



# **Northerns Squash Association**

## **By-Laws for League Play**

Revision: February 2024

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## INTRODUCTION

### Spirit of the Game

The essence of successful squash matches is fair competition. We cannot hope to encapsulate all the nuances of what is required to achieve fair competition in the By-laws of the game, nor can we hope to adjudicate with wisdom the many disputes that might arise if the spirit of fair competition is not an important part of our philosophy concerning participation in squash. In this light, we would strongly recommend that each club and player endorse practices and openly acknowledges the following principles:

The better player on the day should win – this has important implications for the referee’s interpretation and knowledge of the rules, impartiality, and firm enforcement of the rules.

The officiating person must be acknowledged by the participating players as a person rendering a service for which no payment is asked. To referee well, in a keenly contested match, even with fair-minded players, can be a daunting task. It would be a breach of the fair-competition philosophy to resort to intimidatory behavior to influence a decision.

The order in league sides should reflect, as accurately as possible, playing strength, which should also be reflected on clubs’ ladders.

There is indeed a very important spirit to this game of ours – which we need to cherish – as we do compete on the same side of the “net”

Dr Alan Colburn

(Past President of the Northerns Squash Federation)

## **1. DEFINITIONS**

- 1.1 “Association” or “NSA” shall mean Northern Squash Association represented by the duly elected Management Committee.
- 1.2 “Arrangements” shall mean telephonic or verbal communication between two players where actual consensus has been reached. One-way communications by means of “SMS” or voicemail are excluded from the meaning of reaching consensus.
- 1.3 “Club Captain” shall mean over and above the chairperson of the Club, the person who represents the Club from a league perspective.
- 1.4 “Federation” or “NSF” shall mean Northern Squash Federation represented by the duly elected Board, to whom the NSA is affiliated to as member in conjunction with the constitution of the NSA.
- 1.5 “Match” shall mean the contest between 2 players, the best of 5 games played between 2 players of different teams. To win a player must win 3 games.
- 1.6 “Fixture” shall mean 4 matches (the best of 5 (five) games) played between the players of two teams, on the date and time, at the venue as stipulated in the approved league fixture list or on such date and time as arranged according to the provisions of these by-laws.
- 1.7 “League round” shall mean a round of league play wherein all the leagues each play one fixture. A league round starts on a Wednesday night and ends on the next Tuesday night scheduled for league. The round number of each fixture will be indicated on the league admin system.
- 1.8 “Written” shall mean any correspondence in writing of which proper proof of sending and receiving can be produced i.e. registered mail or facsimile with corresponding transmittal report or hand delivered mail with proof of receipt or e-mail with proof of receipt i.e. return e-mail confirming receipt.

## **2. APPLICATION**

- 2.1 These By-laws shall apply to the league played by Clubs that are members of the Association and include the by-laws for the Blitz league as an Annexure. Any amendment/s to these by-laws will only come into effect after having been approved by the Association and the Board of the Northern Squash Federation.
- 2.2 Each club must nominate a Club Captain whose duty it is to learn and understand the by-laws. The Club Captain in turn must assist his team captains with any queries or possible disputes that may arise. Club captains will be invited to discuss any disputes that their club might become involved in.
- 2.3 NSA League stewards will be appointed annually who will be on call every league night to handle queries or disputes pertaining to the by-laws. Club captains will have the cell numbers of all the league stewards.
- 2.4 Where the contents of these By-laws conflict with a provision in the Constitution of the Association, the provision of the Constitution shall prevail.

## **3. LEAGUE PLAYING SYSTEM**

- 3.1 The Northern league consists of the Men’s league and the Ladies league.
- 3.2 The Men’s and Ladies leagues consist of numbered leagues from 1 to n, where n is determined by the number of leagues that can be filled with entries from the clubs for the particular year.
- 3.3 Numbers of Teams per League: Each league shall consist of ten (10) teams per league, unless where under extraordinary circumstances, the Association may approve fewer teams per league.
- 3.4 Number of Players per League Team: 4 players to play each fixture and at least 1 reserve.

#### **4. COMPOSITION OF LEAGUES**

- 4.1 Application for League teams: Clubs shall submit their applications for league teams for the following season, in writing, on or before 31 January.
- 4.1.1 The application shall contain a list of the leagues that the Club applies for, as well as the preliminary club ladder.
- 4.2 Allocation of league teams: The basis of league allocation shall be promotion and relegation.
- 4.2.1 The two teams that ended in 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> place in each league shall have the right, on application, to be promoted to the next higher league the following season. The two teams that ended 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> in a league will be relegated to the lower league the following season.
- 4.2.2 In the case of a club waiving the promotion of a league side as per clause 4.2.1 herein, only clubs accepting the promotion may be promoted. The team placed third may only be given the option of promotion at the discretion of the Association, based on written motivation.
- 4.2.3 Clubs are restricted to two sides in a league.
- 4.2.4 The Association may at its discretion accommodate a Tertiary Institutional team in the 1<sup>st</sup> league.
- 4.3 If the same club team wins the same league 2 years in a row, the team must take promotion, unless it's impossible due to having 2 teams in the higher league already.
- 4.3.1 A club may appeal against taking promotion in writing to the NSA, with motivation, if the club won't have the same players available for the next season.
- 4.4 An allocation list will be compiled and sent to all the clubs by 7 February of each year to notify clubs of any vacant slots resulting from the applications received, in any of the leagues. Clubs may then make further applications for league teams to fill the vacant slots. The Association may at its discretion allocate a league side to a club making application for such a league side. Final allocations will be sent to the clubs by 14 February.
- 4.5 In the interest of squash and other club players, all club chairpersons must ensure to only apply for league side/s for which they know their club can field the necessary strength and number of players to play competitively in all the fixtures for that league.

