



England
Squash &
Racketball

INTER COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIPS

2012/2013

ADULT REGULATIONS

PLEASE READ CAREFULLY – as there may be changes on a seasonal basis. We would point out that these regulations will be strictly enforced

1. **TITLE:**
The competitions are called "The England Squash and Racketball (ESR) Inter County Squash Championships".
2. **ORGANISATION OF THE CHAMPIONSHIPS:**
The Championships are organised by ESR. (See Appendix A for the list of categories for this season)
3. **ENTRIES:**
Applications to enter county teams are forwarded to each county secretary in June and must be returned to ESR no later than Noon **27 July 2012**.

English counties must be fully affiliated to ESR guest counties must pay the appropriate guest fee per team entered – see below

The finishing positions of the previous season determine which division a team is entered into in the current season. Where possible, teams are grouped geographically within each division.

New teams are entered into the lowest division of the relevant category

Any number of teams from a county can be entered into each category, with the following provisos:

- Only one team per county is allowed to play in the Premier Division of each category
- All new second teams and below must enter in the lowest division of each category.
- Players must play in strict order of merit i.e. top ranked 5 in 1st team, 6 – 10 in 2nd team etc. Players must not play down to strengthen the 2nd team.
- Results of County Closed Tournaments must be sent to ESR no later on request

All guest entries from outside England, i.e., Ireland, Scotland or Wales, must be entered by the appropriate Federation. There will be a charge of **£140** per team entered. ESR reserves the right to revoke guest entries at any stage.

To protect the integrity of the competition, counties withdrawing a team from the Championships are liable to be fined. Details of the fines process for this season are set out in point 15.

Counties should not enter a team unless they have a SQUAD large enough to honour the entry commitment and can comply with the Championship Regulations.

4. **TEAMS:**
All teams consist of five players, with the exception of Men's Over 60, Men's Over 65 and Women's Over 50 teams which consist of three players.
5. **QUALIFICATION:**
 - (a) **ESR Membership**
All players representing teams in the Championships must be current members of ESR at the time of participation, except those covered by the guest county fee. Current membership cards or membership numbers should be produced on request.

Team captains have the responsibility to ensure that all players are members of ESR prior to participation. If an ineligible player takes part the team that they represent will be scratched from the Championships. There will be no exception to this rule.

(b) **Player Eligibility**

- i) **Players can only compete in the Championships if they are qualified to play for England, Ireland, Scotland or Wales for the relevant season.** (Exceptions: Women Over 40, Women Over 50, Men Over 45 and Men Over 50, Men Over 55 Men Over 60 and Racketball).

NOTE If not a British Citizen – Rights of Residency apply – A player must have resided (subject to all other points below) in the UK for 1 continuous year (365 days), and not have played for another country in the year preceding the current season's Championships.

- ii) A player may not represent more than one county in the Championships in one season. A qualification applying on the first time in a season that a player represents a county holds good throughout that season. **There is no exemption for Racketball**

- iii) Players are always (subject to [i] and [ii] above) qualified to play for their county of birth.

NB: In the case of a formation of a new county, players can elect to play for the new county at the time of its formation, or the old county – either through birth or residency qualifications. Once this choice is made it cannot be altered. The same applies if a change of county boundaries results in their birthplace or residence becoming situated in a different county.

- iv) A player is (subject to [i]) qualified to play for any county where they have resided continuously for three months preceding the start of the season and are still residing. (The season starts on the date of the first county fixture – 2012 / 2013 being 22nd September). **A fallow year is required when changing counties in the Men's and Women's categories, but not in Masters or Racketball**

- v) A residential qualification cannot be obtained through a school, university, college or other place of further / higher education or training unless a player's bona fide (proper) home is in the same county as the school or university, e.g., unless they are a permanent member of the resident staff.

- vi) A player can continue to represent a county that they have played for in the Championships through a residential qualification after they have stopped living in that county and provided that they have not played for any other county.

- vii) A player may request to represent a county to which they can demonstrate a strong link, if neither their county of residence, nor their county of birth, (if it has a common border with the county of residence), has entered the Championships.

If a player wishes to play in the Championships, but has no county of residence, they can apply to represent a county to which they can demonstrate a strong link.

- viii) In all cases where a player's qualification is in doubt, it is obligatory on the county they wish to represent to prove the qualification to the satisfaction of ESR.

- ix) Age criteria specific to certain categories is shown in Appendix A .

