

JUNIOR TOURNAMENT GUIDELINES

2024-2025



1. Organisation of tournaments.

Each tournament is run by a Tournament Director (TD):

- Irish Junior Open, Irish Junior Nationals and All Ireland School Championships TD is appointed by the Irish Squash junior committee.
- Provincial junior open championships TD is appointed by the local association and approved by the Irish Squash junior committee.
- Club open competitions are run by TD appointed by the club and notified to Irish Squash.
- All Junior tournaments are run according to Irish Squash Code of Conduct and Safeguarding Children Policy. By entering any tournament, it is assumed that players and their parents agree to abide by these policies. By helping in a tournament, officials also agree to abide by these policies.

2. Responsibilities of Tournament Director (TD) include:

- The TD is responsible for the invitation, managing the online entries plus the promotion of the event.
- The name of the TD must be on the application and will be the responsible contact for Irish Squash.
- To communicate with the Irish junior committee re tournament seeding and draw and must be run in accordance with Irish Squash Junior ranking.
- To ensure tournament draw is available online by due date
- To organise and display the match schedule and ensure matches are played on time.
- To ensure appropriate referees are available for matches.
- To document player withdrawals/injuries before and during the tournament.
- To ensure all competitors wear protective eye guards over the eyes during the competition and knock-up.
- To manage any disciplinary issues arising during a tournament and submit report, as appropriate to the Irish Squash Disciplinary Committee.

- To send within 3 working days after the final, the final placings of each category to Irish Squash so that the ranking can be updated.
- The TD will make sure that matches from the quarterfinals onwards in each category have competent referees.

3. Tournament Format:

- The junior circuit will be run for boys and girls under 11, 13, 15, 17 and 19 where a player is underage on the final day of the tournament.
- Clubs used as venues for tournaments must be affiliated to Irish Squash.
- All matches are played under the Rules of the Game as determined by the World Squash Federation. Where queries arise outside the scope of this document, reference will be made to the World Squash Rules.
- Players, tournament officials, parents and supporters are all bound by the relevant Irish Squash Code of Conduct throughout any event.

Irish Junior Open

- This is run as European Squash Federation (ESF) Grand Prix (GP) event over 3 days according to ESF Guidelines (see link below)

<https://www.europeansquash.com/file/816339/?dl=1>

Irish Junior Nationals

- 3 day event (Friday - Sunday).
- Entry online, closing date 9 days earlier, i.e. previous Wednesday at midnight.
- Monrad draw for 8, 16 or 32 players/event; round robin format if small numbers in particular age categories.
- Draw will be published online Tuesday 1pm pre-tournament.

Provincial Junior Opens

- 2 day event (Saturday, Sunday).
- Entry online, closing date 9 days earlier i.e. preceding Wednesday at midnight.
- Matches scheduled for 9:30am each day.
- Monrad draw for 8 or 16 players in each age category.
- Age groups may be combined if small entries to allow Monrad draw or round robin format may be used at discretion of Irish Squash Junior Committee and TD.
- If draw is 'oversubscribed', preliminary matches to be played on Friday to fill the draw.
- Draw published online Wednesday 1pm pre-tournament.

Open Club Events

- This will be at discretion of local club and TD.

4. Seeding and Draw

Irish Junior Open

- This will be run according to ESF criteria.

Irish Junior Nationals and Provincial Opens

- Irish Squash junior committee will seed tournament entries according to national rankings (see below for details on ranking point calculations).
- Wildcard seeding of a player may be decided by the Irish Squash junior committee and the TD if appropriate and in the best interest of a balanced draw for all players.
- All seeded players will be fitted into the Monrad draw according to their seeding position (see table below)
- Unseeded players will be randomly drawn in the lowest remaining available slots.

Current template for tournament placing:

Plate	1st Round QF	SF	Final
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9 V 10	9 V 12	9 V 16	1 V 16	1 V 8	1 V 4	1 V 2
	10 V 11	10 V 15	2 V 15	2 V 7	2 V 3	
		11 V 14	3 V 14	3 V 6		
		12 V 13	4 V 13	4 V 5		
			5 V 12			
			6 V 11			
			7 V 10			
			8 V 9			