#### **5. PLAYERS**

- 5.1 Registration of Players and eligibility to play league - a player shall only be eligible to play for a team representing a club if:
- 5.1.1 The player has been registered as a playing member of that club for the current year before playing any matches.
- 5.1.2 The player has been registered once-off on the online Northern's league administration system by the Club administrator. On registration the player receives a lifelong NSF number.
- 5.1.3 The player is registered with Squash South Africa and has paid the annual registration fee/levy before playing any league matches every year.
- 5.1.4 The player is in good standing with the club, all the Associations in the NSF and Squash SA. Not in good standing can mean under a disciplinary suspension, owing money or other reasons reported to the NSA.
- 5.2 Players may only change clubs by completing the "Player Transfer Form" (included as Annexure A). The form must be signed by the Chairperson/Club Captain of the club the player is leaving as well as the Chairperson/Club Captain of the club the player intends moving to.

- 5.2.1 The last date for the transfer of players between clubs is the 28<sup>th</sup> of January each year.
- 5.2.2 Only in exceptional circumstances and with the approval of the Association, will the transfer of a player be allowed after 28<sup>th</sup> January each year and before the first round of league. The decision shall first rest with the two chairpersons involved and then with a motivation to the Association for the final approval.
- 5.2.3 No Player will be allowed to transfer during the first four (4) league rounds.
- 5.2.4 A player transferring after the 4<sup>th</sup> round of league may not play for his/her previous or new club for two (2) consecutive league rounds from the date the transfer form is received by the NSA. However, should the transferring player not have played league for a period of four (4) league rounds prior to the date of the transfer, then the transferring player may represent the new Club immediately after or on the transfer date.
- 5.2.5 Notwithstanding any of the above, a player is only deemed eligible to play for a new club once the Association has accepted the transfer and changed the affiliation of the player on the online Northerns league administration system, which change shall not be unduly delayed.

### 5.3 Disputes Relating to Transfer of Players

In the case of any dispute arising because of the transfer, the transfer may be referred to the Association for a decision, with the right to appeal.

### 5.4 External Player

- 5.4.1 An external player for the purpose of these By-laws shall be defined as a player:
  - 5.4.1.1 Who has represented another province at senior level whether officially or by invitation and has not transferred to Northerns by the 1<sup>st</sup> of March of the relevant year.
  - 5.4.1.2 Who is a foreign national, i.e. not a SA passport holder or SA Citizen.
  - 5.4.1.3 Who resides outside the Tshwane (Pretoria) metropolitan area and has not, in writing advised Squash SA and the Association of his/her availability to be selected for Northerns.
- 5.4.2 Each league team must comprise of at least 2 players eligible to represent the NSA at the Jarvis/Kaplan Cup (Growthpoint Interprovincial tournament). The restriction on external players will be confined to Men's 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, and 3<sup>rd</sup> leagues as well as Ladies 1<sup>st</sup> league.
  - 5.4.2.1 A club with two teams in a league will only be allowed to field a total of two external players in both teams combined, meaning that of the eight players in that league six must be eligible to represent the NSA at Jarvis/Kaplan Cup (Growthpoint IPT).
- 5.4.3 The penalty for fielding a team with three or more external players will be that the team forfeits the matches in positions 3 and 4, 0-3 to the opponents and get a further 2 (two) penalty points deducted from the team total for each of the external players over the limit of 2.
- 5.4.4 An external player participating in any league must play 50% of the total league matches for his/her club in the current season, failing which, his/her team will be penalized by forfeiting all points allocated to the player and the results will be offending player will be regarded as a "NO SHOW", resulting in the team forfeiting all matches below the offending player 3-0.
  - 5.4.4.1 In the event of a team fielding three or more external players, the league match will not count towards the third (and fourth) external players required 50% of total league matches. I.e. The match will only count towards the first two (highest playing positions) external players' league season match count.
  - 5.4.4.2 If an external lady wishes to play Ladies' and Men's league, then she is required to play 50% of the matches in both leagues.

- 5.4.5 No external player will be allowed to start playing in a league or registered as a Northerns player after the first half of the league season has been completed. Only in exceptional circumstances will the Association consider such an application with written motivation for approval.
- 5.5 Any player guilty of playing under a false name or false NSF number will lose their match 0-3 and the players below that player will forfeit their matches 0-3 to the opponents, with a further 2 (two) point penalty deducted from the team for that fixture for every transgressing player. NSA may determine further sanctions against the transgressing player.

