules, the rules take precedence)

July 1st		rule
○ <u>England Squash affiliation fees due</u>		1.1(a)
September 1st		
○ <u>League entry fees due</u>		1.1 (b)
September 11th		
○ <u>Last date to notify L.S. of fixture changes without penalty or justification.</u>		3(c)
○ <u>Last day to confirm the Fixture List online</u>		3(b)
September 24th		
○ <u>Last day to complete Registered Player list, England Squash Membership details and Nominations for the teams.</u>		4(a)
○ <u>Last day to notify L.S. of fixture changes without justification but with mutual consent and a 5 point Penalty</u>		3(c)
September 25th		
○ <u>Season starts</u>		
September 30th		
○ <u>Last day to have paid League fees and Individual player subs to England Squash</u>		1.1(b)
October 30th		
○ <u>1st window opens allowing Club Administrators to change rank order of players</u>		4(a)
October 31st		
○ <u>England Squash membership must have been paid - failure results in suspension</u>		1.1(a)
○ <u>League entry fees must have been paid - failure results in suspension</u>		1.1(b)
November 5th		
○ <u>Last day to change your rank order</u>		4(a)
January 1st		
○ <u>2nd window opens allowing Club Administrators to change rank order of players</u>		4(a)
○ <u>½ way stage. Club Administrators can change nominated players for teams if they wish</u>		4(b)
January 7th		
○ <u>Last day to change nominations and rank order</u>		4(a)4(b)
January 8th		
○ <u>2nd half of season begins</u>		
February 19th		
○ <u>3rd and final window opens enabling Club Administrators to amend rank order of players</u>		4(a)
○ <u>Matches between teams from the same club must have already been played</u>		3(g)
○ <u>Beware of the infrequent player rule, players must have played 3 times for the club</u>		4(f)
February 25th		
○ <u>Last day to amend rank order of players</u>		4(a)
April 1st		
○ <u>Last day of season. All matches must have been played</u>		3(h)
March /April		
○ <u>Devon Shield & Shield Plate Finals Night</u>		
March /April		
○ <u>Devon Cup & Cup Plate Finals Night</u>		

SUMMARY OF PENALTIES

Suspension from leagues

- | | rule |
|---|--------|
| • Failure to pay England Squash Club membership by 31 st Oct | 1.1(a) |
| • Failure to pay League entry fees by 31 st Oct | 1.1(a) |
| • For the award of two walkovers | 6(c) |
| • Suspension from Premier Division should winners fail to play in National Knockout Cup | 5(d) |

Walkover

- | | rule |
|--------------------------------|--------------|
| ○ Failure to fulfill a fixture | 5(b)6(b)6(c) |

Fixed Deductions

Ties forfeit

- | | rule |
|---|--------------------|
| ○ For fielding an ineligible player | 4(b),4(c)4(d),6(e) |
| ○ For fielding an unregistered player | 4(a) |
| ○ For player playing out-of-order | 4(a)4(e) |
| ○ For playing strong infrequent player out of order in last 4 matches | 4(f) |
| ○ For player arriving late | 3(f) |
| ○ For unfilled string positions | 3(f) |
| ○ For failure to fulfill a fixture | 5(b)6(b) |

5 point deduction

- | | rule |
|--|--------|
| ○ Per Team for Clubs not playing league fees by 30 th Sept | 1.1(b) |
| ○ Per Team for any amendments to the Fixture List after the Fixture Confirmation date | 3(c) |
| ○ Per week or part week that the Player Registration List is not re-nominated and amended before the start of the season | 4(a) |
| ○ For each match of the required three that a Nominated player misses in a ½ season | 4(b) |
| ○ For playing out of order | 4(e) |
| ○ Per week or part week in default for not confirming the fixture List online before the fixture confirmation date | 3(c) |

3 point deduction

- | | rule |
|--|------|
| ○ For Home Team failing to complete, or verify, on-line Match Card within 4 days of match | 5(a) |
| ○ For Away Team failing to complete, or verify, on-line Match Card within 7 days of match | 5(a) |
| ○ For club failing to complete and verify on-line match card and send actual match Card to LS within 7 days of match when two of its teams play each other | 5(a) |

Discretionary Deductions

- | | rule |
|--|------|
| ○ For failure to provide required number of referees | 3(g) |
| ○ For failing to provide actual match card within 7 days to LS in event of a dispute | 5(a) |
| ○ For incomplete match card details | 5(a) |
| ○ For failure to keep the actual match card (Home team) or a copy (Away team) | 5(a) |
| ○ For failure to give 48 hours notice not to fulfill a fixture | 6(b) |
| ○ For failure of Premier Division winners to play in National Knockout Competition | 5(d) |