

Bucks Squash Senior County League Regulations

(Updated Nov 2021)

General Points

1. League membership

The Men's and Women's Leagues are open to all England Squash affiliated clubs within Bucks. Clubs located outside the county may be admitted subject to permission from Bucks SRA.

The England Squash affiliation fee must be paid in accordance with the time-scale given on the invoice.

2. Players' qualification

Players should be registered both with their club and with England Squash, either through the club affiliation or individually.

A valid and activated ES number is required for all players.

Men players are not eligible to play for 2 clubs in any given season, but women may play for a Women's team of one club and a Men's team of another club.

Players may move to and play for another Club in a season provided that (a) both Clubs affected are agreeable and (b) there are logical reasons for the change.

All players must be bone-fide members of the club whose team they play for and listed on the England Squash Club dashboard. All (national) Premier League players are excluded from the Bucks SRA League unless they hold a Bucks qualification. Qualification rules as defined for the England Squash Inter-County competition apply.

3. Conduct of matches

Matches are played according to the rules of England Squash.

No player may play for more than one team on the same day.

The Home team must ensure that sufficient court time is booked to allow completion of the match. Any ties not played or not completed due to failure to provide adequate court time are forfeited. The two captains can elect to postpone the match, or move to other acceptable courts, if it is agreed that the courts are in a dangerous state because of moisture or other conditions which would make play hazardous to players or damage the courts. Both captains must agree, or the match will continue. If postponed, the entire match will be replayed.

The two captains must ensure that all ties are formally marked/refereed, ideally by players from the home team.

Matches typically start at 7.30 pm on weekdays and at 6.00 pm on Sundays and Men's teams are encouraged to start as close to 7.00pm as possible to ensure finishing at an acceptable time. It is imperative that as many of each team as possible arrive promptly. Where a late arrival of a player is anticipated, his/her captain is to give notice. Arrival of an individual player 60 or more minutes late gives his opponent the right to a 3/0 victory in the tie concerned. It is at its own risk that a club selects a player who needs to leave early. In cases where a tie is lost due to the absence or late arrival of a player the team automatically loses the ties lower down the order. All disputes regarding unplayed or uncompleted ties are to be referred to the League Secretary whose decision is final.

Matches should be played on the scheduled date. Only in exceptional circumstances (so not an inability to play the strongest line up) should a team seek to change the date of a match. The opposing team Captain can insist that the match be played on the scheduled date. The League Secretary must be advised of any postponement and of the new match date.

A defaulting team concedes the match 0/5 (points 0/19).

All matches, whether scheduled or re-arranged, MUST be played by 1 May. Matches played on or after this date will be void.

Any club that is inconvenienced by another team's non-appearance, or cancellation with unreasonably short notice, and incurs financial loss from such as court fees or wasted meals, may make a claim through the League Secretary for recompense. The League Secretary, if satisfied with the merits of the claim, will require the offending club to make good the other's loss.

The Home team stipulates the type of ball to be used for all ties, unless both individuals agree to use a different type for their particular tie.

Both captains must check and agree the result after the match. The Home team is responsible for entering the result on SportyHQ within 48 hours of the match date.

In the case of misconduct, the referee or the captain of the complaining team is to make a written complaint within seven days of the date of the offence to the League Secretary. The Committee will consider any appropriate action.

Home teams must provide some form of liquid refreshment during the course of the match. In addition, the Home team must provide food and drink after the match, again at no cost, to the Away team. This is a reciprocal arrangement and thus if any team/club is not in a position to provide food etc, the opposing club is under no obligation to do so for the return match

All clubs are reminded of their responsibilities in respect of juniors playing in senior leagues – see Appendix 2

4. Ranking of players; team selection

Each team's members must play in order of that club's submitted ranking list.

A ranking list must be submitted to the Men's and Women's League Secretaries before the start of the season. Revised lists may be submitted on the quarter dates which are currently 15

November, 1 January and 18 February. These dates may be amended subject to the number of clubs in any division which impacts the schedule and length of playing season.

For Men, the first five names are 1st team members, the next five names are 2nd team members, and so on.

For Women, the first 4 names are 1st team members and the next 4 names are 2nd team members etc.

