



**ENGLAND SQUASH MASTERS
BRITISH OPEN MASTERS SQUASH CHAMPIONSHIPS
TERMS AND CONDITIONS FOR PARTICIPANTS**

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1. Introduction

England Masters Squash (ESM) offers competitive opportunities for men and women aged 35 and over, in five-year segments up to 80+ for men and 75+ for women. The British Open and British National (Closed) Championships both have Masters' categories. In addition, in any season there are a maximum of five regionally based and several bronze tier tournaments run by ESM. Participation in any of these tournaments may earn players points which, in the case of players who qualify to play for England, count for selection for the England teams who play in the Home Internationals at the end of the season.

For more information on the England team selection process click the link below:

[England Squash Masters' England Team Selection Process](#)

2. Eligibility

- 2.1 **ESM Registration.** Players must become members of ESM by registering via the ESM website to be able to enter ESM events. Guidance on registration, how to enter tournaments and pay the entry fee, is available on the ESM website.
- 2.2 **Eligibility Criteria:** A player is eligible to play in the British Open Squash Championships, if:
- he/she is aged 35 or over on the start date of the championships, regardless of nationality.
 - Players (men and women) can only enter one age group.
- 2.3 **Affiliation:** It is recommended that all participants be affiliated with their relevant National Squash Governing Body. England Squash Masters mandates affiliation to England Squash for this event for English players. The minimum required England Squash membership level is “Just Play”.

3. Entry Procedures, Registration and Fees

- 3.1 **Age Group:** Players may register to play in any age group for which they are eligible, but any event points gained will accrue in the oldest age group for which the player is eligible. Further details are given in the England Team Selection document linked above.
- 3.2 **Entry Fees:** All participants must pay the required entry fee at the time of registration otherwise they will not be entered into the relevant event. No refunds will be provided for entry fees received after the registration deadline unless the tournament is cancelled by ESM or at the organiser’s sole discretion.
- 3.3 **Late Registration:** Players will not be entered into the tournament if they register and pay their entry fee after the registration closing date. In this case players will be given the option of being held on a reserve list in case of withdrawals. In the event a player is unable to gain a space in a tournament from the reserve list, they will receive a full refund.
- 3.4 **Reserve List:** A player entered on a reserve list may be included in the main draw if a player of a similar, or higher seeding range withdraws from the relevant age group. Players on the reserve list will be published on the event page in the order of entry together with their seeding range.
- 3.5 **Maximum Number of Draws:** Players may only enter one age group per event.
- 3.6 **Letters of Invitation for Visa Purposes.** England Squash Masters will only issue a letter of invitation to players from other nations to assist them with any visa requirements upon request to the Event Manager, subject to providing the following information:
- 3.6.1 Proof that they are a current or past professional player who has played on the Professional Squash Associations tour. Or,
 - 3.6.2 Proof that they have competed in either a World Squash Federation or European Squash Federation event in the last 5 years. Or,

- 3.6.3 Proof of playing ability by providing details of a squash ranking from an approved source, such as SquashLevels.

4. Code of Conduct

- 4.1 **Sportsmanship:** All participants are expected to adhere to principles of good sportsmanship, fair play, and respect for fellow players, officials, and spectators. Players are expected to comply with the England Squash Code of Conduct both on and off the court.
- 4.2 **Misconduct:** The Tournament Director reserves the right to disqualify any participant for misconduct, including abusive language, unsportsmanlike behaviour, or any violation of the tournament rules. Disqualification may also result in forfeiture of entry fees, event points and/or prizes. Violations of the Code of Conduct will, as set out therein, be reported to England Squash for their consideration. In addition to any penalties imposed by England Squash, repeated infringement of rule 15 of the Rules of Squash regarding conduct will be subject to sanction at the discretion of ESM.