(c) **County Eligibility**

A county is eligible to apply to enter any of the categories in the Championships provided it is recognised as being a county (in England) a region (in Wales) a District (in Scotland) or a Province (in Ireland) by ESR and is authorised to compete by the relevant Association / Federation

6. **ORGANISATION OF THE CHAMPIONSHIPS:**

- i) The Championships are organised on a divisional basis, with a Premier division and other divisions subdivided geographically as far as is possible and based on merit as determined by promotion or relegation. Divisions normally consist of eight county teams.
- ii) The Championships are normally held in two stages, each of which are played over one weekend – some categories will play on one day – usually the Sunday.:

Stage I : Group matches to determine finalists and promotion / relegation groupings for Stage II.

Stage II : Final positions in Divisions
Championship semi-finals + finals
(Premier Divisions).

The semi-finals of all categories in the Championships take place on the Saturday of the finals weekend, with the final and 3rd / 4th play off taking place on the Sunday of the same weekend. It is mandatory that the 3rd / 4th play off is played. **Failure to do so may result in a fine or other sanction.**

All 8 teams in the Premier Division of the Men's and Women's categories contest a finals weekend – playing for positions 1-8. The bottom 2 teams are relegated.

- iii) All matches must be played on the published dates. Any postponement and subsequent rearrangement must be ratified by ESR.
- iv) It is the responsibility of all host counties to try to ensure that a qualified first aider is present for the full duration of the weekend.

7. **HOSTING:**

- i) Counties (other than guest counties) are asked to host fixtures, and this is a requirement of entry.
- ii) All host clubs must be affiliated to ESR
- iii) **Host counties must be sympathetic to travelling counties in the choice of venue (subject to ii above) i.e. as centrally located as possible.**
- iv) An appropriate meal must be provided for all teams during the course of the weekend.
- v) Sufficient court time must be allocated.
- vi) A split venue is not acceptable, unless ratified by ESR.
- vii) Adequate showering/changing facilities must be available.

viii) A representative of the host county MUST be at the club for the duration of all matches.

8. **WEEKEND ORGANISATION:**

Each host county must appoint a Host Organiser who is responsible for administering and running the Championships. More detailed information about the hosts responsibilities will be emailed to the captain with fixture information.

9. **REFEREES:**

Host Counties should try to provide sufficient qualified referees. (Contact Martin Roberts at ESR 07833 240367 for lists of active referees in your area.) However, if this is not possible, players from each county must share the responsibility for refereeing.

10. **SCHEDULE OF MATCHES:**

i) **Format for Four Teams in a Group:**

The draw for ties in each stage is determined by the vertical order of the teams listed in the group.

County 1 is always the host county with No 2 being the closest to it geographically and so on

Session 1	Sat	1300	1 v 4	2 v 3
Session 2	Sat	1700	1 v 3	2 v 4
Session 3	Sun	1100	1 v 2	3 v 4

Variations to these times can be accepted should all counties in a group agree. However ESR must ratify any changes before they are made.

The first two sessions are played on Saturday and the third on Sunday, although Friday may be added to Over 45 / 50 / 55 / 60 **if all Counties agree**, so that only one match is played on each day. In the latter case, Friday matches should start at 1900. ESR must ratify a Friday play date.

ii) **Format for Three Teams in a Group:**

The draw for ties in each stage is determined by the vertical order of the teams listed in the group.

County 1 is always the host county with No 2 being the closest to it geographically and so on

All matches should be played on the Sunday, **unless all 3 teams agree otherwise**. (ESR must be notified of any change) The session times are:

Session 1	1100	1 v 2
Session 2	1400	2 v 3
Session 3	1700	1 v 3

iv) **WOMEN OVER 40**

The Women's Over 40 League is played on Sundays with the following draw:

5 Team League

Time:	1100	1400	1700
1st Sunday (host 1)	1 v 2	2 v 3	1 v 3
2nd Sunday (host 3)	3 v 5	4 v 5	3 v 4
3rd Sunday (host 2)	1 v 4	2 v 4	
	2 v 5	1 v 5	

4 Team League

Time:	1100	1400	1700
1st Sunday (host 1)	1 v 2	2 v 3	1 v 4
2nd Sunday (host 3)	3 v 4	2 v 4	1 v 3

There is a finals weekend for the top qualifying teams

v) **WOMEN OVER 50**

The Women's Over 50 League is played on Sundays with the following draw:

