

GUIDANCE NOTES FOR PLAYERS ENTERING REGIONAL TOURNAMENTS

1. Introduction

England Masters Squash (ESM) offers competitive opportunities for men and women aged 35 and over, in five year segments up to 75+ for men and 55+ for women. The British Open and British Closed (National) Championships both have Masters categories. In addition, there are five regionally based tournaments run by ESM. Participation in any of these seven tournaments earns players points which, in the case of players who qualify to play for England, count for selection for the England teams in each age band who play in the Home Internationals at the end of the season.

2. Selection for England Teams

The criteria for selecting team members is as follows:

- The top three (three a side) or four (four or five a side) point holders in each age band at the end of the season (i.e. after the Nationals) are automatically selected.
- Each Team Captain will be selected from the above by an England Selection Sub-Committee of the Masters Committee
- The remaining members of each team squad and a reserve will be selected by the Team Captain on the basis of known playing standard, as determined, for instance, by results in the Regional and National Masters tournaments. The England Selection Sub-Committee will review team squad selection before the squads are published on the website, and will also act as a Panel to consider any appeals or queries
- Qualification is dependent on playing in at least two of the seven events, one of which must be the Open or Closed (which carry double points).
- For the final place in any team squad, players who have only played in one event during the season can be considered.
- Players participating in all five Regional tournaments will have their best four-point totals considered. (The points matrix and lists of points accrued in each age category can be viewed on the ESM website).
- Points that have been accrued in a lower age group can be included in a players total for selection in an older age group team.
- Players qualify for the older age group team immediately on attaining the relevant birthday and carry upward their points accrued during the season. If they do not achieve an automatic top four place by virtue of accrued points and are not selected for the age group in which they started the season, they can be selected for the team in the higher age group, especially if they have played for England in the previous two seasons.
- Players are entitled to be considered to play in a lower age group.
- The British Open counts as the first points-carrying Tournament of the forthcoming season.

3. Entering Regional Tournaments

3.1 Eligibility to Play:

- 3.1.1 Players must be registered with England Squash Masters (ESM) to be able to enter. Guidance on registration, how to enter tournaments and pay the entry fee, is on the website.
- 3.1.2 All Regional tournaments are open to any player aged 35 or over, regardless of nationality.
- 3.1.3 Players (men and women) can only enter one age group.
- 3.1.4 Players are entitled to play in a lower age group, but any events points will be accrued against the players correct age group.
- 3.1.5 Players must make themselves available to play on any of the three tournament days as required by the draw and schedule. Players who cannot commit to the draw and schedule as issued should withdraw from an event.
- 3.1.6 The tournaments commence at 2.00 pm on the Friday. Players may be required to play more than once on one or more days depending on the size of the draw.
- 3.1.7 The entry fee must be paid before registration closes. Players will not be entered into the draw if payment is late, but they will be eligible to remain on the reserve list or get a full refund.

3.2 Event Registration and Reserves:

- 3.2.1 Players must register for events by the closing date. Late entries, or players whose payment cleared after the registration closes will be offered a place on the reserve list in the order of registration.
- 3.2.2 Players on the reserve list may be included in the main draw if a player withdraws from the relevant age group of a similar, or higher seeding range.
- 3.2.3 Players on the reserve list will be published on the event page in the order of entry together with their seeding range.

3.3 Draw Size and Composition:

3.3.1 The maximum draw size of a regional event age group is 32. If this limit is exceeded, players will be placed on a reserve list in the order of registration.

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

Number of Players	Draw Type	Remarks
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	

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

Draw Type	Matches per Day
32 Knockout	2 matches Friday, 2 matches Saturday, 1 match Sunday <i>First round matches will be scheduled no later than 4pm on the Friday.</i>
16 Knockout	1 match Friday, 2 matches Saturday, 1 match Sunday
8 Knockout **	2 matches Saturday, 1 match Sunday
2 Pools of 4 with placing play-offs	1 match Friday, 2 matches Saturday, 1 match Sunday
2 Pools of 3 with placing play-offs **	2 matches Saturday, 1 match Sunday
5 Pool	1 match Friday, 2 matches Saturday, 1 match Sunday
4 Pool **	2 matches Saturday, 1 match Sunday
3 Pool **	2 matches Saturday
4 Knockout or Monrad **	2 matches Saturday

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

** These draw types are likely to be scheduled early on the event Saturday in order to give those who played on Friday more rest.