5. Liability and Risk

- 5.1 **Injury and Risk Assumption:** Squash is a physically demanding sport. By participating, all players acknowledge and accept the inherent risks involved, including potential injuries. Participants agree to take full responsibility for their own safety during an event and represent that they are fit to participate at the start of the tournament. ESM reserve the right to require medical clearance from any player before allowing participation. ESM also reserve the right to remove any player showing signs of health issues during a tournament.
- 5.2 **Limitation of Liability:** ESM accepts no liability for any injury, illness, or loss sustained by any player during the tournament, except where such liability cannot be excluded by law. This includes any non-refundable accommodation costs incurred by players. Players are strongly encouraged to have appropriate personal accident and injury insurance and to arrange refundable accommodation if required.
- 5.3 **Medical Assistance:** In case of an injury, ESM may provide or arrange first aid assistance but assumes no responsibility for the outcome of such treatment.
- 5.4 **Emergency Contact.** Players are required to provide details of an emergency contact when they register as members of ESM.

6. Tournament Format and Rules

- 6.1 **Match Scheduling:** Matches will be scheduled by the Event Manager and posted on the ESM website (www.englandsquashmasters.co.uk). It is the participant's responsibility to check their match times and court allocations. Players must confirm their attendance at the Tournament Desk at least 30 minutes before their first match on each day of the tournament and be ready to play 15 minutes before their scheduled match time. Failure to appear within 10 minutes of the scheduled match time may result in disqualification.
- 6.2 **Availability:** Players must make themselves available to play on each day of the tournament, as required by the draw and schedule. Players who cannot commit to the draw and schedule as issued should withdraw from an event. Players who do not remain at the tournament until the completion of their final scheduled match without

providing an acceptable reason to the Tournament Director may be subject to sanction at the discretion of ESM.

- 6.3 **Match Frequency:** Players should expect to play one match per day when participating in the main event. The exceptions to this are:
- 6.3.1 Players in a group that exceeds 64 players may be required to play 2 matches in the early stages of the event if they are required to play in a preliminary qualifying match.
 - 6.3.2 Players who play in a plate event may be required to play up to 2 matches per day.
- 6.4 **Match Conduct:** All matches will be conducted in accordance with the [World Squash Singles Rules 2025](#) (Effective 1 September 2025).
- 6.5 **Draw Format:** Each age group in a tournament will be played in a format as specified in section 7 below, depending on the number of entries for that age group. The format may be adjusted based on changes to the number of entries or other unforeseen circumstances, including player safety.
- 6.6 **Referees and Scoring:** ESM will book appropriately qualified referees for the duration of the tournament. However, this may not cover all matches and in this event, players will be required to mark matches where a referee is not available. This will normally be the loser of the previous match on court but may be varied at the discretion of the Tournament Director. The PAR-11 scoring system will be used for all age groups. Players must accept the referee's decisions as final.
- 6.7 **Equipment:** All players must use squash-approved equipment and wear non-marking shoes. Protective eyewear recommended for all participants.
- 6.8 **Squash Balls:** The Dunlop Pro squash ball is the official ball for all ESM events and shall be used by default for all matches. Exceptionally, if both players in a match agree, then a Dunlop Competition ball may be used as an alternative.

7. Draw Size and Composition

- 7.1.1 The maximum draw size of a British Open event age group is 64 (This may be limited to 32 at the discretion of the Tournament Director). If this limit is exceeded, players will be placed on a reserve list in the order of registration.
- 7.1.2 If there are insufficient entries in an age group for a viable competition to be scheduled, ESM may offer players the opportunity to amend their entry to participate in any other age group for which they are eligible.