## **6. SELECTION OF CLUB LEAGUE TEAMS**

- 6.1 A club must fill its teams in order of strength of its players, according to the club ladder. The ladder must be made available to the NSA on request.
- 6.2 Players ranked in the top 20 (Men) and top 10 (Ladies) on the South African National Rankings must play strictly according to the National Ranking order, i.e.: A player ranked in the top 20 (Men) and top 10 (Ladies) may not play below another player in his/her club who is ranked below him/her nationally.
- 6.3 The player positions in the club's most recent league fixtures are the club's most up to date ladder.
- 6.4 Fielding 2 teams in a league

In the case of a club fielding two teams in a league the order of both teams must be declared before the first match of the season.

- 6.4.1 Reserves may play for either side in a higher or lower league which has two teams but once they have represented one of the higher teams, they must play a match for the lower league before playing for the other higher / lower team.
- 6.4.2 Play a match means physically completing a match. Missing a league round is not considered playing a match, unless it is the bottom league, then the player must miss one league round into order to assist the alternative team.
- 6.4.3 Example 1: A 7<sup>th</sup> League player can assist Team 1 in 8<sup>th</sup> League. To assist Team 2, the Player must play a match in the higher league first before being eligible to assist Team 2.
- 6.4.4 Example 2: A 2<sup>nd</sup> League player can assist Team 1 in 1<sup>st</sup> League. To assist Team 2, the Player must drop back to 2<sup>nd</sup> League and a match before being eligible to assist Team 2.
- 6.4.5 The leapfrog rule still applies to paragraph 6.4.1.
- 6.5 Lady Players Playing in Men's League and Vice Versa

Lady players can play in the Men's league, on the same basis as men. Men are not allowed to play in the Ladies league.

Ladies may play for one club in the Ladies' league and for another club in the Men's league. She must be registered on the system under the club for which she plays Ladies' league and NSA must be informed in writing by the cut-off date for inter-club transfers, if she wishes to play in Men's league for another club.

### 6.6 Playing in Different League Teams

No player will be allowed to play for two (2) different men's or ladies league teams during the same league round (please note emphasis on same round. Some rounds may spread over more than 1 week). Transgressing player/s will forfeit the second match played 0-3 to the opponent, all players below that player also lose their matches 0-3 and the team fielding the transgressing player(s) will be penalized by deducting 2 penalty points from the team for every transgressing player.

### 6.7 Movement of Players Up the Order

- 6.7.1 Players can move up the order according to ladder positions, to fill teams where other players aren't available to play.
- 6.7.2 A player may only leapfrog one other player who played in a league round for the club, in the next round, either up or down the order
- 6.7.3 The position of a player whose name was recorded to indicate a "No show" by that player, shall be deemed the position in which he/she played the last time and not the position recorded as a "No show", with regards to movement up and down the ladder.

#### 6.8 Penalties when Playing in the Incorrect Order

- 6.8.1 Whenever a player plays out of position according to the by-laws, the player will forfeit the match 0-3 to the opponent and 2 penalty points will be deducted from the team total for every transgressing player.
- 6.8.2 Where an ineligible player plays in a higher position than his teammates, teammates under his position will also forfeit their matches 0-3.

#### 6.9 Ladder Movement During Breaks in the Season

In the event of a 4 week or longer break between league fixtures, players may leapfrog more than one player. Changes to the ladder that will result in a player leapfrogging more than the allowed 1 player in the next round, must be sent to the NSA office before the next league fixture takes place.

#### 6.10 Next Available Player Rule

- 6.10.1 In certain instances, clubs need to move players up or down from their positions the previous week, to fulfil a fixture. To avoid penalties being imposed due to breaching the by-laws with regards to playing out of position, a club may move players up or down by making use of the next available player.
- 6.10.2 This rule allows the club to ignore a player who may not play for a certain league side where such club has two sides in the same league, and where a team already has two external players in it. The next available player will need to be a local player even if such player will leapfrog more than one player that played in the previous round, due to external player/s being between the next available local player and the team above. The following week, such player may also move back to his previous position without any penalty. (Refer to annexure H – next available player, for examples).
- 6.10.3 The next available player rule will also be applied where a team accommodates another team by allowing a player to play early in his/her normal position but by the scheduled date of the fixture they have players in higher positions not available. To avoid transgressing the leap-frog rule, the team may use the next available player in the higher position.
- 6.10.4 To avoid penalties, the team must record the early play in writing with the NSA before the match is played.

### **7. FIXTURES AND MATCHES**

#### 7.1 League Commencement Dates and Duration

The commencement date, fixture dates, venues and the duration of all leagues shall be determined by the Association.

#### 7.2 Fixtures

- 7.2.1 Every fixture shall be played on the date and at the venue laid down in the fixture list drawn up by the Association.
- 7.2.2 No league fixture shall be played on a Public Holiday, unless unavoidable

7.2.3 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 the previous match.

