



England
Squash &
Racketball

INTER COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIPS

2012/2013

JUNIOR
REGULATIONS

PLEASE READ CAREFULLY, as there may be changes on a seasonal basis. We would point out that these regulations will be strictly enforced

- TITLE:**
The competitions are called "The England Squash & Racketball (ESR) Junior Inter County Squash Championships".
- ORGANISATION OF THE CHAMPIONSHIPS:**
The Championships are organised by ESR. (See Appendix A for the schedule of junior

categories for this season)

3. **ENTRIES:**

Applications to enter county teams are forwarded to each county secretary in June and must be returned to ESR no later than Noon **27 July 2012** English counties must be fully affiliated to ESR. Requirements for guest counties are listed below.

Any number of teams from a county may be entered into each category, with the following provisos:

- Players must play in strict order of merit i.e. top ranked 5 in 1st team, 6 – 10 in 2nd team etc.
- Results of County Closed Tournaments must be sent to ESR on request

All guest entries from outside England, i.e., Ireland, Scotland or Wales, must be entered by the appropriate Federation. There will be a charge of £140 per team entered. ESR reserves the right to revoke guest entries at any stage.

To protect the integrity of the competition, counties withdrawing a team from the Championships are liable to be fined. Details of the fines process for this season are set out in point 14.

Counties should not enter a team unless they have a SQUAD large enough to honour the entry commitment and can comply with the Championship Regulations

4. **TEAMS:**

All teams consist of five players, with the exception of Girl's Under 13 and U19 teams which consist of three players. Teams for the U11 Festival are 3 per side (Boys and Girls)

A player may only participate in two junior age group categories

(An exception is made for the u11 Festival)

5. **QUALIFICATION:**

(a) **ESR Membership**

All players representing teams in the Championships must be current members of ESR at the time of participation. Current membership cards or player membership numbers should be produced on request

Team managers have the responsibility to ensure that all players are members of ESR prior to participation. If an ineligible player takes part the team that they represent will be scratched from the Championships. There will be no exception to this rule.

(b) **Player Eligibility**

- Players may only compete in the Championships if they are qualified to play for England, Ireland, Scotland or Wales for the relevant season.**

NOTE

If not a British Citizen – Rights of residency will apply – The player must have resided (subject to all other points below) in the UK for 1 continuous year (365 days), and not have played for another country in the year preceding the current season's Championships.

- ii) A player may not represent more than one county in the Championships in one season. A qualification applying on the first time in a season that a player represents a county holds good throughout the season.
- iii) Players are always (subject to [i] and [ii] above) qualified to play for their county of birth.

NB: In the case of a formation of a new county, players can elect to play for the new county at the time of its formation, or the old county – either through birth or residency qualifications. Once this choice is made it cannot be altered. The same applies if a change of county boundaries results in their birthplace or residence becoming situated in a different county.

- iv) A player is (subject to [i]) qualified to play for any county where they have resided continuously for the three months preceding the start of the season and are still residing. The season starts on the date of the first county fixture – 2012/ 2013 being 22nd September 2012
- v) A fallow year is **not** required when changing county in Junior Inter County events, but eligibility
- vi) A residential qualification cannot be obtained through a school, university, college or other place of further / higher education or training unless a player's bona fide (proper) home is in the same county as the school or university.
- vii) A player may continue to represent a county that they have played for in the Championships through a residential qualification after they have stopped living in that county and provided that they have not played for any other county.
- viii) A player may request to represent a county to which they can demonstrate a strong link, if neither their county of residence, nor their county of birth, (if it has a common border with the county of residence), has entered the Championships.

If a player wishes to play in the Championships, but has no county of residence, they can apply to represent a county to which they can demonstrate a strong link.

- ix) In all cases where a player's qualification is in doubt, it is obligatory on the county they want to play for to prove the qualification to the satisfaction of ESR.
- x) Age criteria specific to junior categories is shown in Appendix A.

(c) **County Eligibility**

A county is eligible to apply to enter any of the categories in the Championships provided it is recognised as being a county (in England) a region (in Wales) a District (in Scotland) or a Province (in Ireland) by ESR and is authorised to compete by the relevant Association / Federation.

6. **ORGANISATION OF THE CHAMPIONSHIPS:**

- i) The Championships are organised on a regional basis. Regions normally consist of six / eight county teams.