7.1.3 The draw type based on the number of players are as follows:

Number of Players	Draw Type	Remarks
33-64	64 Knockout	
17-32	32 Knockout	
9-16	16 Knockout	
8	8 Knockout	This may include a structured Plate competition for first match losers.
7	8 Knockout or 2 Pools one of 4 and one of 3, with placing play-offs for the top 3 in each pool.	If court availability and player start times allow, a 2 Pool format may be feasible.
6	2 Pools of 3 with placing play-offs	
5	8 Knockout or 5 Pool	If court availability and player start times allow, a 5 Pool format may be feasible.
4	4 Pool	
3	3 Pool	
2	Final only	

7.1.4 Players should expect to play the matches as detailed below based on the draw type:

Draw Type	Matches per Day
32 Knockout	Wednesday start, 1 match per day
16 Knockout	Thursday start, 1 match per day
8 Knockout	Friday start, 1 match per day
2 Pools of 3 with placing play-offs **	2 matches Saturday, 1 match Sunday
5 Pool	1 or matches Friday, 1 or 2 matches Saturday, 1 match Sunday
4 Pool **	1 Match Friday, 1 match Saturday, 1 match Sunday
3 Pool **	1 or 2 matches Saturday, 1 or 2 matches Sunday

* Note this guidance may be subject to change due to court availability.

** These draw types are likely to be scheduled in consultation with the players.

7.1.5 Every effort is made to guarantee players at least two matches. In the case of draws of eight players or more, players who lose their first match will be offered the opportunity to play in a Plate event but must opt in by telling the Event Manager immediately after their match. Most plate matches will be scheduled on the Saturday. All plate matches accrue event points for England selection for eligible players. Each round of the main draw will be played on the same day, in a block if possible.

7.2 Player Seeding, Age Group Draw Creation and Scheduling

7.2.1 The Tournament Director has overall responsibility for the creation of the age group draws and the scheduling of each regional events. Tasks will be allocated as follows:

7.2.1.1 A Seeding Committee nominated by the ESM Committee will be selected to assist with determining the seeding order of each age

group. Normally there are two Seeding Committee members to each age group. A Seeding Committee member may be asked to cover more than one age group. The Seeding Committee can be contacted via the Event Manager or the ESM Secretary on the email addresses detailed below. Any communication with the Seeding Committee must include the registered age group of the player concerned in the email subject:

events@englandsquashmasters.co.uk

secretary@englandsquashmasters.co.uk

7.2.1.2 The Event Manager will be responsible for creating the draws using the seeding order provided by the Seeding Committee. The Event Manager will attempt to allocate courts as fairly as possible between each of the age groups to give age groups access to any show courts. If show courts are available, some matches may be scheduled on them to meet specific spectator demands.

7.2.2 The seeded position of players will be shown on the draw as follows 1, 2, 3-4, 5-8, 9-16, 17-32. Players in a seeded range (1-8) will be entered in to draw in fixed positions (1 v 8, 5 v 4, 3 v 6, 7 v 2). Players seeded above 8 will be positioned into their respective seeding range places randomly and no consideration will be given to the relative ranking of the players within this range.

7.2.3 The draws will be scheduled as follows:

Day	Scheduling Order
Wednesday (Day 1)	1 – 64 Knockout Draws 1 st Round matches in age group order oldest to youngest 2 – 32 Knockout Draws 1 st Round matches in age group order oldest to youngest 3 – 64 Knockout Draws 2 nd Round matches in age group order oldest to youngest
Thursday (Day 2)	1 – 32 Knockout Draws 2 nd Round matches in age group order oldest to youngest 2 – 64 Knockout Draws 3 rd Round matches in age group order oldest to youngest 3 – 16 Knockout Draws 1 st Round matches in age group order oldest to youngest
Friday (Day 3)	1 – 64 Knockout Draws 4 th Round matches in age group order oldest to youngest 2 – 32 Knockout Draws 3 rd Round matches in age group order oldest to youngest 3 – 16 Knockout Draws 3 rd Round matches in age group order oldest to youngest =4 – 8 Knockout Draws 1 st Round matches in age group order oldest to youngest =4 – 4 Pool Draws 1 st Round matches in age group order oldest to youngest =4 – 2 x 3 Pool Draws with Play-Offs 1 st Round matches in age group order oldest to youngest
Saturday (Day 4)	Next rounds for all groups, generally oldest to youngest
Sunday (Day5)	Flexible no specific order