3.3.4 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 Coordinator immediately after their match. Most plate matches will be scheduled on the Saturday. All plate matches carry points for England selection. Each round of the main draw will be played on the same day, in a block if possible.

3.4 Player Seeding, Age Group Draw Creation and Scheduling

3.4.1 The Chairman has overall responsibility for the creation of the age group draws and the scheduling of the regional events. Tasks will be allocated as follows:

- A Seeding Committee nominated by the Committee will be selected to assist with determining the seeding order of each age group. A Seeding Committee member may be asked to cover more than one age group. The Seeding Committee can be contacted using the email address detailed below. When communicating with the Seeding Committee please put your registered age group in the email subject:

seeding.committee@englandsquashmasters.co.uk

- The Event Coordinator will be responsible for creating the draws using the seeding order provided by the Seeding Committee. The Event Coordinator will attempt to:
 - Allocate courts as fairly as possible between each of the age groups to give age groups access to the better or show courts. Some specific matches may be scheduled on the show courts for semi-finals and finals matches, to meet specific spectator demands.
 - Allocate early matches on Saturday and Sunday to different age groups in rotation for each regional event. The exception to this may include the smaller draws 8 knockout and below, who did not play on the Friday, or to give age groups that played twice, or late on Friday, more rest.

3.4.2 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 (3-4, 5-8 etc.) will be entered in these positions randomly¹, where possible and no consideration will be given to the relative ranking of the players within this range. The exceptions to placing a player randomly include:

- To avoid two players from the same county playing each other in the first round the Event Coordinator may shift the lower seeded player to the next seed range position.

¹ The random order will be determined using the PayPal payment transaction ID in ascending order, which as is always random long random unique identifier.

3.4.3 The draws will be scheduled as follows:

Day	Scheduling Order
Friday	1 – 32 Knockout Draws 1 st Round matches in age group order oldest to youngest 2 – 32 Knockout Draws 2 nd Round matches in age group order oldest to youngest 3 – 16 Knockout Draws 1 st Round matches in age group order oldest to youngest (Note some 16 Knockout Draws may be scheduled earlier to allow at least a 3-hour rest for the 32 Knockout draw 1 st round players.) Any pool groups starting on a Friday will be scheduled any time after 32 Draws 1 st Round matches
Saturday	1- Any group that did not have a Friday start (this will include 8 Knockout Draws and most Pool Draws) 2 – 32 Knockout Draws 3 rd Round matches in age group order oldest to youngest 3 – 16 Knockout Draws 2 nd Round matches in age group order oldest to youngest 4 – 32 Knockout Draws 4 th Round matches in age group order oldest to youngest 5 – 16 Knockout Draws 3 rd Round matches in age group order oldest to youngest The Plate Draws and remaining 8 Knockout Draws and Pool Draws matches will be scheduled where appropriate throughout the day.
Sunday	Flexible

3.4.4 The draws and playing schedule will be available on the website soon after the closing date for each tournament. Players should check the 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 Coordinator, where possible.

3.4.5 The playing schedule will stipulate the start time and court for each match. This may be amended by the Event Coordinator in conjunction with the Draw Master (Chairman), but an earlier time will only be with the agreement of both players. There will be allowance, depending on court availability, for players who unavoidably arrive after their scheduled start time.

3.5 Match Conduct

3.5.1 Matches should be conducted in accordance with World Squash Singles Rules 2019.

3.5.2 Players are required to mark matches. This will normally be the loser of the previous match on court but may be varied at the discretion of the Event Coordinator.

3.5.3 Scoring will be Point-a-Rally (PAR) to 11 points for all age groups.

3.5.4 A double yellow dot ball is the default ball for all matches. However, if both players agree a single yellow dot ball may be used.