### 7.3 Rescheduling of fixtures and matches

7.3.1 Rescheduling of matches or fixtures shall only be allowed with the prior written approval of the Association, which shall grant such rescheduling only on the grounds of an individual, team or club having other commitments to squash, which shall be limited to the player, on the date of the fixture, provided that such match or fixture shall be played prior to the scheduled fixture:

7.3.1.1 Having to play in a squash tournament of at least Provincial level, whether age group related or open.

7.3.1.2 Having to accompany a junior player to a national selection tournament.

7.3.1.3 Having to act as manager or coach for a Provincial or School team.

7.3.2 One travel day may be considered for events outside the geographical region (i.e. Gauteng)

7.3.3 If the requesting player gives notice 14 days before the last date that the requesting player can play the match, the opponent must find a time to play, or forfeit the match (but lower players in the team will not be penalised). Notice will be limited to a maximum 30 days before the scheduled date.

7.3.3.1 If the players can't agree on a date, any one of the players may approach the committee to mediate to find a suitable date for the match to take place.

7.3.4 If less than 14 days' notice is given before the last date that the requesting player can play, the opposition player can decide if he wants to accommodate the request, otherwise the requesting player's team must send a reserve to play.

7.3.5 A player may only request a specific club to play earlier once in a league season.

7.3.6 Tertiary institutions that are affected by having to play fixtures during peak exam periods will have the following dispensation:

7.3.6.1 Teams affected by such exam scheduling will be able to re-schedule their fixtures on the basis that this is limited to four occasions per annum.

7.3.6.2 The fixtures will be identified by such tertiary institutions before the beginning of the winter league season.

7.3.6.3 The teams willing to re-schedule these fixtures must ensure that the fixtures are played before the fixture date sent out by the NSA.

7.3.6.4 The opponents must be contacted in writing at least 21 days before the fixture date sent out by the NSA.

7.3.6.5 The opponents must accommodate the tertiary institution, if the alternative dates are reasonable, otherwise the opponents will forfeit the fixture 16-0.

7.3.6.6 The onus is on the tertiary institution to provide court bookings if need be.

### 7.3.7 Matches Played Earlier on the Same Day

7.3.7.1 League teams may agree to play a fixture or match(es) at an earlier time on the same designated day at any venue, by mutual consent of both Captains and players involved.

7.3.7.2 If two teams agree to an earlier starting time for a match or matches, late arrival rules will only apply from 18h00 to the remaining matches in the fixture.

**NOTE:** It is preferred that the entire fixture should be rescheduled to the same date, time, and venue to keep the same league fixture atmosphere.

#### 7.4 Court bookings

The home team shall be responsible for the booking of courts failing which the home team will be penalized by awarding all the matches for which a court isn't available 3-0 to the opponents.

#### 7.5 Order of play: The preferred order of play will be 4, 3, 2, 1.

#### 7.6 Matches

7.6.1 Each player of a team shall play one match to consist of the best of five games.

7.6.2 All matches shall be refereed as required in the applicable World Squash Singles Rules, Rule 18: CONTROL OF A MATCH, by a member of the team. (Also see clause 8.3)

#### 7.7 Claiming a Match

7.7.1 A team may claim the first match (no 4 position) at 18h15 and the rest of the matches at 15-minute intervals from 18h15 (in order 3, 2 &1), provided that:

7.7.1.1 The team has 4 players present and is ready to play, and

7.7.1.2 It has not been possible to commence the match due to the opposition not being present and ready to play.

7.7.1.3 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. A written explanation for the claim should be included on the result sheet. The Association will apply penalty points in accordance with the clauses pertaining to "No shows".

7.7.2 The team claiming a fixture/match shall submit a fully completed Score sheet and a written explanation for the claim.

7.7.3 Penalised teams may appeal the above penalties where "acts of God" were the cause thereof.

#### 7.8 Fixtures Affected by Load Shedding and general power failures.

Should any fixture be affected by load shedding or a general power failure in the area the following rules will be applied by Northerns in determining points with immediate effect:

7.8.1 Once a full fixture is affected by load-shedding or a general power failure the clubs may change the team members for the fixture within the by-laws regarding playing order. If the fixture has already commenced, then the original team must complete the fixture.

7.8.2 Clubs, as far as possible must seek an alternative venue option if the load shedding schedule may affect their fixture.

7.8.3 Fixtures affected by load shedding or General power failures must be conveyed to Northerns at admin@northerns.co.za within 24 hours so that no late penalties are implemented when the results are entered.

7.8.4 Any individual matches completed will stand and count towards the result.

7.8.5 Any individual matches not yet completed must be started from the beginning and may be arranged at the convenience of the two players concerned.

7.8.6 Any matches not completed must be completed before the next league fixture takes place.

7.8.7 If the players can't reach consensus on a time to play the match, both teams will receive nil points for the match.