5 Team League

Time:	1100	1400	1700
1st Sunday (host 1)	1 v 2	2 v 3	1 v 3
2nd Sunday (host 3)	3 v 5	4 v 5	3 v 4
3rd Sunday (host 2)	1 v 4	2 v 4	
	2 v 5	1 v 5	

4 Team League

Time:	1100	1400	1700
1st Sunday (host 2)	1 v 2	1 v 4	2 v 3
2nd Sunday (host 4)	3 v 4	1 v 3	2 v 4

There is a finals weekend for the top two teams in each group of the Premier Division.

vi) **ORDER OF PLAY**

Teams of 5 should use 2 courts:

Court A:	Court B:
String 3	String 5
String 1	String 4
String 2 (First available)	

Teams of 3 should use 1 court:

Court A:
String 3
String 1
String 2

11. **SCORING:**

Point a Rally is used for the following categories:

Men

Women

Men O35

Racketball

Racketball O40

Traditional scoring is used for all other categories

- (a) Each stage of the Championship is scored separately.

Definitions

- (b) (i) A match is played between individuals.
- (b) (ii) A tie is a series of *five matches* played between two counties.
- (c) (i) One point is awarded for each county game won in a match.
- (c) (ii) Five bonus points are awarded to counties winning a tie.
- (d) At the end of the stage the counties are placed:
 - (i) Firstly on the number of ties won
 - (ii) Secondly on the number of points
 - (iii) If the above are equal for two counties, on the result between the two counties
 - (iv) If the number of points are equal for three counties, on the number of matches won
 - (v) If the above are equal, the greatest positive difference between total games won and total games lost
 - (vi) If all above are equal the total positive difference between total points won and total points lost

12. **PROMOTION AND RELEGATION:**

Teams are promoted and relegated at the end of each season as determined by ESR in accordance with the results.

13. **RULES OF PLAY:**

WSF Rules of Squash Rackets apply. Courts must comply with WSF specifications.

14. **WITHDRAWALS / FINES**

Withdrawals

If a county withdraws from the Championships, **the team captain must immediately:**

1. Contact ESR - in writing (email and fax acceptable), stating reason for withdrawal. A telephone message is not acceptable.
2. Contact the host county organiser, and follow up in writing 1 week from date of withdrawal.
3. Contact all other county organisers in group, and follow up in writing 1 week from date of withdrawal.
4. A county that withdraws from Stage 1 WILL be excluded from Stage 2, unless an exception is made by ESR

Please note the introduction of a flat rate fine of £100 for any withdrawal up to the 8 day or

less rule

- £100 per team for withdrawals notified to ESR up to 8 days prior to the start of the event.
- £100 per team for withdrawals notified to ESR 8 days prior to the start of the event.
- Thereafter a £10 increase to the fine per each extra day. i.e. 4 days before event £140, to a maximum of £180.00
- Persistent breaches of this rule may result in the team or county being banned from the Championships for a period determined by ESR
- On receipt of a withdrawal 8 days or more before a tie is due to be played, ESR will advise the County Secretary of any fine incurred
- On receipt of a withdrawal 8 days or less before a tie is due to be played, ESR will, within 14 working days, advise the County Secretary of any fine incurred
- Once notification of a fine has been received the County has a right of appeal, and has 14 days in which to lodge its appeal with ESR
- ESR will consider the appeal within 14 days of it being lodged.
- ESR will either uphold the appeal or reduce or sanction the fine. Counties will be advised of the outcome within one week of the decision
- Once this process is complete counties must settle any fines imposed within 14 days. Failure to do so could jeopardise a teams participation in future seasons

Counties that incur costs relating to late / unacceptable withdrawals by others should apply in writing to ESR for consideration of monetary compensation. Any compensation is met from fines received

15. **DISCIPLINARY ISSUES:**

ESR has the authority to disqualify a player or county from the Championships, fine a player or county, or deduct points from a county during participation in the Championships. Players or counties shall have the right of appeal which should be in writing within ten days of receipt of a disciplinary ruling. Any appeal will be heard at a place and time at the discretion of ESR. All out-of-pocket expenses incurred in connection with any appeal is to be paid by the party or parties to the appeal and in such a manner as ESR determine.

