

# Masters Criteria for International Selection

## 2024/2025 Seeding of Masters Events And Other Rules

### Masters Categories

#### **Men and Ladies (Over 35/40/45/50/55/60/65/70/75):**

The Irish rankings are based on finishing positions achieved by players at the nominated Irish Masters events and will be used as the basis for Irish team selection. This document explains how the rankings are calculated and the rules that are applied and used as the basis for selection.

### Qualifying Events

Ranking points for the 2024/2025 season will be awarded at the following events:

#### Level 1 Event

Irish Masters National Closed Tournament

- Nationals

#### Level 2 Events

Provincial Open Tournaments

- Leinster
- Connacht
- Munster - Ulster

#### Level 3 Event

Curragh Masters Open & Sligo Masters Open & Waterford Masters Open.

## Points Awards

Points awarded as per Tournament Points Structure – see tables below.

Points scored from a Home player's best 3 events to determine the panels from which the selectors will pick the teams.

Points are used to calculate seedings and will be taken from the best 4 nominated Masters events (of any level ) in the previous 12 months. The same event can't be considered twice (eg, Any points earned from the first provincial event of the current season, replaces any points earned in the first provincial event of the previous season.

Overseas players are advised to play a minimum of two events. Points for two events will be added together divided by 2 and multiplied by 3 to establish their ranking position. If only one event is played the points for that event will be divided by 2 and multiplied by 3 to establish their ranking position. If 3 events are played the total of these 3 events will establish their ranking position.

The definition of a Home Player will include players where their primary place of residence is in United Kingdom or Ireland.

## Tournament Points Structure

The Level 3 events are: The Sligo Masters Open, The Curragh Masters Open & Waterford Masters Open). The Level 2 events are the provincial Masters Open Tournaments: Connacht, Leinster, Munster & Ulster. The Level 1 event is The Irish Masters Nationals Closed.

The ranking points that will be awarded for placings are detailed below.

	Level 3	Level 2	Level 1
Placing	Points	Points	Points
1	50	140	175
2	35	100	125
3	25	70	90
4	20	50	65
5	20	45	60
6	15	35	45
7	15	30	40
8	10	25	35
9	5		30
10	5		25
11	5		20
12	5		20
13	5		15
14	5		15
15	5		15
16	5		15
17			10
18			10
19			10
20			10
21			5
22			5
23			5
24			5

### Level 2 – B Section

Placing	Points
1	30
2	15
3	10
4	10
5	5
6	5
7	5
8	5

Points will only be awarded to players who qualify to play for Ireland, under Squash Ireland governing body rules. For example, if a non-Irish player were to compete in an Open event and finish 3rd, the points for 3rd place would be awarded to the Irish player finishing in 4th position.

## Points and National Team Selection Criteria 2024/2025

Players not affiliated may not take part in competitions. Cut-off date for payment of affiliation fee is 31/10/2024.

Ranking Points are earned from the four Provincial Masters Tournaments, Irish Masters National Closed and nominated Level 3 events.

The Ranking Points earned by a player at his/her best 3 tournament results of the season will be used to determine the qualifying places for the National Team.

The top four Ranking Points scorers will automatically be selected for each 5 person team. The RSC may consider a wild card selection to fill the 5/6th position on a team – such a player will be of a standard to play at either number 1 or 2 on that team.

The last Masters Ranking event of the season is the Irish Masters National Closed. Ranking points earned at Masters tournaments after this date, will be applied to the following season's points table.

In the event that players end up with equal "points totals" the higher ranked player at the Irish Masters National Closed will be selected.

The Ranking Points will be used to select the members of the team. In exceptional circumstances only, the selectors may use up to two wildcards in selecting the team. A wildcard selection will be based on:

- Current form & recent results
- Commitment
- Player coming from a younger age category with qualifying points will be considered.
- Consideration and opinion of the selectors

A Player may also be considered for selection when moving up from a younger age category during the season if they have enough points.

## Age Categories

The player's age on the first day of a tournament determines the player's Age Category.

If a player has a birthday mid season, which would move him/her into an older Age Category and the player decides to keep his/her points in the younger Age Category, the player can continue to play in the younger Age Category and earn points for that category.

Points earned after the player's birthday in the younger Age Category cannot be moved to the older Age Category, whenever the player eventually decides to make the change. (Players are normally advised to change Age Category on their birthday).

If a birthday results in an Age Category change and the player moves to the older category immediately, the player's current Ranking Points will be automatically transferred into the older Age Category points table.

A player may not keep points in a younger Age Category and try to earn points in an older Age Category with a view to qualifying for two teams.

## Competition Format

### Seeding: Event Seeding

Seeding for events will be based on the last published rankings. Exceptions may be made for players whose primary residence is not in the United Kingdom or Ireland. Under certain circumstances there will be an option for 2 wildcard selections during the tour events which will be submitted by the tournament director and approved by RC Squash

Updated ranking lists will be made available after each tournament and those rankings must be used for seeding the next tournament. (Seedings based on Total Points) Where a 'new' player enters or a player moves up an age category and there is doubt as to where to seed him/her, the Tournament Director should contact the Chair of the Masters Committee for guidance prior to the making of the draw. [The Chair of the Masters Committee must be consulted prior to the publication of draws for all tournaments.] Failure to adhere to the current rankings may result in no ranking points being awarded to the section concerned.

