



CODE OF CONDUCT FOR COMPETITIONS

For review by the Board: by September 2027

GENERAL

1.1 Purpose is to ensure:

- a) The orderly, fair administration and conduct of any event run under the auspices of Squash South Africa (SSA) or under the auspices of any of the Associations which are members of or affiliated to SSA.
- b) The orderly and fair administration of the game of squash by all member associations or bodies affiliated to SSA.
- c) The orderly and fair administration of the game of squash as promoted by an independent promoter.
- d) The fair and timely implementation of the disciplinary process arising from events.
- e) Observance of this Code by all players and technical officials participating in squash.

1.2 Applicability

- a) The Code shall apply to all squash players who participate in any tournament, championship or league which is held under the auspices of SSA or any of the associations which are members of or affiliated to SSA.
- b) The Code shall apply to any administrator or technical official involved in the administration of squash at any level within South Africa and who thereby falls under the auspices of SSA.
- c) The Code shall apply to any promoter involved in the promotion of any event in South Africa which falls under the auspices of SSA.

1.3 Action

Action under the Code may be initiated by a Match Referee, Tournament Referee, Tournament Director, or any official SSA, provincial, club or associate member representative.

CODE OF CONDUCT

2.1 A Player's Integrity and Responsibility

A player's integrity and responsibility encompass all aspects of squash including relations with manufacturers, spectators, , technical official, administrators, sponsors, and fellow players.

- Players shall use their best efforts to play squash of the calibre and with the skill with which he/she is capable.
- Players shall show respect for the game of squash.
- Players shall play the game in a sporting manner.
- Players shall dress and present themselves for play in clean and customarily acceptable squash attire.
- For functions players shall wear appropriate dress for the occasion and the environment.
- Junior's U11 U13 U15 U17 and U19 may not smoke or drink alcoholic beverages.
- Junior's U11 U13 U15 U17 and U19 have to wear protective eyeglasses at all times when on court, which includes practicing.

Players shall observe all the rules.

- Match play shall not only be continuous, but players should take care not to permit the time between rallies to appear slow.
- Stalling is unsporting, unfair to opponents and disrespectful to spectators.
- Players shall show common courtesy towards their opponents e.g. passing the ball, opening the door, thanking them for the match.
- Players shall own up to returns which are not good e.g. second bounce, double hit and the ball touching the tin.
- Players shall show common courtesy and respect towards the technical officials. There shall be no undue disputing of any decision of a Marker or Referee. The player shall not be rude, offensive or belligerent towards the Marker or Referee. The player shall thank the Marker and the Referee at the end of the match.
- Players shall show common courtesy towards administrators, officials, sponsors and spectators.

- Players shall show due regard to the authority of officials and the rights of opponents, spectators and others.

2.2 An Administrator's, Technical Official's or Promoter's Integrity and Responsibility

- An Administrator's integrity and responsibility encompasses all aspects of squash including relations with players, manufacturers, spectators, fellow administrators, sponsors and SSA.
- A Technical Official's integrity and responsibility encompasses all aspects of ensuring the integrity of SSA competitions and where the Technical Official officiates at a club, provincial or associate member's event, to ensure integrity of those matches and competitions at all times.
- A Promoter's integrity and responsibility encompasses all aspects of squash including relations with players, administrator, spectators, manufacturers, sponsors, fellow promoters, and SSA.

3 UNACCEPTABLE CONDUCT SUBJECT TO PENALTY

- 3.1 By "unacceptable conduct" is meant any conduct which brings the game of squash into disrepute, or which is likely to bring the game of squash and/or the administration thereof, into disrepute. Any player in any tournament, championship or league or any administrator or promoter who is guilty of unacceptable conduct shall be liable to have a penalty imposed upon him/her.

4 KINDS OF UNACCEPTABLE CONDUCT

4.1 Behaviour

(a) Public Relations

No player, technical official, administrator of SSA or promoter of an event shall at any time give, make, issue, authorize or endorse any public statement which will have or design to have, an effect prejudicial or detrimental to the best interests of SSA or the sport of squash.

(b) Unsporting Conduct

Players shall always conduct themselves in a sporting manner and give due regard to the authority of officials and the rights of opponents, spectators and others.