## 7.9 Treatment of “No Shows”

- 7.9.1 Clubs must field a full team for each league at the fixtures laid down by the Association.
- 7.9.2 Clubs must fill up their league teams from the top down.
- 7.9.3 “No shows” will be penalised by awarding the match 3-0 to the opponent and a 2-point penalty against the offending team.
- 7.9.4 If, at the start of the fixture it is apparent that a player(s) will not be able to play, the other players must fill up the team from position 1 downwards and leave the lowest position(s) vacant.
- 7.9.5 No shows will not be allowed in Men’s 1<sup>st</sup> league teams. A club must move players up from its next league team to fill the Men’s 1<sup>st</sup> league team.
  - 7.9.5.1 If a No show in a Men’s 1<sup>st</sup> league team is because of something happening to the player while he or she is on the way to the venue, special application must be made to the NSA to decide on penalties.
- 7.9.6 If there is a No show in a Men’s 1<sup>st</sup> league team (excluding 7.9.5.1), the club’s next team shall be penalised for the #1 playing out of position, in accordance with the by-laws, subject to 7.9.5.1.

## 7.10 Over-ruling “No Shows” and Extreme Circumstances

- 7.10.1 A “No show” can only be over-ruled by a League Steward at the start of the match in extreme circumstances if an alternative arrangement has been agreed upon by both players and the League Steward.
- 7.10.2 Extreme circumstances include natural disasters and “acts of God.” e.g., floods, fires, and earthquakes. Any other circumstance such as a car accident, a “smash & grab”, etc, will be considered at the committee’s discretion.

## 8. SCORING

- 8.1 Point Scoring for league matches shall be as found in the applicable World Squash Singles Rules.
- 8.2 League teams shall score points as follows:
  - 8.2.1 Each team shall score one point for each game won.
  - 8.2.2 The team winning the most matches shall receive an additional bonus point for every match won.
  - 8.2.3 In the event of both teams winning an equal number of matches, the games won shall be counted and the team with the most games won will receive an additional bonus point for every match won.
  - 8.2.4 In the event of both teams winning an equal number of games, the points shall be counted and the team with the most points will receive an additional bonus point for every match won.
  - 8.2.5 In the event of both teams having an equal number of matches, games and points, a draw will be declared, and both teams will receive 2 (two) bonus points each.
- 8.3 Procedure when Teams End on Equal Points at the End of the Season
  - 8.3.1 When teams end on equal log points at season end, the team that won more fixtures in the season wins, if fixtures are equal, then matches won (less matches lost), if matches are also equal, games won (less games lost) will be compared to determine the winner, if games are equal then points won (less points lost) are compared to determine the winner.
  - 8.3.2 If still drawn the results between the teams will determine the league winner on the same basis as 8.3.1.
  - 8.3.3 If still level, a play-off is required for 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> places, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> places, 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> places, 9<sup>th</sup>, and 10<sup>th</sup> places, only if promotion/relegation is at stake.

#### 8.4 Withdrawing a Team from League

- 8.4.1 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 immediately and the league shall then be completed by the remaining teams.
- 8.4.2 The club of the team withdrawn as set out in clause 8.4.1 shall be penalized by having to pay a fine to the Association equal to the league team affiliation fee for that team in addition to the annual league team affiliation fee for the team. The said fine shall be payable within 14 days of the date of an account being sent from the Association.

### 9. **MARKERS AND REFEREES**

- 9.1 Each team member shall act as a referee or marker, depending on the situation.
- 9.2 Clubs must ensure that league players are familiar with the applicable World Squash Singles Rules, the responsibilities of the Marker and Referee as well as the responsibilities of the players. (Refer to the NSF website for a link to WSF rules and regulations).
- 9.3 After 31 March at least 2 members of every 1st league team playing in a fixture shall have a minimum valid Level Marking & Refereeing qualification as endorsed by Squash South Africa.
- 9.4 After 31 March at least 1 member of every team playing in a fixture, other than a 1<sup>st</sup> league team, shall have a minimum valid Level Marking & Refereeing qualification as endorsed by Squash South Africa.
- 9.5 For every non-compliant team, the team shall be penalised 1 (one) penalty point.
- 9.6 The NSA shall create a reasonable number of opportunities for players to obtain the minimum Marking & Refereeing qualification before the cut-off date each year.

**NOTE:** It is preferred that the players of the home team for the fixture shall function as the Referees and the players of the visiting team shall function as the Markers.

### 10. **SCORECARDS**

- 10.1 The captain of either the winning or losing team is responsible for ensuring that the result of the fixture is captured on the online Northern league administration system within 2 working days of the fixture.
- 10.2 The onus is on both captains to ensure the result is captured and confirm that the result captured is a true reflection of the actual result. Should the score not be confirmed then the score is correct.
- 10.3 If the captured score is disputed, then NSA will ask both Clubs involved submit their version of the event. Any objections must be forwarded to the Association as soon as possible to keep the league administration system accurate and up to date.
- 10.4 Both teams shall keep a copy of the official scorecards (Refer to Annexure B) signed by both Captains for reference purposes.
- 10.5 If the result is not captured within two working days as specified in Clause 10.1, no points will be awarded to either team.

