

Seattle City Squash League Rules & Information 2011 - 2012

Table of Contents

League Structure	2
Season	2
Divisions	2
Prizes	2
Playoffs.....	2
Teams	3
Host Club.....	3
Captains	3
Roster.....	3
Applications	3
Substitutes.....	3
Absences.....	3
Players	5
Membership requirements	5
Age Limits.....	5
Matches.....	6
Safety	6
Match Times.....	6
Order of Play	6
Refereeing.....	6
Scoring	6
Point System	6
Rules	7
Comportment.....	7
Reporting Scores.....	7
Miscellaneous.....	8
Exceptions	8
Sponsorship.....	8
Questions	8

League Structure

Season

The SSRA squash league season begins in October and ends when all matches have been played, generally in March. Playoffs take place at the end of the regular season.

Divisions

There are 4 divisions of play, with each division corresponding to USSquash ranking levels, as follows:

Division	Range
Div 1	Above 3.90
Div 2	3.4-3.9
Div 3	3.0-3.39
Div 4	Below 3.0

All teams must be composed entirely of players with the appropriate rating for their division. Ratings are available on the [USSquash website](#) for all active USSquash members. If a player does not have a rating, the league Czar will determine the rating for that player. If a player is determined by the Czar to be in an inappropriate division, regardless of the time of year, that player will be asked to move to the appropriate division.

The final placement of teams in divisions is dependent on the number of applications received for each division; the goal is to have approximately the same number of teams in each of the four divisions.

Prizes

Trophies and/or prizes will be awarded to each regular team member of the top two teams from each division at the conclusion of the playoffs.

Playoffs

Playoffs take place at the end of the regular season. The top 4 teams in each division are eligible for the playoffs. Players playing in the playoffs must have played at least 2 regular season matches.

Teams

Host Club

Each team must have a host club in the Puget Sound area, where they can play their home matches. To call a club the “host” club, the team must have at least 3 of their players be a member of that club. It is strongly preferred that all team members be members of the same club.

The number of teams allowed from each club will depend on the number of courts provided by that club for league play. Team applications may be denied due to shortage of courts at the home club.

Captains

Each team must have a Captain and a Co-captain. The captain’s responsibilities are detailed in the Captain’s Guide, available on the [Seattle Squash website](#).

After the start of the league, all the communication from the league will be with the captains and team members should communicate with the league through their captains. It is the captain’s responsibility to pass any relevant league information to the team members.

Roster

Each team consists of from four to six players; all teams must have a minimum of four players. The team roster is fixed once the season begins and may not be changed until the midseason break (usually around the Christmas holidays). At the mid-season break, changes in roster for the second half of the season may be submitted to the Czar for approval. Team rosters may not be changed through the rest of the season and playoffs.

Applications

Each captain will submit the team application and the league entry fee (\$270 per team) along with any SSRA membership applications for the team members and the corresponding membership fees (check payable to SSRA) to:

SSRA
P.O. Box 665
Seattle, WA 98111-0665

In addition, an electronic copy of the application form **must** also be emailed to league@seattlesquash.com. Only complete application forms will be accepted. Applications forms must have the name, the address, at least one phone number and email address of each player on the team. A team application must include a minimum of four players.

Substitutes

No substitutes are allowed, only players on the team’s roster are eligible to play. The league may consider changes in roster only under extreme hardship situations. Travel plans are not considered a hardship, but severe injuries will be considered. Five players are considered adequate to complete the season without a replacement. A team with an original roster of five or six players that has lost players to injury and is down to four players may submit one replacement player to bring the total number of players to five. The injured players cannot return to their teams for the remainder of the season.

Absences

If one team member can not show up to play a match, the team captain may choose to either:

1. Default the number four match
2. Play the **lowest** ranked player twice (in other words, **only** the player at position #3 can play twice)

In either case, no bonus point will be awarded to that team. If more than one player from a team does not show up, the team will lose by default. If both teams show up with less than a full roster, players will play the matches #1 to #3 and the result of match #4 will be nullified (Neither team will receive the bonus point).

Showing up for a match is very important, even if a team has no chance of winning that match or making the playoffs.

Players

Membership requirements

All league players must be current, paid-up members of US Squash (which includes membership in the SSRA) and their membership must not be allowed to expire during the league season.

