



## **LEINSTER SENIOR LEAGUE & CUP RULES**

v1.2 (Aug 2024)

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## **1. League: General**

1.1. The season shall run from 1<sup>st</sup> September each year to 30<sup>th</sup> April the following year. The leagues will be held annually within the season at dates to be agreed by the Council. The closing date for the receipt of entries will be 3<sup>rd</sup> Friday of September or at a date to be determined by the Council of Leinster Squash. If required, college teams may be allowed an extension at the discretion of the Council and this must be explicitly requested of the League Administrator.

1.2. Clubs must be affiliated to Leinster Squash. The Council will have the power to refuse entry or entries of any club whose courts, pavilion or dressing accommodation are considered unsatisfactory, or for any other reason which is deemed by the Council to be good and sufficient.

- 1.3. The number of divisions and the placing of teams in particular divisions will be at the discretion of the Council. The Council may limit the number of teams, which any club can enter in the leagues. If a club withdraws a team after the draw has been made, the Council will decide which of the club's teams will be withdrawn and may impose conditions restricting players from playing in a lower division than they would otherwise have played in. The league entry fee will be payable for the withdrawn team.
- 1.4. In the case of a team withdrawing or being debarred after playing one or more league matches, all matches involving that team will be null and void – with no points awarded.
- 1.5. Men's teams will consist of 5 players except at premier league level where teams will consist of 4 players. Ladies teams will consist of 4 players. Ladies are eligible to play in all divisions of the men's league at whatever position they occupy on the men's ladder.
- 1.6. Players must be 14 years of age or over. This rule may be waived in exceptional circumstances, on written application to the Leinster Council and at their entire discretion in each individual case, and subject to the following strict conditions:
- 1.6.1. That on each match occasion, the opposing team be informed that an under-age player will be present,
  - 1.6.2. That on each match occasion, the young player be accompanied at all times by a responsible adult.
  - 1.6.3. Clubs should be aware that some clubs operate an "adults only" policy in the evening. If a team plans to bring players who are under the age of 18, they should contact their opponents in advance to clarify the situation.
- 1.7. It is compulsory for all junior players (including all U19's) to wear approved protective eyewear while playing league/tournaments run under the jurisdiction otherwise forfeit the match.
- 1.8. A player can only play league and cup for one club in any one season (with the exception of floating subs) as defined in Clause 2.2. Permission (written) of the Council must be obtained before any change is made during the course of a season and will only be given in exceptional circumstances. However, a lady player may apply to the League Administrator for permission to play in Men's league for an alternative club. Players in the Leinster League may also play for an alternative club in the Masters or Saturday leagues, provided that the League Administrator is notified.
- 1.9. Floating Subs will be permitted for a max of 50% of a team's league fixtures. These are players who have registered in advance with the league administrator and who are ineligible to play league matches for any team in that league for their home club due to their ranking (as described in Ranking Section). Floating subs will not be permitted in the final round of league fixtures or in cup matches. The player should be placed in the team lineup at a position so as their ranking should not exceed any player on that team playing higher up in the team order.

- 1.10. Matches in the League will be played in accordance with the Rules of Squash for the time being sanctioned by Irish Squash. The Rules of Squash are available to download from the World Squash Federation at <http://www.worldsquash.org/> .
- 1.11. **BLACK SOLED SHOES MUST NOT BE WORN.** Players must adhere to the club rules of any club to which they are the visitors whilst playing their League and Cup matches. Fitzwilliam LTC have a strict white clothing only policy, and the Council would ask that players respect this policy.
- 1.12. The Dunlop double yellow spot ball will be the official ball in all divisions of the Leinster Squash Leagues except at Ladies Division 1 and 2, Men Division 6, and Saturday League, where a single yellow spot ball should be used, unless otherwise agreed by both players. In divisions where the double yellow dot ball is the default ball, the white spot or single yellow spot ball may only be used when the temperature is below 12°C, or by agreement between players.
- 1.13. The home team shall provide 2 new match balls for each league fixture. Failure to do so will result in a penalty point being applied to the home team. This must be reported to the league administrator within 1 week of the match date.
- 1.14. The leagues will be played on a home and away basis. The first date listed is the home match for the first named team and the second date is their away match. Where the number of teams in a division is less than 6 teams, there may be more than 1 home or away fixture scheduled.. If on the night of a match both teams agree that the courts are unplayable the home team must concede home advantage, or, if both teams agree, the fixture may be reversed. In such cases the League Administrator must be notified prior to the date of the first match. If agreement between teams cannot be reached the final decision shall be made by the League Administrator.
- 1.15. All League matches to be played on the scheduled date only, though subject to Rule 8 on postponements. In exceptional cases a match may be played before the scheduled date, by mutual agreement between teams and only with the prior consent of the League Administrator.
- 1.16. Prizes will be presented to the members (5 men, 4 ladies) of the winning team in each division. Any clubs that do not return League Cups/Cup Final Cups will be required to pay the cost of their replacement.
- 1.17. The Council will have absolute power to deal with any matter which may arise in connection with the leagues and which is not provided for in these rules. In particular the Council may waive the application of any rule if exceptional circumstances warrant it. The decision of the Council on any such matter or on the interpretation of any rule will be final. While any dispute or protest affecting a club, which is represented on the Council, is under consideration, the representatives of the club concerned will not be eligible to sit on the Council.