- ii) The Championships are held in two stages, each of which are played on a Sunday when ESR allocate a host county. Successful teams progress from Stage Two to a Finals weekend. There is also a Trophy Finals weekend for teams unsuccessful in Stage One.
- iii)
 - Stage I:** Group matches to determine the make up of Stage II.
 - Stage II:** Group matches to determine final regional positions with the top counties progressing to the Finals weekend
 - Trophy Finals:** Run by counties where Stage II Group Y winners compete for the Trophy
 - Finals Weekend** Organised by ESR where teams play out for positions 1- 4 Semi finals on Saturday, 3/4 play off and Final on Sunday
- iii) All matches must be played on the published dates. Any postponement and subsequent rearrangement must be ratified by ESR. See Appendix C for dates.
- iv) It is the responsibility all host counties to ensure that a qualified first aider is present for the full duration of the event.

7. **HOSTING:**

- i) Counties (other than guest counties) are asked to host fixtures, and this is a requirement of entry.
- ii) All host clubs must be affiliated to ESR
- iii) **Host counties must be sympathetic to travelling counties in the choice of venue (subject to ii above). i.e. as centrally located as possible.**
- iv) Host Counties must provide an appropriate meal for all teams during the course of the day.
- v) Sufficient court time must be allocated
- vi) A split venue is not acceptable unless agreed by ESR
- vii) Shower and changing facilities should be suitable for Junior players
- viii) A representative of the host county must be at the club for the full duration of matches

8. **HOST ORGANISATION:**

Each host county must appoint a Host Organiser who is responsible for administering and running the Championships. More detailed information about the hosts responsibilities will be emailed to the captain with fixture information

9. **REFEREES:**

Host Counties should try to provide sufficient qualified referees. (Contact Martin Roberts at ESR 07833 240367), for lists of active referees in your area). However, if this is not possible, players from each county must share the responsibility for refereeing.

10. **SCHEDULE OF MATCHES:**

i) **Format for Four Teams in a Group:**

The draw for ties in each stage is determined by the vertical order of the teams in the group.

County 1 is always the host county with No 2 being the closest to it geographically and so on.

Session 1	1100	1 v 4	2 v 3
Session 2	1400	1 v 3	2 v 4
Session 3	1700	1 v 2	3 v 4

Variations to these times can be accepted should all counties in a group agree, however ESR must ratify any changes before they are made

ii) **Format for Three Teams in a Group:**

The draw for ties in each stage is determined by the vertical order of the teams in the group.

County 1 is the host county with No 2 being the closest geographically

Session 1	1100	1 v 2
Session 2	1400	2 v 3
Session 3	1700	1 v 3

Variations to these times can be accepted should all counties in a group agree.

Teams of 5 should use 2 courts as follows:

Court One:	Court Two
String 3	String 5
String 1	String 4
String 2	

Teams of 3 should use 1 court as follows:

Court One:
String 3
String 1
String 2

11. **SCORING:**

ALL MATCHES WILL BE PLAYED USING PAR TO 11

- (a) Each stage of the Championship is scored separately.
- (b)
 - (i) A match is played between individuals.
 - (ii) A tie is a series of *five matches* played between two counties. With the exception of Girls U13 U19 which is three matches.
- (c)
 - (i) One point is awarded for each county game won in a match.
 - (ii) Five bonus points are awarded to counties winning a tie.
- (d) At the end of the stage the counties are placed:
 - (i) Firstly on the number of ties won
 - (ii) Secondly on the number of points
 - (iii) If the above are equal for two counties, on the result between the two counties
 - (iv) If the number of points are equal for three counties, on the number of matches won
 - (v) If the above are equal, the greatest positive difference between total games won and total games lost
 - (vi) If all above are equal the total positive difference between total points won and total points lost

12. **RULES OF PLAY:**

WSF Rules of Squash Rackets apply. The Championships must be played on courts that comply with WSF specifications.

13. **WITHDRAWALS / FINES**

Withdrawals

If a county withdraws from the Championships, **the team manager must immediately:**

1. Contact ESR - in writing (email and fax acceptable), stating reason for withdrawal. A telephone message is not acceptable.
2. Contact the host county organiser, and follow up in writing 1 week from date of withdrawal.
3. Contact all other county organisers in group, and follow up in writing 1 week from date of withdrawal.
4. A County withdrawing from Stage 1 WILL be excluded from Stage 2, unless an exception is made by ESR

Please note the introduction of a flat rate fine of £100 for any withdrawal up to the 8 day or less rule

- £100 per team for withdrawals notified to ESR up to 8 days prior to the start of the

event.

