

# Seattle Winter Squash League

# Rules & Information

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# 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 and will consist of a semi-final and grand final round.

## Divisions

The league comprises 3 divisions, depending on entries. Each division has a suggested rating guideline, with each division corresponding to the US Squash rating system, as follows:

Division	Cutoff
D1	4.70 & above
D2	4.11 to 4.69
D3	4.10 and below

Ratings are available on the [US Squash website](#) for all active US Squash members. If a player does not have a rating, the squash league administrator(s) will help to determine the appropriate rating for that player. If a player is determined by the squash league administrator(s) to be in an inappropriate division, that player may be granted an exception to play in that division, which exception will be granted at the squash league administrator's sole discretion. Alternatively, the player in question may be asked to move to the appropriate division.

See here for more information about ratings: [US Squash Ratings](#)

The final placement of teams in divisions is dependent on the number of applications received for each division. The goal is to have a competitive and fun league. Ideally, this would mean approximately the same number of teams in each of the divisions.

## Prizes

Trophies and/or prizes will be awarded to winning teams. Individual prizes may be awarded at the SSRA's discretion.

## Playoffs

Playoffs take place at the end of the regular season. Typically, the top 4 teams in each division are eligible for the playoffs. Individual players competing in the playoffs must have played at least 3 regular season matches and must be a regular player of a team (i.e. no substitutes).

## 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 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. In the unfortunate event that we would have to implement this, we would deny teams based upon the date of registration.

## Captains

Each team must have a Captain and also preferably a Co-captain. The Captain and Co-captain are responsible for:

- Paying their team's entry fee
- Ensuring they field a team for each round of the league.
- Communicating with the league administrator(s).
- Communicating with the other team's captain.
- Enforcing their team's compliance with the league rules.
- Enforcing team members wear eye protection.
- Communicating with their team, including setting the line-up for each round of play.
- Ensuring all players on their team follow the league rules.
- Entering results if they are the winning team.

After the start of the league, all the communication from the league will be with the captains. 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.

## Applications

Each captain will submit the team application and the league entry fee, which is determined prior to the start of each season by the SSRA. Notice of fees will be included in correspondence on the SSRA website ([www.seattlesquash.com](http://www.seattlesquash.com)) and email campaigns to the mailing list.

Payment must be made online when registering your team.

**Every player must be a member in good standing (current paid-up FULL membership and player must not be suspended for any reason) with U.S. Squash throughout the season. If a player is not in good standing, they will forfeit any matches played during the time period when they are not in good standing.**

Please see here for U.S. Squash Membership Benefits and What you are Supporting: [US Squash Membership](#)

## Roster

Each team consists of from four to eight players; all teams must have a minimum of four players. The team roster is fixed once the season begins and may not be changed without approval from the squash league administrator(s).

## Playing Order

The order of play for each team is dynamic.

**Dynamic order** means the highest-ranked available player always plays #1, the next-highest #2, etc. The order can change as a result of ranking changes: if the highest-ranked player loses several matches he or she may end up dropping down in order, and vice versa for players whose ranking has increased.

Unranked players will be given an approximate rating at the start of the season (see above) to help determine order.

When rankings are within 0.05 for two players, a captain may use discretion and choose which player will play higher during a specific match.

## Substitutes

Substitutes are allowed to play for a team, under strict conditions:

- They must be an active and paid up member of US Squash.
- Regular roster players may serve as substitutes in the next division up.
- Substitutes are not eligible for playoffs.

A list of substitutes will be made available to the SSRA community. It is up to individual captains to determine the substitutes's US Squash rating to ensure eligibility.

Pricing for playing as a substitute is FREE for regular roster players and \$50 for floating substitutes who are not part of a permanent team.

## Absences

If a team only has 3 available players at match time (and have not been able to add a substitute,) either team captain may choose to:

1. Default the number four match, or
2. Play the **lowest** ranked player twice (in other words, **only** the player at position #3 can play twice). This is generally always accepted in the spirit of the game and competition during the regular season. **Playing twice is not allowed during the postseason (playoffs and finals).**

In either case, no bonus point will be awarded to the team short 1-player. If a team has 2 or fewer players, that team will lose by default. If both teams show up with 3-players, players will play the matches #1 to #3 and the result of match #4 will be nullified (Neither team will receive the bonus point). If a team has used a substitute to fill the lineup, they will receive the bonus point for playing with a full lineup.