## **2. League Match Scoring**

- 2.1. In leagues where the match format is teams of 5 players, the match may be won 5/0, 4/1, or 3/2. A point will be awarded per game won. A single bonus point will be awarded to the team that wins the match.
- 2.2. Scoring in the men's league will be point-a-rally (PAR) to 11 for Premier and Divisions 1 and 2, and PAR to 15 for the remaining divisions.
- 2.3. Scoring in the ladies league will be Par to 11 for Premier and PAR to 15 for Divisions 1 and 2.
- 2.4. In leagues where the match format is teams of 4 players, the match may be won outright 4/0 or 3/1. A point will be awarded per game won. A single bonus point will be awarded to the team that wins the match. In the event of a 2/2 draw result, a point will be awarded per game won. The team winning more matches overall is deemed the winning team and is awarded the single bonus point. In the event that the number of matches won is equal, the number of games won will determine the winning team. In the event that the score in games is also equal, the team with a positive total game points difference is deemed the winning team.
- 2.5. A bonus point will also be awarded to all teams where a full lineup is fielded, or was available to play.
- 2.6. All results for all league Divisions, both men's and ladies must be submitted by 11.00 a.m. the following morning. Failure to comply with this directive will result in the winning team's bonus point being deducted and under no circumstance can this bonus point be redeemed. If the result has not been posted by the date of the following match, the winning team shall forfeit all points for the match. Results must be entered online, in accordance with the prevailing instructions from the League Administrator.

## **3. Order of Play & Starting Times**

- 3.1. Order of play
- Men's order should be 1,2,3,4,5
  - Ladies order should be 1,2,3,4
- 3.2. An alternative order of play may be allowed if both captains agree.
- 3.3. Starting time for men's matches: If two courts available 7.00p.m. If only one court is available 6.30p.m. Note: 7.30 p.m. start if journey of over 20

miles from G.P.O. Dublin is involved.

3.4. Starting time for ladies matches: All matches irrespective of distance start at 7.30p.m.

3.5. The team captain should inform their opposition when only one court is available.

3.6. The away team should notify their opposition if they have a valid reason for arriving late.

3.7. Captains are advised to contact each other well in advance to establish which arrangement is applicable or if they wish to start at an earlier time – remember there may be more than one match at the venue. Both team captains must agree any change. When both ladies and men are at home on the same night and only two courts are available, the men must make one court available to the ladies at 7.30 p.m. If there are two matches in progress at 7.30 p.m. the first court finished must be made available.

3.8. Where a club has more than one court, two must be used for league matches unless otherwise agreed with Leinster Squash. Sufficient time should be available, running concurrently, to allow matches to finish. In the event of booked court time running out, the home side forfeits the points for the games not finished.

3.9. Each match should be refereed. The home team captain will be responsible for the fair appointment of such officials. It is recommended that the home team referee 3 matches and the away team 2.

3.10. Players due to follow on should be ready to play when previous games are finished.

## 4. Ranking

4.1. *Players must be ranked in order of merit. This should include a minimum division at which each player is eligible to play at and which should be based on current ranking criteria being used by Leinster Squash. The ranking criteria will be published to clubs ahead of the ranking deadline. Any exceptions to player eligibility to play at a certain division must be approved in advance by Leinster Squash. Requests for a player exception to be submitted along with a clubs ranking submission only.*

4.2. There will be two ranking dates, one before Christmas and one after. Dates will be notified to clubs in good time. Ranking lists must be forwarded to the League Administrator by email to [gamespromotionofficer@leinstersquash.ie](mailto:gamespromotionofficer@leinstersquash.ie) to reach the Administrator not later than the notified dates.