- £100 per team for withdrawals notified to ESR 8 days prior to the start of the event.
- Thereafter a £10 increase to the fine per each extra day. i.e. 4 days before event £140, to a maximum of £180.00
- Persistent breaches of this rule may result in the county being banned from the Championships for a period determined by ESR
- On receipt of a withdrawal 8 days or more before a tie is due to be played, ESR will advise the County Secretary of any fine incurred
- On receipt of a withdrawal 8 days or less before a tie is due to be played, ESR will, within 14 working days, advise the County Secretary of any fine incurred
- Once notification of a fine has been received the County has a right of appeal, and has 14 days in which to lodge its appeal with ESR
- ESR will consider the appeal within 14 days of it being lodged.
- ESR will either uphold the appeal or reduce or sanction the fine. Counties will be advised of the outcome within one week of the decision
- Once this process is complete counties must settle any fines imposed within 14 days. Failure to do so could jeopardise a teams participation in future seasons

Counties that incur costs relating to late / unacceptable withdrawals by others should apply in writing to ESR for consideration of monetary compensation. Any compensation is met from fines received

14. **DISCIPLINARY ISSUES:**

ESR has the authority to disqualify a player or county from the Championships, or fine a player or county, or deduct points from a county during the Championships. Players or counties shall have the right of appeal which should be in writing within ten days of receipt of a disciplinary ruling. Any appeal will be heard at a place and time at the discretion of ESR. All out-of-pocket expenses incurred in connection with such an appeal shall be paid by the party or parties to the appeal and in such a manner as ESR determine.

15. **CODE OF CONDUCT:**

It is the responsibility of competing counties to ensure that the team manager complies with ESR Child Protection criteria (found on the website) and that all players in their teams abide by the England Squash Code of Conduct (Available on request). Also the player and parent behaviour guidelines should be adhered to (See Appendix B),

Instances of unacceptable behaviour will not be tolerated and will be dealt with severely.

16. **MATTERS NOT COVERED BY THE REGULATIONS:**

Any matters arising regarding qualification which are not covered by these Regulations should be submitted to ESR not less than fourteen days before the date on which a decision is required so that a ruling can be given. **The decision of ESR in all matters in relation to the Championships is final.**

APPENDICES

A: SCHEDULE OF JUNIOR EVENT CATEGORIES

B: JUNIOR PLAYER'S WELFARE AND BEHAVIOUR

APPENDIX A:

SCHEDULE OF JUNIOR EVENT CATEGORIES <i>(Including eligibility criteria)</i>

BOY'S

1. Under 19 Championship
2. Under 17 Championship
3. Under 15 Championship
4. Under 13 Championship

GIRL'S

1. Under 19 Championship
2. Under 17 Championship
3. Under 15 Championship
4. Under 13 Championship

UNDER 13 EVENTS:

Players are eligible to participate if they are aged under 13 on the published date of the finals

UNDER 15 EVENTS:

Players are eligible to participate if they are aged under 15 on the published date of the finals

UNDER 17 EVENTS:

Players are eligible to participate if they are aged under 17 on the published date of the finals

UNDER 19 EVENTS:

Players are eligible to participate if they are aged under 19 on the published date of the finals

Under 11 Festival:

Boys (Team of 3)

Girls (Team of 3)

Players are eligible to participate if they are aged under 11 on the published date of the Festival

APPENDIX B:

JUNIOR PLAYER'S WELFARE AND BEHAVIOUR
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Squads competing in the Junior Inter County Championships will be deemed to fall within the control of the appointed Team Manager, both on and off court, for the duration of each competitive fixture.

ESR advises Team Managers to obtain the following information concerning juniors in their team:

1. Contact details of Parents / Guardian.
2. Contact details of Family Doctor.
3. Emergency contact.
4. Medical history, condition and requirements, e.g., asthma, heart condition, diabetes, fits, fainting or blackouts, allergies.
5. Special dietary requirements.
6. Any addition information which may be relevant.

THIS LIST IS NOT EXHAUSTIVE

Each Team Manager (and not the Host Organiser) is responsible for ensuring that players adhere to the ESR Code of Conduct on court.

Off Court

In public places, especially hotels, consideration should be given to other guests in all respects.

The purchase and consumption of alcoholic drinks is strictly forbidden by any player under the age of 18. Any player 18 years or over wishing to purchase and consume alcohol may only do so with prior permission by the Team Manager

Dissent to a match official or organiser is not acceptable, and players who show dissent or abuse will be severely sanctioned.

It is recommended that each team member is given a copy of these notes so that the importance of responsible behaviour is made clear to them. Players should sign a sheet before each weekend, acknowledging their understanding and willingness to abide by these regulations and guidelines.

Parents / Managers

Parents / Managers must refrain from interference in matches. All complaints should be directed to the Host Organiser. ESR reserves the right to ban any manager or parent from courtside at any event should it be felt necessary to do so.