

NJSA LADDER & CHALLENGE RULES 2024

The purpose of the ladder is to reflect the most current position of a player affiliated with NJSA. The ladder and subsequent updates will be published on the Northerns website and forwarded to age-group representatives.

1. At the beginning of each Season a new NJSA ladder will be published after the Start of Season Tournament or as soon as possible thereafter.
2. For players moving to a new age group - U/11; U/13; U/16 and U/19, a reasonable effort will be made to objectively rank all players in their new age group, and it is an added advantage to play in the opening tournament to assist the selectors.
3. Chairman's challenges may be enforced where needed to ensure the ladder fairly reflects the players' positions at any time during the season, especially where tournament draws did not allow for sufficient head-to-head results.
4. The ladder will regularly be updated with results against other NJSA-ranked players, which is received by the Ladder Convener.
5. The following results will be used to update the ladder: -
 - 5.1 Official challenge matches.
 - 5.2 Listed squash tournaments on the relevant SA Schools Calendar.
 - 5.3 Other Northerns matches/results; marked by a marker and referee and played the best of five games. In this regard, the following will be considered: -
 - 5.3.1 Head-to-head results from NSA leagues and all tournament matches.
 - 5.3.2 Head-to-head results from official interschool matches such as school's leagues and the Top Schools Tournament.
 - 5.4 School championships, club championships and other official Matches will be considered only if registered in advance and approved by the NJSA committee.
6. Official Challenges
 - 6.1 NJSA must be informed in writing of all arrangements. Challenges must be lodged on the Northerns Website - www.northerns.co.za/njsa-documents/njsa-official-challenges/
 - 6.2 To be ranked, an unranked player has One Free Challenge against any ranked player in their age group. If the challenger wins, the challenger takes the place of the challengee and everybody else moves one place down. If they lose, the challenger moves to the bottom of the ladder.
 - 6.3 A ranked player may challenge a maximum of TWO positions above their own position on the latest published ladder.
 - 6.4 Any player on the ladder is allowed 1 open challenge per season (which commences with the Start of Season Tournament), within their age group. The challenge must be requested 21 days before the last day of February, thereafter Rule 6.3 applies.

2024 MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

Etienne Badenhorst (Chairperson), Reinhardt Falk (Vice-Chairperson) Saartjie Cromhout (Treasurer), Gerda Dreyer (Administration), Heleen-Maré Brand, Christo de Wet, Jannie Goosen & Christo Oliver

- 6.5 A challenge becomes official when a challenger notifies the NJSA Ladder Convener and the challengee of the challenge by completing the form provided. The challenger is responsible for organising a court, paying for lights and each player is responsible to bring a marker/referee for the challenge match.
 - 6.6 The players must agree on a mutually suitable venue and time to play the match. The venue must as far as possible be neutral as well as the marker and referee. If this cannot be reached, the committee will select the venue and time for the match.
 - 6.7 The match shall take place on or before the fifteenth day (two weeks) following the official challenge being confirmed by the ladder convenor. Any party, who cannot play the match within the allocated time frame, shall forfeit the match.
 - 6.8 Once the challenge details have been finalised, a final e-mail will be sent from NJSA to both players with the time, date and all details.
 - 6.9 If a player does not play the scheduled challenge match, they will forfeit the match.
 - 6.10 A player can only be challenged twice a month and may only play one challenge match in a week unless mutually agreed otherwise between players.
 - 6.11 Challenges can only take place during official public-school terms, but also during holidays if both players agree on the date.
 - 6.12 All official challenge requests will cease 21 calendar days before the start of the NJSA Closed tournament each year.
7. Results of matches/challenges as referred to earlier in this document will change the rankings as follows:
 - 7.1 If a lower-ranked player/challenger records a win over a higher-seeded, player, s/he will take the position of the higher-ranked player and every player ranked under the higher-ranked player, including the Challengee, moves down one position.
 - 7.2 If a higher-seeded player beats a lower-ranked player/challenger, the ladder will remain unchanged. As far as an unranked player is concerned 4.1 will apply.
 8. The Chairperson retains the prerogative to require a Chairperson's Challenge at his discretion without complying with the two positions' principle. If a player refuses to play a Chairman's Challenge, then the player will forfeit the match and a walkover is recorded.
 9. Coaches are encouraged to assist in organising and administering official challenge matches.
 10. Each player is personally responsible for submitting ALL their results on the NJSA Player Results Form, attached hereto and on our website and e-mail to njsa@northerns.co.za
 11. Ladder rankings will be considered for seeding purposes in all NJSA tournaments, playing positions in IPT teams and for nomination to other tournaments when required. The Chairman's discretion might apply and his decision will in all cases be final.
 12. If a player is inactive for 60 days from official squash activity, the player may be removed from the ladder and the player must challenge back on with a free challenge.

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13. If a challenged player is injured or ill and not expected to recover to lay in the prescribed time frame, the challenger may challenge one more place up.

Although everything possible is done to maintain a fair and accurate ranking system/ladder, mistakes might sneak in. Therefore, if a player has any question regarding their own specific ranking or some other related question, please feel free to e-mail NJSA at njsa@northerns.co.za It is important that any query regarding a player's ranking must be accompanied by facts.

In conclusion, emphasis should be put on sportsmanship, good marking and refereeing and last (but definitely not least) the players should enjoy themselves!

NJSA

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