### 11. **OBJECTIONS/APPEALS**

- 11.1. A team captain may phone a league steward during a match for clarification on a by-law issue and not a “Rules of squash issue”. The league steward has the authority to decide about the by-laws.

- 11.2. If either team objects to the steward's decision or were unable to speak to a steward for a decision or if either party are unhappy or in disagreement with the decision then a complaint is to be submitted to [admin@northerns.co.za](mailto:admin@northerns.co.za) within two league weeks during the season and within two weeks of the end of the league season if the complaint is about the final league week in the season.
- 11.3. The deadline for complaints is on the day of the second fixture after the infringement.

## **12. BALL**

- 12.1 The official ball is the ball as determined by The NSA is the Dunlop High Altitude (Green Dot) ball for the period 18 September to 31 May for all league play.
- 12.2 From 1 June to 17 September the Dunlop High Altitude (Green Dot) ball will be the official ball for Men's 1<sup>st</sup> to 5<sup>th</sup> league and Ladies 1st League.
- 12.3 From 1 June to 17 September the Dunlop Pro Revelation (Double Yellow Dot) ball will be the official ball for Men's 6<sup>th</sup> league and lower and Ladies 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> League. If both players agree, in the lower leagues, the Dunlop High Altitude (Green Dot) ball may be used.

## **13. GENERAL**

### **13.1 Court Bookings**

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. In the event of the fixture not being played at the club of the home team, notification of such change of venue must be sent in writing to the Visiting team concerned as well as the Association, at least 1 (one) week prior to the fixture being played.

### **13.2 League Standings**

The results of all league matches will be displayed on the Northerns website by the Association. League standings, team results and individual results are all available on the website.

### **13.3 Limited By-Law Amendments**

Where amendments to the By-laws are suggested by the NSA and its members such amendments must be presented to the NSF for approval. Upon NSF approval a special delegates meeting must be held to advise clubs of the approved amendments.

### **13.4 Amalgamation of Clubs**

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

### **13.5 Delegates Meetings**

Clubs shall send a representative to the Delegates Meetings and Annual General Meeting of the Association to receive information, discuss issues and decide on proposals or to vote on issues concerning the Association.

### **13.6 Clothing**

The WSF guideline for clothing must be adhered to.

Playing clothing for men shall consist of a short-sleeved shirt, shorts and playing shoes.

Playing clothing for woman shall consist of a shirt worn with a skirt or shorts and playing shoes or a dress and playing shoes.

## **14. PENALTIES**

In the absence of a penalty for a transgression, the Association may decide on an applicable penalty. The Association's decision shall be final. See Annexure D.

## **15. DISCIPLINARY ACTION AND PROCEDURE**

- 15.1. Should any incident, conduct or other matter relating to a squash match or otherwise require disciplinary action, the complainant or his or her club shall report the matter within 24 hours after the incident to the Association on the Official form (attached as Annexure C), signed the complainant and Chairperson/Club Captain.
- 15.2. The Secretary of the Association shall immediately, on receipt of the written complaint, furnish copies thereof to the Chairperson, or, if he is not available, the Vice-Chairperson or any member of the Management Committee of the Association for purposes of appointing a Disciplinary Committee to deal with and finalise the matter as soon as possible. Copies of the written complaint shall also be furnished to the accused player and his or her club, and the complainant's club.
  - 15.2.1. The accused player shall be requested to answer the allegations in the written complaint or to give an explanation within 36 hours of receiving such notice. Copies of the answer shall immediately be given to everyone concerned and mentioned above.
  - 15.2.2. If the complainant wishes to reply to the answer or explanation, such written reply shall be given to the Secretary of the Association within 36 hours of receiving the answer or explanation. The Secretary of the Association shall immediately furnish copies thereof to those concerned.
  - 15.2.3. The Disciplinary Committee shall deal with the matter as soon as possible and may have a hearing of the matter to come to a final decision before the next league match of the accused player and, if deemed suitable, a penalty which shall come into immediate effect pending confirmation by the Association.
  - 15.2.4. The accused player shall be advised of the penalty and the reasons therefore at the hearing.
  - 15.2.5. The accused player/club shall have a right of appeal to the NSF appeals board within 24 hours.

## **16. FINANCIAL MATTERS**

### **16.1 Requisite Affiliation Fee**

The requisite annual affiliation fee determined by the Association shall be payable within 30 days of invoice being sent out and by latest 30th April each year. Written application for a maximum extension to 31st May will be considered by the NSA.

### **16.2 Penalties for Late or Non-Payment**

Clubs failing to make payment as required in clause 16.1 above will not earn league points until fees are paid. League points so lost are not recoverable.

16.2.1 Offending clubs will be notified in writing of their pending non-earning of points. League points will not be earned from the date that written notification is received.

### **16.3 Requirement to be in Good Standing**

Only affiliated clubs in good standing with the Association and Squash S.A. may play league.

## **ANNEXURES**

### **17. ANNEXURE A: CLUB ELIGIBILITY TRANSFER FORM**

Please see <http://www.northerns.co.za/sample-page/nsa-documents/> for the official Club Eligibility Transfer Form.