### Wildcards

The wild card will normally be placed a 6th seed in 8 draw and at 6th and 11th in 16 Draw. However, where the RSC think a player has showed exceptional recent results they may place the wild card at an appropriate position.

### Availability

It is expected that 16 person draws will be much more common in future Masters events and players should be prepared to play 4 times during the event and be available at 3pm on Friday. For the Irish National Masters, 16 person draws will be the norm and may start as early as 10am on Friday.

### Match Intervals

Interval between matches: It is now mandatory for all Masters Tournaments – players must have at least 3 hours between starting matches. Tournament Directors need to schedule a minimum of 180 minutes on SportyHQ when setting scheduling.

### Tournament Withdrawals

Withdrawal from the event: If a player fails to play all their scheduled matches, they must provide a valid medical certificate or not be awarded points for the event. If a player withdraws after the draw is published, then they may be deemed ineligible to enter the next event. In limited cases the Chair of the Masters Committee may take withdrawal circumstances into consideration and waive the Medical Certificate requirement (eg injury during a match).

## Complaints / Appeals / Suggestions

The RSC will take suggestions, appeals, corrections etc. that are received in writing and will reply in writing. Complaints should be brought to the Tournament Director in the first instance and if not dealt with to the satisfaction of the complainant, should only then be brought to the National Body (Squash Ireland) and will be dealt with under the Squash Ireland appeals procedure

## Explanations / Considerations

(The idea behind this section is to give further information/examples so players have an idea of why we make the decisions we do.)

There are many circumstances which the RSC have to take into consideration:

- Players who enter a tournament having not previously played a Masters event.
- Players who will only reach the older age category at the end of the season.
- Players who choose not to enter early tournaments and then later seek a wild card.
- Players who may have a very good reason for not playing a Masters event. [A doctor's certificate, submitted promptly, would normally suffice as an explanatory note.]

The RSC attempts to be fair and exercises judgement with fairness as the core of that judgement.

## Ranking Guidelines

The Guidelines used by the RSC after each tournament are as follows:

- 1) Ranking is done from 1-16.
- 2) The B section winner in a Level 2 event, will be marked with an \* granting them a wild card in the following Level 2 tournament at position 5 in the A section, except in unusual circumstances. An A section winner in a level 2 event may be granted a wildcard into the A section of any other level 2 or level 1 event for the remainder of the season. The player may be seeded as the RSC sees fit.
- 3) Players, moving up from a younger age category to an older age category during the season and who have been ranked in the younger age category, may be given an appropriate seeding in the older age category.
  - a) The wild card shall only apply for the first tournament for which the players are eligible.
  - b) The RSC will be mindful where a "new player" arrives on the scene, such as from the UK. This new player may get a hearing on appeal re his/her future ranking.
  - c) Single or multiple players moving from a younger age category to an older age category must have their rankings in the younger age category respected.

- 4) Local matches, league results, cumulative points, will have no bearing on the rankings at each tournament.
- 5) Wild cards will normally be seeded 6 in 8 players draw and 6 and 11 on 16 players draw. However, where the RSC think a player has showed exceptional recent results they may place the wild card at any appropriate position.

## Tour Events Procedures

For all tour events, entry will be open 4 weeks prior to closing date where possible, and draw will be published by 8pm Tuesday on the week of the event.

### Suggested Playing formats level 2 and 3 events

- 8 Players Monrad/Swiss System
- 7 Players Monrad/Swiss System
- 6 Players 2 box round robin with playoff (seeding 1,4,5 & 2,3,6)
- 5 Players 2 Box round robin with playoff (seeding 1,4,5 & 2,3)
- 4 Players 1 Box round robin no playoff
- 3 Players 1 Box round robin no playoff

### Suggested Playing formats Level 1 event

- 16 Players Monrad/Swiss System
- 15 Players Monrad/Swiss System
- 14 Players Monrad/Swiss System
- 13 Players Monrad/Swiss System
- 12 Players 4 Box Round robin with playoff
- 11 Players 4 Box Round robin with playoff
- 10 Players 3 Box Round robin with playoff
- 9 Players 3 Box Round with playoff
- 8 Players Monrad/Swiss System
- 7 Players Monrad/Swiss System
- 6 Players 2 box round robin with playoff (seeding 1,4,5 & 2,3,6)
- 5 Players 2 Box round robin with playoff (seeding 1,4,5 & 2,3)
- 4 Players 1 Box round robin no playoff
- 3 Players 1 Box round robin no playoff

## Rule changes since last year

### Ranking Guidelines – 2

*The B section winner in a Level 2 event, will be marked with an \* granting them a wild card in the following Level 2 tournament at position 5 in the A section, except in unusual circumstances. An A section winner in a level 2 event may be granted a wildcard into the A section of any other level 2 or level 1 event for the remainder of the season. The player may be seeded as the RSC sees fit.*

### Seeding

*Ranking Points, which are used in calculating seedings, will be taken from the best 4 nominated Masters events (of any level) in the previous 12 months, where the same event can't be considered twice (eg, Any points earned from the first provincial event of the current season, replace any points earned in the first provincial event of the previous season)*

**Revision Date – 11/12/2024**