Unsporting Conduct is defined as any misconduct by a player that is clearly abusive or detrimental to the sport but that does not fall within the prohibition of any specific on-site offence.

Violation of this section shall also constitute the major offence of "Aggravated Behaviour" in 5.

5 AGGRAVATED BEHAVIOUR

No player at any SSA sanctioned event shall engage in "Aggravated Behaviour" which is described as follows:

- 5.1 An incident of behaviour that is flagrant/belligerent and particularly injurious to the success of the event or is singularly shocking/unacceptable.
- 5.2 A series of two or more violations in this Code within a 12-month period which singularly does not constitute "Aggravated Behaviour" but when viewed together, establish a pattern of conduct that is collectively unacceptable and is detrimental or injurious to SSA sanctioned events or the administration of squash.

Violation of this section shall subject a player, technical official or an administrator to a suspension from SSA sanctioned events or administration for a minimum period of 30 days and a maximum period of one year commencing on the day after the expiry of the time within which an appeal may be filed or, in the case of appeal, commencing the day after a final decision on appeal.

5.3 Player on-site offences

5.3.1 Punctuality

Any player not ready to play within 15 minutes after his/her match is called, shall be fined. Should the Tournament Referee allow a discretionary relaxation of this time limit the penalty may be waived.

5.3.2 Non-appearance

If a player enters an event and fails to withdraw or fails to inform the Organisers of the event of his/her withdrawal he/she will be fined.

5.3.2 Dress

On court

Every player shall dress and present him/herself for play in clean and customarily acceptable squash attire (unacceptable attire shall include sweatshirts, gym shorts, running shorts, leggings).

Any player who violates this, may be ordered by the Tournament Referee to change his/her attire or equipment immediately.

All clothing shall conform to the accepted standard of decency and cultural/religious tradition.

Players may wear clothing of any colour or combination of colours.

Off-court

For functions all players should wear appropriate dress for the occasion and environment.

5.4 Leaving Court: A player shall not leave the court during a match without the permission of the Referee.

5.5 Best Efforts: A player shall use his/her best efforts to win a match.

5.6 Failure to complete a match: A player must complete a match in progress unless he/she is reasonably unable to do so.

5.7 Final Functions/ Prizegiving: A player participating in the finals of a tournament must attend and participate in the final ceremonies after the match unless he/she is reasonably unable to do so. Should there be no valid reason he/she will forfeit his/her prize/prizemoney.

5.8 Audible Obscenity: Players shall not use an audible obscenity within a tournament/league precinct. In circumstances that are flagrant/belligerent and particularly injurious to the success of the event or are singularly unacceptable, a single violation of this section shall also constitute the major offence of "Aggravated Behaviour".

For the purpose of this rule, audible obscenity is defined as the use of words commonly known and understood to be profane and uttered clearly and loudly enough to be heard by the Referee, Marker or spectators or other members of the public.

5.9 Visible Obscenity: Players shall not make obscene gestures of any kind within the tournament/league precinct. Violation of this section shall also constitute the major offence of "Aggravated Behaviour".

For the purpose of this rule, visible obscenity is defined as the making of signs by a player with his/her hand and/or racket or ball that commonly have an obscene meaning or import to reasonable people.

- 5.10 Abuse of Ball: Players shall not violently, dangerously or with anger, hit, kick or throw a squash ball within the tournament/league precinct except in the reasonable pursuit of a point during a match. For the purpose of this rule, abuse of balls is defined as intentionally hitting a ball out of the enclosure of the court, hitting a ball dangerously or recklessly within the court or hitting/throwing a ball with negligent disregard of the consequences.
- 5.11 Abuse of Racket or Equipment: Players shall not violently, dangerously or with anger, hit, kick, or throw a racket or other equipment within the tournament/league precinct.

For the purpose of this rule, abuse of rackets or equipment is defined as intentionally, dangerously and violently destroying or damaging a racket or equipment or intentionally and violently hitting the court during a match out of anger or frustration.

5.12 Verbal Abuse

Players shall not at any time, verbally abuse any official, opponent, spectator, or other person within the tournament/league precinct.