Round Robin Format

- Pool 1: Seeds 1,4,5,8
 - Pool 2: Seeds 2,3,6,7
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- A re-draw will take place where one of the top 2 seeds of the top 8 seeds withdraw, regardless of the number of players in the draw. A re-draw will only be done where a player drops out before 09:00 on the day before play is due to begin.
 - Withdrawals after draw has been made are reported by the TD to Irish Squash junior committee after the tournament. Parents/guardians must provide a valid reason for player withdrawal (in case of injury or illness, doctor or physiotherapist cert within 1 week of withdrawal is required) to the TD and Irish Squash.
 - Process for handling walkovers will be managed by the Tournament Director. The following guidance is provided: If a player selects not to play a round and gives a walkover – they will be scratched from subsequent rounds.
 - Penalties apply to players failing to provide proof of valid reason for withdrawal from event:
 - 2 tournament ban (in own age group) if withdrawal after draw made.
 - 1 tournament ban and '0' points penalty for withdrawal during tournament.
 - Important: Walk-over will be awarded against any player who fails to present on court within 15 minutes of the scheduled match time. Players and/or their parents/guardians are responsible for informing themselves of match times and possible changes to a schedule
 - Entry Fees are payable on-line before the first match. Entry fees this season will not include the €5 per player for the 'Junior Development Fund' - fee therefore will be €20 per player (€30 for 2 siblings & €35 for 3 siblings).
 - If a junior enters a Senior Tour event – Junior rates will apply for entry.
 - Balls - in line with ESF tournaments the Dunlop Double Yellow ball will be used for all age groups except U11s.

5. National Ranking points

- National Ranking are based on a 12-month rolling ranking system
- Qualifying events are the Irish Junior Nationals and the 4 provincial opens.

- A player's total points accumulated in the preceding 12 months from their best 3 events (in one age category) is used to calculate their ranking for that age group.
- On moving to an older age category following a birthday, a player will carry 40% of the value of their ranking points in the lower age group 'up' with them; these points are then preferentially replaced by points gained at the new age group with each subsequent event played in.
- A player who is not eligible for selection in a particular age group (e.g. non-national, under-age player who has not declared for the higher age group) will not obtain points and their placing will be skipped.

The points to be earned in this season's junior tournaments are shown in the table below:

Placing	National	Provincial Open
1	2000	1500
2	1750	1300
3	1550	1150
4	1400	1050
5	1250	950
6	1100	850
7	1000	750
8	900	675
9	800	600
10	700	525
11	600	450
12	500	375
13	400	300
14	300	225
15	200	150
16	100	75
17	80	60
18	60	45

- No points are awarded where a draw has less than 3 players (round robin format/combining age groups should ensure this does not occur)
- Ranking points are updated within 2 weeks after each tournament.

6. Squad Sessions:

Representing your country is the highest honour that can be bestowed on a sportsman or sportswoman. Any player that aspires to represent Ireland is expected to participate in the national squads as part of the training and development programme of Irish Squash.

The dates for the squad sessions will be published on the Irish Squash website, email notification will be sent to the players and their parents. Failure to attend squads may lead to a player not being selected on a team.

The squad sessions are heavily subsidised by Irish Squash by on average 85-90%. The duration of training sessions is estimated and can change at the discretion of the National Coach.

It is the policy of Irish Squash to run National squads at the following age categories:

- U11, U13, U15, U17, U19

Selection to the Squads:

The coach and team manager responsible for the relevant age group will select the squad of players to attend the sessions. The selection is based on the Irish Junior ranking and will be subject to the following criteria:

- Irish Ranking

The top eligible 4 boys and 2 girls automatically qualify for the squads.

If in the event that these players are unavailable then the coach can invite the next Irish ranked players.

- Venue Capacity

Depending on the capacity of the squash venue this squad might get expanded further again based on National ranking.

- Development Squads

It is the aim of Irish Squash to organise and run development squad sessions at each age group during the forthcoming season. Further details will follow.

Venue:

- 2 Court Venue: Top 4 Boys and Top 2 Girls.
- 3 Court Venue Top 5 Boys and Top 3 Girls
- 4 Court Venue Top 6 Boys and Top 4 Girls

Squad Communication

Irish Squash will agree the squad with the coaches and issue the invitations. Irish Squash will manage the payments on-line for the squads – these must be paid in advance of squad participation and no cash should be paid to the coaches on the day.

It is the responsibility of the coaches to keep in touch with their players so they are fully up to date with potential players coming in and out of the age category and they must reflect this in their squads if appropriate.

There will be no refund of coaching fees in the event that coaching times are changed or reduced.

Schools Competition:

The age rule for these competitions is the same as all other junior competitions and a player must be under the relevant age on the final day of the competition.

Communication between players/parents and Irish Squash:

Any queries must always be directed to a player's provincial junior representative

Under no circumstances should any issue be brought to the Irish Squash office or the Junior Secretary in the first instance.