Each player must also be a member in good standing of one of the Seattle-area squash clubs.

Age Limits

The minimum age to play league is 13 years old (at the start of the season). A team may have no more than 2 'Junior' players – defined as between 13 and 18 years of age.

Matches

Safety

Eye guards must be worn for all matches. We are a US Squash sanctioned league and this is one of their requirements.

Players must conduct themselves safely on court and call lets whenever there is a danger of injuring their opponent.

Match Times

Matches are played on Tuesday evenings; start times vary for different clubs, with matches starting anywhere from 6:30-8:00 PM. Players should regard the league as a commitment and be at the appropriate location and be on time for each match. That means being warmed up and ready to start on time. It is recommended that all team members be available to play within 30 minutes after the start of the first match. Team captains must notify the opposing captain if any of their players will be late; otherwise, if a player is more than 30 minutes late for the start of the team match the opposing captain may claim a forfeit.

Matches may not be rescheduled unless authorized by the league. This will only be done under exceptional circumstances. If not approved by the league, results of rescheduled matches are nullified.

Order of Play

The order of play is set by the captain at the beginning of the season and may not be changed until the midseason break. Playing order may be changed at the break but then remains fixed for the remainder of the season and the playoffs.

Refereeing

All matches must be refereed, and scoresheets must be kept for each match. It is the responsibility of the host captain to provide scoresheets. Each team must provide 2 referees, who may be playing or non-playing members of the team.

Scoring

The default scoring system for league will be the traditional Hand-In/Hand-Out to 9 points system (HiHo9). This system is listed as an alternate scoring system in the official rules of squash and is accepted as valid for sanctioning by US Squash. However alternate USSquash-sanctioned scoring methods may be used for any given match if both players agree in advance.

Point System

In each match, four players from each team play their counterparts on the other team. Individual matches will be the best three out of five games. Each team will receive one point for each individual match won, plus one bonus point for fielding a full team (four players on the given night) **and** refereeing. If a team does not field a full team and/or doesn't referee 2 matches, they may not receive a bonus match. The team that wins the most individual matches will be the winner of that contest and will receive two additional points. If necessary, a tie match will be broken based on the most games won and then total points. If tied after total games and points, one point will be awarded to each team for a tied match. See scoring example below:

	<u>Team 1</u>	<u>Team 2</u>
Individual Matches	3	1
Bonus Point	0	1
Team Match Winner	2	0
Total Points for Match	5	2

Rules

International rules apply (i.e. International scoring, 9-point games). Referees are required for all matches. Each team must referee two matches. If a team does not referee two matches it will lose its bonus point. This will not only improve the quality of the match by emulating tournament conditions, but it is good experience for each player to referee and focus on the fine points of the rules. The decision of the referee will prevail. The referee will call fault serves. Remember, safety comes first.

It is mandatory that all players wear eye protection (US Squash rule)

Comportment

All league players are expected to play fairly, adhere to the USSquash rules, accept decisions by the referee without arguing, and be respectful of their opponent. If there are any incidents or disputes during a match, a complaint should be filed in writing (email OK) with the league Czar within one week after the match. The league will then conduct an investigation and do its best to resolve the disputes by following the league rules and the recommendations of US Squash.

Reporting Scores

Scores should be **recorded** and **confirmed** as soon as possible after each match, using the USSquash web-based score reporting system. It is the duty of the winning team captain to record the scores. Scores must be confirmed by the captain of the losing team by the Saturday following the match (after they have been recorded). On Sunday, unconfirmed scores by the losing teams will be confirmed by the league, after which they can not be challenged. In addition, rating of league players will be updated every week on the web-based score reporting system.

Miscellaneous

Exceptions

Any team or individual may request an exception to any rule by emailing league@seattlesquash.com. Exceptions are entirely at the discretion of the league Czar.

Sponsorship

We're always looking for sponsors – corporate or individual – to help defray the operating costs of the league. Sponsors have their names & logos on the league Tshirt, posters and other league materials, and are recognized at league functions. If you're interested in becoming a sponsor or know of anyone who might be, please contact league@seattlesquash.com.

Questions

Email: league@seattlesquash.com