### **18. ANNEXURE B: NSF SCORESHEET**

Please see <http://www.northerns.co.za/sample-page/nsa-documents/> for the official Score Sheet.

### **19. ANNEXURE C: CONDUCT ON COURT VIOLATION REPORT SHEET**

Please see <http://www.northerns.co.za/sample-page/nsa-documents/> for the official Conduct Violation Report Sheet.

### **20. ANNEXURE D: DEFINITIONS OF ON-COURT CODE OF CONDUCT VIOLATIONS**

#### **20.1 TIME WASTING**

The unreasonable delaying of play, including unduly slow preparation to serve or to receive service, prolonged discussion with the Referee, unnecessary or excessive wiping of eyewear, or delay in returning to court.

#### **20.2 AUDIBLE OBSCENITY**

The use of words commonly known and understood to be profane and uttered clearly and loudly enough to be heard by the Referee or spectators.

#### **20.3 VISIBLE OBSCENITY**

The making of signs by a player using hands and/or racket or ball that commonly have an obscene meaning or import to reasonable people.

#### **20.4 ABUSE OF BALL**

Intentionally hitting a ball out of court, hitting a ball dangerously or recklessly within the court, or hitting a ball with negligent disregard of the consequences.

#### **20.5 ABUSE OF RACKET, COURT, OR EQUIPMENT**

Intentionally, dangerously, or violently destroying or damaging a racket or equipment, or intentionally or violently hitting the court during a match.

#### **20.6 VERBAL ABUSE**

A statement directed at an official, opponent, spectator or other person that implies dishonesty, or derogatory or insulting.

#### **20.7 PHYSICAL ABUSE**

The unnecessary touching of an official, opponent, spectator, or other person.

#### **20.8 UNSPORTING CONDUCT**

Any misconduct by a player that is clearly abusive or detrimental to the sport, but that does not fall into the prohibition of any specific on-site offence contained herein. Unsporting conduct shall include, but not be limited to, the giving, making, issuing, authorizing of, or endorsing any public statement having or designed to have an effect prejudicial or detrimental to the best interests of the Tournament/League and/or the officiating thereof.

#### **20.9 DISSENT**

The making of unnecessary statements which demonstrate a disagreement with the Referee's decision/s.

#### **20.10 REFEREE FAILURE**

Where the Referee has failed to fulfil his responsibilities in terms of Rule 18: CONTROL OF A MATCH and Rule 20: DUTIES OF A REFEREE and this failure may have contributed to the game being brought into disrepute.

## 21. ANNEXURE E: PENALTY POINTS TABLE

There are 2 main categories of penalties: Administrative penalties and ineligible players (or playing out of position).

Administrative penalties: The transgressing player loses the match 0-3 and 2 penalties against the transgressing team, per transgressing player.

Ineligible player penalties: The transgressing player loses the match 0-3 and all players below that player also lose their matches 0-3, with an additional 2 points penalty against the team for every transgressing player.

Some specific situations warrant specific penalties as indicated in the relevant clauses.

<b>Administrative penalties apply to the following by-laws (but not be limited to these clauses)</b>	
5.1	Registration of players
5.2	Transfer of players
<b>Ineligible player penalties apply to the following by-laws (but not be limited to these clauses)</b>	
5.4	Too many external players
5.5	Playing under a false name or false NSF number
<b>6</b>	<b>Selection of Club league teams</b>
6.6	Playing twice in a round
6.8	Incorrect order
7.9	Not fielding a full side, "No shows"

### Some specific penalties

<i>By-Law</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Penalty Point(s)</i>
<b>7</b>	<b>Fixtures and Matches</b>	
7.2	Play as stipulated by NSA Fixtures	Transgressing teams will be penalized by awarding only ½ (half) the points for the fixture.
7.4	Court bookings	Home team forfeits each match for which a court isn't available 0-3
<b>10</b>	<b>Markers and referees</b>	
9.5	Not enough qualified Level 2 Markers in team	1 penalty point for each player under the required number
<b>10</b>	<b>Capturing of scores</b>	
10.1	Scores not captured on the NSA league admin system within 2 working days	No points will be awarded to either team.
<b>14</b>	<b>Penalties</b>	
	Absence of penalties	Association may decide on an applicable penalty.

NOTE: Where penalties are covered under more than 1 clause, it will only be applied once.