** Note the above ordering is only a guide and some draws may be arranged to meet court availability and start time constraints of players, where possible.*

7.2.4 The draws and playing schedule will be available on the website soon after the closing date for each tournament. Players should check the event homepage regularly up to and including the day of the tournament in case any alterations have been necessary. In very exceptional circumstances alterations may be made after 12 noon on the day before the tournament. Players affected by these changes will be notified individually by the Event Manager, where possible.

7.2.5 The playing schedule will stipulate the start time and court for each match. This may be amended by the Event Manager in conjunction with the Tournament Director, but an earlier time will only be with the agreement of both players. There may be allowance, depending on court availability, for players who unavoidably arrive after their scheduled start time.

8. **Withdrawing from Events**

8.1 **Before Registration Closes:** Players can only withdraw by contacting the Event Manager. Players who withdraw from the tournament before the tournament registration closing date will be entitled to a full registration fee refund.

8.2 **After Registration Closes but Before the Tournament Day:** Players who withdraw are required to inform the Event Manager by email or telephone. The entry fee will not be refunded.

8.3 **On the Tournament Day:** Players must contact the Event Manager, immediately by telephone. Leaving a message is not sufficient. The entry fee will not be refunded.

8.4 **Multiple Event Withdrawals.** Players who withdraw from an ESM tournament without providing a valid reason, or who withdraw from two or more successive ESM tournaments in a season may be subject to sanction at the discretion of ESM.

9. **Points for Regional Events**

9.1 Points for Regional Events are awarded in accordance with the Player Points System for England Squash Masters' Events, linked below:

[Player Points System for England Squash Masters' Events](#)

10. **Disputes and Appeals**

10.1 Any disputes occurring during matches will be resolved by the match referee. Any other disputes or complaints during a tournament must be addressed to the Tournament Director. A formal protest or appeal must be submitted in writing to the ESM Chairman or Secretary for consideration under the ESM Complaints Policy.

11. **Prizes and Awards**

11.1 **Prize Distribution:** Prizes will be awarded to the top finishers in each category, as determined by ESM. All decisions on prize allocation are final.



11.2 **Presentations:** The presentation of prizes is an integral part of the tournament and prize winners are expected to attend a formal presentation and photographs at the conclusion of play. Any player who fails to make themselves available without the prior agreement of the Tournament Director may be subject to forfeiture of any prizes and trophies at the sole discretion of ESM.

11.3 **Taxes:** Any taxes associated with the receipt of prize money are the sole responsibility of the recipient.

12. **Media and Privacy**

12.1 **Photography and Video:** By participating in the tournament, players consent to the use of their image and likeness in any media (including photography, video, and broadcast) for promotional and marketing purposes by ESM, without compensation.

12.2 **Data Protection:** Personal data collected during registration will be used solely for the purpose of administering the relationship between the player and ESM as set out in the ESM Privacy Policy

13. **Cancellation or Modification**

13.1 **Cancellation:** ESM reserves the right to cancel or postpone a tournament due to unforeseen circumstances, including but not limited to adverse weather, venue issues, or other force majeure events.

13.2 **Modifications:** The tournament format, rules, or schedule may be modified at any time by ESM, and participants will be notified of any changes. ESM reserve the right to make final decisions on any matter not covered.

14. **Governing Law**

14.1 **Jurisdiction:** These terms and conditions are governed by the laws of England and Wales. Any disputes arising from participation in the tournament will be subject to the exclusive jurisdiction of the courts of England and Wales.

15. **Acceptance of Terms**

15.1 **Agreement:** By registering for and participating in any ESM tournament, participants confirm that they have read, understood, and agree to these terms and conditions.

ESM Committee
1 December 2025