Where a club, however, wishes not to rank players in order of merit, so that the strength of two or more teams may be split between them, then those teams be named 'A', 'B', etc., rather than '1', '2', etc. This strength splitting is only allowed when a club has two or more teams in the same division. The players in each ranking list for those teams must not move from one squad to another at any time during the season. Substitute players for teams 'A' and 'B' from a lower level may only play for 'A' or 'B' during the season, i.e. cannot move from one squad to another.

Match results are checked against the latest valid ranking list. Players who play below their rank have their ties scored as 3/0 victories to their opponents.

The result of a tie of an unranked player is a 3/0 victory to his opponent.

Clubs may add new players to their ranking lists at any time in the first three quarters of the season, i.e. up to and including 17 February. For example, up to 17 February, the addition of a new No. 3 to the first team would result in the previous No. 3 and all below being one place lower, though this would not mean that the original No. 5 immediately became a second team player. This change would not take place until the start of the next quarter season. From 18 February onwards, no new player may be either added to the ranking list or take part in a match.

Any new player added to the ranking list must be advised to the League Secretary either in advance of playing in a match, or by the result entry.

The current ranking list should be displayed at each club.

5. Men's Leagues

The Men's League currently comprises 3 divisions. The top team in Men's division 2 will be offered promotion for the next season and the bottom team in division 1 is likely to be relegated.

The top team in Men's Division 3 is promoted for the next season, and the bottom team in Division 2 is likely to be relegated.

The Committee reserves the right to make special provision where this appears to be in the best interests of the game in Bucks and every season the balance of the divisions will be considered.

When a club has two teams playing against each other, the ten players must play in their ranking order. It is permitted, though not encouraged, for e.g. Nos. 1 - 4 and 11 to play for the

1st team, while 6 - 10 play on the same evening for the 2nd team, provided that those two teams are not playing against each other.

Each match is between two teams of five players. Each tie scores one point per game won by each player. The team winning the majority of ties scores a further four points.

Scoring is PAR, to 11 in Division 1 and to 15 in Divisions 2 and 3

In the Men's leagues a player may play once in each quarter of the season (start - 14 Nov; 15 Nov - 31 Dec; 1 Jan - 17 Feb; 18 Feb - end) for a higher team and still remain eligible for his original team. After the second occasion he becomes nominated for that higher team for the rest of that quarter season. If a player is playing for a higher team against another team from his club, however, then this occasion does not count against his ability to continue playing for his normal team in the remainder of that half season.

New teams will be asked to indicate their likely playing strength before being included in any division.

6. Women's Leagues

The Women's League currently comprises two Divisions.

At the end of the season the principle is that the bottom club in Division 1 is relegated and the top club in Division 2 is promoted. The team finishing 2nd in Division 2 may challenge the team in the second-to-bottom position in Division 1. Any team may ask the Committee for demotion or non-promotion because it cannot maintain the standard required for the higher Division.

Each match is between two teams 4 players. Each tie scores one point per game won by each player. The team winning the majority of ties scores a further four points.

The number of games determines the winner in the event of equal ties (2-2).

Scoring is PAR 15 in in both divisions.

When a club has two teams playing against each other, the 8 players must play in their ranking order.

New teams will be asked to indicate their likely playing strength before being included in any division.

7. Administration

Both Men's and Women's leagues are currently administered through SportyHQ which provides the following top level functionality:

- * management of divisions and teams, players within teams
- * scheduling of matches

* results entry by captains/vice-captains

* posting of playing line ups

* league tables

The league secretary will manage the overall structure of the leagues, the scheduling of matches and will assist where needed.

Each team is required to nominate both a captain and vice captain and to ensure that their contact details are accurate/up to date.

See Appendix 1 for guidance on player affiliation – SportyHQ will not allow match results to be entered unless all players are correctly registered.

8. Interpretation; disputes

In the event of any query about these rules, or a dispute about a match, the League Secretary is to be contacted as soon as possible. If an equitable solution cannot be found, the matter will be referred to the Bucks SRA Committee.

The Committee will consider representation from clubs or individuals regarding the application or interpretation of these rules.

Appendices

1 – Guidance on ES affiliation and administration on SportyHQ

2 – Guidance on juniors playing in adult leagues