3.5.5 Players are expected to comply with the England Squash Code of Conduct both on and off court. Abusive language or behaviour towards employees and members of the host club, tournament officials or other players is unacceptable and subject to sanction by ESM. 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 by ESM. Sanctions imposed by ESM include, but are not limited to, verbal or written warnings, loss of ranking points and temporary or permanent exclusion from ESM tournaments.

3.6 Points for Regional Events

3.6.1 The aim of the points scheme is:

- To encourage participation in Masters' events.
- To provide updated Points Ranking Lists and aid Tournament organisers to seed players.
- To provide automatic selection for Home Internationals teams.

3.6.2 The points awarded are as follows for each type of draw:

Knockout Draws:

Games Won	Points / Round / Games Won			
	0	1	2	3
Round				
Last 32	15	30	45	60
Last 16	15	30	45	60
Quarter Finals	20	40	60	80
Semi Finals	25	50	75	100
Final	30	60	90	120

Example:

A player who loses 3-1 in the semi-final of a 32 draw with a bye in the first round:

1 st Round (Last 32) Bye*	=	60 pts
2 nd Round (Last 16) Win	=	60 pts
Quarter Finals Win	=	80 pts
Semi Final loses won 1 game	=	50 pts
Total	=	250 pts

* A Bye is awarded the points equivalent to a match win.

Pool Draws:

Games Won	Points / Match / Games Won			
	0	1	2	3
Pool Size				
3	20	50	80	110
4	25	50	75	100
5	30	50	70	90

6 Draw (2 x 3 Pool with Play-off):

The pool stages will be award points based on the 4 Pool points allocation for each round.

Games Won	Points / Match / Games Won			
	0	1	2	3
Round				
Pool Rounds	25	50	75	100
5 th / 6 th Play-off	4	6	8	10
3 rd / 4 th Play-off	10	15	20	25
1 st / 2 nd Play-off	25	50	75	100

7 Draw (2 x 4 Pool with Play-off):

The pool stages will be award points based on the 5 Pool points allocation for each round. The pools will be configured for 4 players in each pool and the pool with 3 players will receive a bye for the 4th player place.

Games Won	Points / Match / Games Won			
	0	1	2	3
Round				
Pool Rounds	30	50	70	90
5 th / 6 th Play-off	6	9	12	15
3 rd / 4 th Play-off	15	20	25	30
1 st / 2 nd Play-off	30	50	70	90

Plate Matches:

Plate matches are awarded the same amount of points for every round in a plate draw as follows:

Games Won	Points / Match / Games Won			
	0	1	2	3
Plate Round	1	2	3	5

3.7 Withdrawing from an Event

- 3.7.1 **Before Registration Closes:** Players can only withdraw by contacting the Event Coordinator. Players who withdraw from the event before the event registration closing date will be entitled to a registration fee refund or a credit to the next Regional event, whichever is preferred by the player.
- 3.7.2 **After Registration Closes but Before the Tournament Day:** Players who withdraw are required to inform the Event Coordinator or Chairman by email or telephone, giving the reason. The entry fee **will not** be refunded.
- 3.7.3 **On the Tournament Day:** Players must contact the Event Coordinator, immediately by telephone. Leaving a message is not sufficient. This may result in alterations to the draw if the withdrawal significantly affects the seeding or if it gives a player two byes. The entry fee **will not** be refunded.
- 3.7.4 If the Draw Master does not accept the reason for withdrawal and/or the player has withdrawn from two successive Regionals, they will be excluded from the next Regional event or longer.
- 3.7.5 The ban from the next tournament will also apply to any player who leaves a tournament early without fulfilling their playing commitments and thereby inconveniences other players.
- 3.7.6 If the Draw Master receives an appeal against exclusion, a nominated Committee member and Events Coordinator must be consulted before making a decision.

3.8 Event Cancellation

- 3.8.1 If there is any doubt about a tournament taking place (e.g. because of bad weather), a notice will be displayed on the website not later than 12 noon on the day before the tournament confirming go-ahead or postponement. If a tournament has to be postponed, every effort will be made to re-arrange it.