- 4.3. If a new ranking list is not received by the due dates the old ranking list will apply. Under no circumstances may players be added to the ranking list after the cut-off date.
- 4.4. Ranking lists must include players who are available to play occasionally and these players must be placed on the ladder in their correct position.
- 4.5. A player who has not played in any of the first two ranking periods will not be eligible to play in the Cup competition. An exception to this rule would be players returning after pregnancy. This rule does not apply to players whose normal ranking position is at the end of the ranking list and below all other players who have played that season.
- 4.6. Teams must play in order of ranking and substitutes must be introduced in keeping with this. If a player is substituted from a higher team to a lower team, no points will be awarded to that team and full points will be awarded to the opposition. *If a player plays out of ranking order, then no points will be awarded for the 1st incorrectly ranking player and all additional positions below that player.*
- 4.7. If a player subs twice for a higher team in any ranking period he/she is deemed to be a member of the higher team for the remainder of the ranking period, and may not play again for the lower team until the following ranking period. Any infringement of this rule is deemed to be an infringement of Rule 4.6.
- 4.8. Ranking lists for all clubs will be published and available to all teams to view. Any queries on an opposition player eligibility must be received in writing by the league administrator within 1 week of the match date.
- 4.9. In a case where a match is postponed and is played in a later quarter than originally scheduled, an instance of subbing up for this match shall count as an instance of subbing in the quarter in which the match is actually played, rather than the quarter in which it was originally scheduled.
- 4.10. The Council may request any Club to justify its ranking list. If in the opinion of the Council a player has been obviously incorrectly ranked in order to strengthen the team lower down or if an occasional substitute has not been returned on the ladder in the correct order the Council will have the power to deduct the points for all players deemed to have played out of order or to impose any other penalty deemed appropriate.
- 4.11. The Council has the authority to remove inactive players from any ranking list. A player will be considered inactive until they have played once in each new season. Inactive players cannot be used for ranking purposes and cannot be subbed for, until they have played once for their team in the correct position.

## **5. Teams Splitting**

- 5.1. Leinster Squash Council has ruled that Clubs entering two teams in the Premier Divisions may split these teams. The rules of this split are as follows:
- One team will be based on the ranking 1, 4, 5, 8, and 9
  - Second team made up of the ranked players 2, 3, 6, 7, and 10
- 5.2. None of these players (ranked 1 - 10) will be able to play for the other premier team during the year.
- 5.3. They will pick from the same list of subs (ranked from 11 down), the lower ranked players being able to play for either premier team, provided they do not sub up more than is permitted in one quarter.
- 5.4. A club with split teams must decide by the end of the second quarter if they wish to revert to normal ranking for Cup Competition. There will be no extension to this date and if a club does not contact Leinster Squash in writing by this date the teams must remain split for Cup Competition.
- 5.5. For the ladies team of 4:
- One premier team will be 1, 4, 5, and 8
  - Second team will be 2, 3, 6, and 7
- 5.6. Again, both can use subs from the third team and below.

## **6. Walkovers**

- 6.1. In the event of a club not being able to field a full team, the playing positions must be filled from the top (No. 1) with walkovers being given at the bottom. Should only three players turn up and they win 3-2, bonus points will not be awarded. A penalty of 5 points will be imposed in the case of a team turning up with less than three players.
- 6.2. If a team gives a walkover a fine of €100 will be imposed on that team (without exception). If a team gives a walkover without the agreement of the Leinster Administrator that team will also automatically be deducted 10 points.
- 6.3. If a walk-over is given at any of the positions 1-4 and a lower match is played, all points will be forfeited for the lower games played and such games will be awarded 3-0 to the opposition.
- 6.4. Where a team receives a walkover, that team must still send in results by 11.00 a.m. the following morning.
- 6.5. If a team fails to fulfil two fixtures in the season they will be automatically relegated. In such cases the Council will decide on the available evidence whether for following seasons:

- The Club may be barred from entering teams,
- The Club may not be allowed to enter that team,
- The Club may incur a financial penalty.

6.6. Where a team has failed to fulfil a fixture and this affects promotion or relegation, the Council will take whatever action it deems fit in the circumstances: such action may include relegation of the team which did not fulfil the fixtures or arrangement of playoffs to determine promotion or relegation.