16. **CODE OF CONDUCT:**

It is the responsibility of competing counties to ensure that all players in their teams abide by the ESR Code of Conduct. (Available on request)

17. **MATTERS NOT COVERED BY THE REGULATIONS:**

Any matters arising regarding qualification which are not covered by these Regulations should be submitted to ESR not less than fourteen days before the date on which a decision is required so that a ruling can be given. **The decision of ESR in all matters in relation to the Championships is final.**

APPENDICES

A: EVENT CATEGORIES

B: RULES FOR WOMEN'S INTER COUNTY LEAGUES

C: DATES

APPENDIX A:

EVENT CATEGORIES <i>(Including eligibility criteria)</i>
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MEN'S

1. Men's Championship
2. Over 35 Championship
3. Over 45 Championship
4. Over 50 Championship
5. Over 55 Championship
6. Over 60 Championship
7. Over 65 Championship

WOMEN'S

1. Women's Championship
2. Over 40 League
3. Over 50 League

OPEN

1. Racketball Open
2. Racketball MO40

WOMEN'S CHAMPIONSHIP:

This is an open age event – players of any age may participate

MEN'S OVER 35:

Players are eligible to participate on, and after, the day of their thirty fifth birthday.

MEN'S OVER 45:

Players are eligible to participate on, and after, the day of their forty fifth birthday.

MEN'S OVER 50:

Players are eligible to participate on, and after, the day of their fiftieth birthday.

MEN'S OVER 55:

Players are eligible to participate on, and after, the day of their fifty fifth birthday.

MEN'S OVER 60:

Players are eligible to participate on, and after, the day of their sixtieth birthday.

MEN'S OVER 65:

Players are eligible to participate on, and after, the day of their sixty fifth birthday.

WOMEN'S CHAMPIONSHIP:

This is an open age event – players of any age may participate

WOMEN'S OVER 40 EVENT:

Players are eligible to participate on, and after, the day of their fortieth birthday.

WOMEN'S OVER 50 EVENT:

Players are eligible to participate on, and after, the day of their fiftieth birthday.

RACKETBALL

This is an open event – players of any age and gender may participate

RACKETBALL MEN O40

Players are eligible to participate on, and after, the day of their fortieth birthday.

Proof of date of birth in all age categories must be supplied on request

APPENDIX B:

RULES FOR WOMEN'S INTER COUNTY LEAGUES

(See Regulation 10 [iii] and [iv] for format)

Rules for the Inter County Leagues are as the Inter County Championship Rules, with the following exceptions:

Applicable to the Women's Over 40 League and Women's Over 50 League event categories only.

1. The competition is called the ESR Inter County League for Women and is run on a League basis.
2. The League is open to all counties, who may enter more than one team, but not more than three teams.
3. Teams must play in order of merit.
4. The competition is played on an all-against-all basis as a League with teams divided into Divisions. Following completion of the league cycle, promotion and relegation will take place, as detailed on the League schedule.
5. Any teams conceding a walk-over will be dealt with in the same manner as if withdrawing from the main Championship and are liable to be fined.
6. If a county withdraws completely during the Championships, all points accumulated by them and their opponents will be void

INTER COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIPS 2012-2013

Date	Category	Stage
SEPT		
22-23	Racketball & Racketball MO40	ONE
29-30	<i>Reserved for Junior County Activity</i>	
OCT		
6-7	<i>Reserved for Senior County Activity</i>	
7	Junior U17 & U13	ONE
14	Junior U19 & U15	
14	Women O40	ONE (a)
20-21	Men O35 and Men O55	ONE
21	Women O50	ONE (a)
NOV		
3-4	Men O50, Men O60 and Men O65	ONE
10-11	Men & Women (Not Premier)	ONE
18	Women O40	ONE (b)
24-25	Men O45	ONE
25	Women O50	ONE (b)
DEC		
9	<i>Spare Women O40</i>	<i>SPARE</i>
15	<i>Spare Women O50</i>	<i>SPARE</i>
JAN		
12-13	<i>Reserved for Junior County Activity</i>	
12-13	Men O50, Men O60 Men O65	TWO & FINALS
13	Women O40	TWO
19-20	<i>Reserved for Senior County Activity</i>	
26-27	Men O35	TWO
27	Junior U19 & U15	TWO
FEB		
3	Junior U17 & U13	TWO
9-10	Racketball & Racketball MO40	TWO & FINALS
10	Women O50	TWO
MARCH		
2-3	Men O35 and Women O50	FINALS
9-10	Men O55	TWO
16-17	Men & Women (NP)	TWO
23-24	Men O45, Men O55 WO40	FINALS
23-24	Men O45	TWO
APR		
20-21	Junior U19 & U15	FINALS
27-28	Junior U17 & U13	FINALS
MAY		
4-5	Men & Women PREMIER	FINALS
JUNE		
22-23	Junior U11 Festival	