## Players

### Age Limits

The minimum age to play league is 13 years old (at the start of the season) defined as between 13 and 18 years of age. Exceptions to this rule will be made at the discretion of the SSRA league administrators. All juniors must have a waiver signed by their parent/legal guardian. All juniors must have a responsible adult present during league matches.

## Matches

### Safety

**Eye guards must be worn for all matches. This is a US Squash sanctioned league and it is one of the requirements. Players must conduct themselves safely on court and call lets whenever there is a danger of injuring their opponent.**

**If a player is not wearing their eyewear and a match continues, the other player may not protest at a later date. It is their responsibility to stop playing immediately.**

### Match Times

Matches are played on Tuesday and Friday evenings (Friday night play will be rotated evenly amongst all divisions;) 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.**

## Refereeing

All matches must be refereed, and scores must be kept for each match. Each team must provide 2 referees, who may be playing or non-playing members of the team.

For more information on Squash Rules, see here: [U.S. Squash Rules Information](#)

## Scoring

**The default scoring system for league is Point-a-rally (PAR) to 11, with a winning margin of 2 points.**

Referees are encouraged to use the live scoring functionality provided by Club Locker. To access it, please follow these instructions:

1. On your mobile phone or tablet, go to <http://clublocker.com> (you can do it from desktop as well)
2. Login with your username/password for US Squash
3. Click on Enter Score
4. Click on League (note, league will be selectable when you are on a team in an active league)
5. Select the name of the league
6. Select the league match (it will show date and opposing team name)
7. Select the match position and the players and then you are all set to score the match

## 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:

- 1 point for each individual match won
- 2 bonus points to the winner of the team match
- 1 bonus point to each team, IF they meet the following criteria
  1. Field a full team of 4 players (including substitutes, if used.)
  2. Referee at least 2 matches

It is up to the captain of the winning team to enter any applicable bonus points. It is up to the losing captain to confirm that the information was entered correctly.

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.

A scoring example is demonstrated below:

	<u>Team 1</u>	<u>Team 2</u>
Individual Matches	3	1
Bonus Point	1	1
<u>Team Match Winner</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>0</u>
Total Points for Match	6	2

## Code of Conduct

All league players are expected to play fairly, adhere to the US Squash rules, accept decisions by the referee without arguing, and be respectful of their opponent. If there are any incidents or disputes during a league round, a complaint may be filed by email with the squash league administrator(s) ([league@seattlesquash.com](mailto:league@seattlesquash.com)) within one week of such incident or dispute. The league's exceptions committee will then conduct an investigation and will inform the affected parties within a reasonable period of time of its decision. All decisions by the league's exceptions committee shall be final and binding on all players.

## Reporting Scores

Scores should be **recorded** and **confirmed** as soon as possible after each match on the US Squash web-based score reporting system. **It is the duty of the winning team captain to record the scores.**

Failure to report matches within 1 week of the end of a round will result in a 3 point penalty for the winning team. Failure to report a match within 2 weeks of the end of a round will result in all points being lost for the winning team.

## Miscellaneous

### Exceptions

Any team or individual may request an exception to any rule by emailing [league@seattlesquash.com](mailto:league@seattlesquash.com). Exceptions may be granted at the sole discretion of the squash league administrator(s).

### Sponsorship

The squash league is always looking for sponsors – corporate or individual – to help defray the operating costs of the league. Sponsors may have their names & logos on the league t-shirt, 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](mailto:league@seattlesquash.com).

If you want to be on the league t-shirt and added to the website, please let us know before November.

### T-Shirts

Each season, the league provides players with a t-shirt as part of their entry fee. It is important that each player update their t-shirt size on the US Squash platform, by following these instructions:

- Go to <http://ussquash.com>
- Click on My Account
- If you are not logged in, click Login.
- Once logged in, click on Go to my Profile
- Click on Account tab
- You will see on the Summary Tab your personal information which includes T Shirt Size.

- Click edit to the right of T Shirt Size, scroll down to the Miscellaneous section and select your size from the drop down list.
- Scroll up and click Submit

## Questions

Email: [league@seattlesquash.com](mailto:league@seattlesquash.com)

For updates throughout the season, please look at the [www.seattlesquash.com](http://www.seattlesquash.com) website.