For the purpose of this rule, verbal abuse is defined as a statement directed at an official, opponent, spectator or other person, that implies dishonesty, is derogatory, insulting or otherwise abusive.

A single violation of this rule shall constitute the major offence of "Aggravated Behaviour".

- 5.13 Physical Abuse: Players shall not at any time physically abuse any official, opponent, spectator or other person within the tournament/league site precinct.

For the purpose of this rule, physical abuse is the unauthorized touching of an official, opponent, spectator or other person.

A single violation of this section shall constitute the major offence of "Aggravated Behaviour".

- 5.14 Conduct contrary to the Integrity of the Game: No player, technical official, administrator or promoter shall engage in conduct contrary to the integrity of the game of squash. If a player, technical official, administrator, or promoter is convicted of the violation of a criminal law of the country, the punishment for which, includes possible imprisonment for more than one year, he/she may be deemed by virtue of such conviction to have engaged in conduct contrary to the integrity of the game of squash.

In addition, if a player, a technical official, an administrator or a promoter has at any time behaved in a manner severely damaging to the reputation of the sport, he/she may be deemed by virtue of such behaviour to have engaged in conduct contrary to the integrity of the game of squash and be considered as in violation of this section.

Violation of this section shall subject a player to suspension from play in SSA sanctioned event for a period of up to three years: a technical official or an administrator from administration for the same period: a promoter from promoting an event in South Africa for the same period.

6 ANTI-DOPING

The use of any substances or manipulative prohibited under World Squash's policy including, without limitation, all prohibited substances and manipulations specified by the IOC Medical Commission is strictly forbidden.

Violation shall result in the disciplinary process outlined in the World Anti-Doping Code being implemented.

7 DISCIPLINE

7.1 A Disciplinary Committee shall be constituted for:

Each Championship or tournament at a national, provincial, club and associate member level
 The SA Open Championship
 The SA National Championship
 Each Provincial Championship (Open and Closed)
 All National events
 IPT tournaments
 When and if the necessity arises

7.2 SSA Disciplinary Committee

SSA shall appoint a Disciplinary Committee consisting of not less than three and not more than four persons for the SA Open, SA National, the Inter-Provincial Championships and any national level event who shall not have any conflict of interest and if he/she does, he/she shall be replaced.

- 7.2.1 The Committee shall comprise, as far as possible, the Tournament Director or Organiser.
- 7.2.2 The Chairperson or, in his/her absence, the Vice Chairperson of the Provincial Body in the province in which the event was played.
- 7.2.3 The Legal Advisor to SSA or, failing him/her, any person with legal training co-opted for this purpose by the Chairperson of the provincial body concerned.
- 7.2.4 If any one or more of the persons referred to in 7.2.1-7.2.3 is not available then the remaining two or one (as the case may be) shall co-opt another suitable person or persons to the disciplinary committee.
- 7.2.5 SSA shall be entitled to request a player, technical official, administrator or promoter to explain any matters or circumstances which constitutes a breach of the SSA Code of Conduct on the part of the player or administrator. Such request will specify the matters or circumstances which SSA considers may constitute such a breach.
- 7.2.6 A player, technical official, administrator or promoter shall deposit a written explanation at the offices of Squash South Africa or by mutual agreement between the person and Squash South Africa give an oral explanation.

8 SSA DISCIPLINARY PROCESS AT A NATIONAL LEVEL EVENT

- 8.1 The incident must be reported within 5 working days to the Tournament Director or Organiser.
- 8.2 The province must convene a Disciplinary Meeting within 7 working days.
- 8.3 Penalties must be imposed within 2 working days of completion of the Disciplinary Meeting and the appropriate parties be notified in writing.
- 8.4 Any appeal is to be submitted in writing to SSA within 2 working days of receipt of the Disciplinary Committee's decision together with a fee of R5,000 which will be refunded only if the appeal is upheld.
- 8.5 The SSA Disciplinary Appeals' Board must be convened within 7 working days of receipt of the appeal.
- 8.6 The appropriate parties must be notified of the SSA Appeals Board's decision within 2 working days of the meeting.
- 8.7 The decision of the SSA Appeals Board is final.