## 22. ANNEXURE F: AWARDS CALCULATION FORMULAE

### Woody Kaiser Trophy

This trophy is awarded to qualifying clubs playing in the NSA Winter League (Men and Ladies) for the best overall performance and is calculated as follows:

1. To qualify for this award the number of a Club's men's league teams must at least be equal to or greater than 50% of the number of leagues of the Northerns Squash Association.
2. The purpose of this award is the following:
  - 2.1. To distinguish between clubs which perform well across all leagues weighting higher leagues more than lower leagues,
  - 2.2. To reward clubs fielding both Men and Ladies League sides
  - 2.3. Encourage Clubs to field as many League sides as possible.
3. Calculations are worked as follows:
  - 3.1 Points earned in 1<sup>st</sup> League are regarded as full (100%) points as the leagues drop the proportion decreases. For example: In the case of 16 leagues, 1<sup>st</sup> league would be regarded as 16/16 where the next league 15/16 and the last league 1/16 multiplied by the points earned during the season.
  - 3.2 Order of sides Men 1<sup>st</sup>, Ladies 1<sup>st</sup>, Men 2<sup>nd</sup>, Ladies 2<sup>nd</sup>, Men 3<sup>rd</sup>, Ladies 3<sup>rd</sup>, Men 4<sup>th</sup> ... Men 13<sup>th</sup>
  - 3.3 If a club has two sides in the same league both sides' points will be multiplied by the same fraction.
  - 3.4 Leagues with less than 10 sides. Points are aggregated to the equivalent of 10 sides in the League.
  - 3.5 To calculate the aggregate, add all the calculated totals for each league team and divide by the number of teams the club entered in the NSA winter league.
  - 3.6 1 point is awarded per team entered is added to the aggregate total in calculated in 3.5.
  - 3.4 The club with the highest score will be the winner of the trophy.

### Uitsig Trophy

The Uitsig trophy is awarded to the club which has the highest percentage of winning teams in relation to the number of teams entered both Men's and Women's leagues: For example, a club winning 4 leagues of the 6 leagues entered would translate to  $4/6 \times 100 = 66.67\%$ .

### Pieter Bell Trophy

The Pieter Bell trophy is awarded to the individual who performs best throughout the season. For example, if there is more than one player who has won equal number of matches then the winner is determined by the number of games lost, the winner would be determined by the player who loses the least games.

### Justin van der Merwe Floating Trophy – Most Sociable League Player

Nominations for this award are to be submitted by clubs to the NSA.

CRITERIA	MEASURE
The nominee must play Northerns league (men's/ladies)	Must play at least 88% (16/18) of their league matches
The nominee must have a positive attitude, be friendly, fun, and supportive of his/her teammates and take part in the social side of league and be a good ambassador for the club	League team captain to motivate
The nominee must also have a good knowledge of the rules of the game and have passed a marking & refereeing course in the past 3 years obtaining 85% for the exam	Provincial marking & refereeing facilitator to confirm

A nomination with motivation from the club captain or chairperson for any other deserving candidate will also be considered. Clubs to send nominations to Northerns by 30 September of each year, Northerns will collate and present the full list of nominations, with their motivations, to Allison van der Merwe for the family to choose the recipient.

### **23. ANNEXURE G: BLITZ LEAGUE RULES**

The “Blitz League” competition is a league played by Men’s 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> and Ladies 1<sup>st</sup> league clubs before the start of the official winter league season. Blitz League was instituted as a warm-up league to get the players ready for the season.

#### Rules

1. Blitz league is a standalone league and has no bearing on the winter league season.
  - 1.1. By-laws relating to transfers and external players may be relaxed on application to the Association to accommodate players who intend to transfer to Northerns before the national cut-off date.
  - 1.2. All other league by-laws apply to Blitz league, except for changes to the format.
2. A maximum of 10 teams will be permitted to compete in the Blitz League. All clubs who are fielding a team in the first league of the winter season are obliged to participate in the Blitz League.
3. The Format of the league will be 2 (two) pools of maximum 5 teams. Once the pool round robins are complete, cross pool matches will be contested.
4. Points are awarded as in the league season. 1 point for each game won, 1 bonus point for each match won by the winning team in the fixture, maximum 16 points.
5. In the event of two teams ending with the same number of points at the end of the pools then the result between the two teams will determine who finishes in the higher position.
6. For a player to be eligible to play in the cross-pool play-offs they must have played at least one or more of the pool matches.
7. Participating Clubs will be requested to host Blitz Matches.

**24. ANNEXURE H: NEXT AVAILABLE PLAYER**

Explanation of Next Available Player Rule

Scenario 1: All Local Players			
Team A		Team B	
1	J Johnson	1	F Blaar
2	P Peterson	2	G Mans
3	M Macson	3	R Venter
4	L Lipson	4	B de Beer
		Team C	
1	F Spruyt	<b>Comments</b> Played for Team A - cannot play for Team B Played for Team A - cannot play for Team B Can play for team B if needed with no penalty - next available player. Can also move back to no 3 in Team C the next week without penalty due to leapfrogging.	
2	G Butler		
3	O Dibden		
4	S Wouter		

Scenario 2: Some External Players			
Team A		Team B	
1	J Johnson	1	F Blaar
2	P Peterson	2	G Mans
3	M Macson	3	R Venter
4	L Lipson	4	B de Beer
		Team C	
1	F Spruyt	<b>Comments</b> Played for Team A - cannot play for Team B Played for Team A - cannot play for Team B Cannot play for team B as they already have two external players Can play for team B - next available local player Can also move back to no 4 in Team C the next week without penalty due to leapfrogging.	
2	G Butler		
3	O Dibden (External)		
4	S Wouter		