9 SQUASH SOUTH AFRICA APPEAL BOARD

SSA shall appoint an Appeal Board consisting of not less than three and not more than four persons:

- 9.1 The committee shall comprise, as far as possible, of persons as outlined in section 25 of the SSA constitution.
- 9.2 The Appeal Board shall not consist of any person involved in the original disciplinary process.

10 DISCIPLINARY COMMITTEE ENQUIRIES

- 10.1 The SSA Appeal Board shall:
 - 10.1.1 Enquire into and hear any appeal from any decision of any Disciplinary Committee referred to in 8 hereof.
 - 10.1.2 Enquire into any conduct which might be regarded as unacceptable which is reported to it or to the Board of SSA or which otherwise comes to its attention, and which has not been enquired into by the Disciplinary Committee referred to in 8 or which cannot appropriately be enquired into by the Disciplinary Committee referred to in 8.
- 10.2 The SSA Appeal Board shall conduct any fresh enquiry or any appeal as soon as practically possible after being required to by the Board to do so or after Notice of Appeal is furnished to it.
- 10.3 No player, **technical official** or administrator may appeal to SSA before having first appealed to his/her provincial association.
- 10.4 When the SSA Appeal Board sits as an appeal body, there shall be no further right of appeal.
- 10.5 When there is an enquiry of first instance by the SSA Appeal Board into any allegation against or complaint about unacceptable conduct by any participant, an appeal shall lie from it to the SSA Board of whom at least three, including the President, shall be present to hear the Appeal.
- 10.6 Where any person from the Appeal or SSA Board has a conflict of interest, he/she shall be replaced by another Board member with no conflict of interest in the matter.
- 10.7 A penalty under the Code of Conduct imposed on any participant will be recorded at the Offices of SSA and the accumulation of such penalties may result in a further penalty being imposed.

11 PENALTIES

- 11.1 If the Appeal Board finds any participant guilty of unacceptable conduct it shall have the power to:
 - 11.1.1 impose a fine not exceeding R5000.00
 - 11.1.2 suspend that player from participating in future events
 - 11.1.3 suspend the administrator from being involved in future administration
 - 11.1.4 suspend the technical official from being involved in future events
 - 11.1.5 suspend the promoter from promoting future events or
 - 11.1.6 suspend that player, technical official, administrator or promoter from participating in any event or administration or promotion for a prescribed period.

12 PROVINCIAL, CLUB AND ASSOCIATE MEMBER EVENTS

- 12.1 For events organised by a provincial association, a club or an associate member, the procedures shall ipso facto be applied by a disciplinary committee established by the provincial association, club or associate member.
- 12.2 A provincial association, club or associate member shall establish a disciplinary committee for its event in line with sections 7 and 8.
- 12.3 A provincial association, club or associate member shall establish an appeal body for its event in line with sections 9 and 10.
- 12.4 Members of the disciplinary committee and appeal body shall declare any and all conflicts of interest and where one exists, shall be replaced.

13 CONFLICTS OF INTEREST (applicable to all disciplinary committees and appeal bodies)

- 13.1 In the context of the provisions of these Rules, a distinction is made between "actual", "potential" and "perceived" conflicts of interest".
 - 13.1.1 A case of an *actual* conflict of interest is constituted when any person has interests, roles or relationships which result in their deriving personal benefit from actions or decisions made in their capacity of their WSF role.
 - 13.1.2 A situation of a *potential* conflict of interests arises when an individual, in the framework of their WSF activities, has interests or relationships where it is foreseeable that a conflict may arise in future.

- 13.1.3 A *perceived* conflict of interest arises when an individual's existing relationship or activity puts into question whether their actions, judgment, or decision-making can be unbiased. A perceived conflict of interest occurs when an individual's role, interests or relationships may result in an appearance of impropriety.
- 13.2 Examples of a conflict of interest is a disciplinary committee member being from the same club or province as the player involved in an incident being assessed, being a member of the same family as the player, being a sponsor or coach of the player or in a business relationship with the player or his/her coach or club.
- 13.3 No two (2) members from the same club or family should serve simultaneously as members of the disciplinary committee or of the disciplinary committee and the provincial, club or associate member appeal body.

14 REVIEW

This Code of Conduct shall be reviewed as required otherwise every two (2) years.