6.7. Within the Dublin area i.e. within 20 miles radius of G.P.O. a walkover and points may be claimed if an opponent fails to arrive on time without prior arrangement. A reasonable waiting time allowable will be 30 minutes. Further walkovers may be claimed at 20-minute intervals per court.

6.8. Outside 20 miles radius of G.P.O. Dublin a reasonable waiting time will be 45 minutes after which walkover and points may be claimed. Further walkovers may be claimed at 20-minute intervals per court.

6.9. It is recommended that all teams apply the time waiting rule to stop continual late arrivals

## **7. Postponements**

7.1. Individual matches cannot be played after the fixed dates. An exception to this rule would be where a player is unable to play for his/her League or Cup match because of International commitment. The match will be played on a date to be stipulated by the League Administrator.

7.2. In exceptional circumstances, the League Administrator, in consultation with the teams concerned, may agree to the postponement of a team fixture.

7.3. The new date for the match, must be agreed at the time of the postponement and this date will be firmly adhered to. If a match is postponed without the prior agreement of the League Administrator no points at all will be awarded to either team. The ranking list to be followed for a postponement match is that applying at the date the match is played.

## **8. Promotion and Relegation**

8.1. Promotion and relegation will be decided on results at the end of season.

8.2. Where any division results in a tie or where there is a tie affecting promotions or relegation, the order will be determined by:

- The number of matches won by each team unless equal
- The number of points scored against each team unless equal



- A play-off

8.3. The normal practice is that at the end of the season the team winning a division is promoted and the team ranked lowest is relegated. A club may request exemption from promotion or relegation given adequate justification, such as the loss of players or the addition of new players, and the decision on such requests shall be made by League Administrator. In case of disagreement an appeal may be made to the Council. Promotion-relegation playöfs may be applied in some divisions between the team finishing 2nd from top and team finishing 2nd from bottom in the lower division. Where this will be used, clubs will be notified ahead of the start of the league season

8.4. However, a team winning a division twice in a row may not refuse promotion.

8.5. The League Administrator shall have discretion to vary the numbers promoted or relegated if necessary to correct an imbalance between the numbers of teams entered in adjacent divisions.

## **9. Fees**

9.1. Affiliation League and other Fees as set by the elected Council must be paid to Leinster Squash by 30<sup>th</sup> November.

9.2. If fees are not paid before 30<sup>th</sup> November, except by written permission from Leinster Squash, five points will be deducted in respect of each match played between that date and the date on which the fees are paid in full.

## **10. Cup competitions**

10.1. The rules for Leagues will apply where appropriate to cup competitions subject to the following additions:

10.2. A person playing league for any club may represent only that club in cup competitions.

10.3. Before a player is eligible to play in a cup competition he/she must have played a minimum of 2 matches for that club in the relevant league (Leinster League, Masters League or Saturday League) in the current season unless otherwise agreed with Leinster Council.

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10.4. Playing order in the men's Cup will be 5, 4, 1, 3, and 2, and in the ladies' (and Mens Premier) Cup will be 4, 1, 3, 2.

10.5. All matches to be played by the specified date, except by prior agreement with the League Administrator. If a team gives a walk-over a fine of €100 will be imposed on that team.

10.6. If a player/players are on international squash duty on the day the cup finals take place, that player MUST play their game prior to the cup final date at an agreed time in consultation with the Leinster Administrator. Failure to comply with this will result in Leinster Squash insisting that the remainder of the team move up in compliance with Rule 5.5.

10.7. Matches fixed for Saturday or Sunday will start at 4pm unless otherwise agreed in advance.

10.8. The ranking list submitted for leagues must be followed for cup competitions. If on the day of a cup match a player would be ineligible to play on the team in a League Match (e.g. under Rule 5.6 on substitutes) that player may not play in the cup match.

10.9. Cup results must be returned to the League Administrator before 11.00 a.m. the following day.

10.10. The scoring system for cup matches is to be the same as for the league

## **11. Matches Involving College Teams**

11.1. Captains are advised that Trinity, DCU and UCD are allowed to postpone all matches up to and including 15th October. All postponed matches must be rearranged by the College involved before the original date and must be played before the 30th November. If the matches are not rearranged as stated above, the College team will forfeit the points.

11.2. Where a college team wishes to avail of this rule they must apply, together with their ranking list, seven days prior to commencement of league, to the League Administrator stating the reasons for such request. If permission is given to postpone matches College teams may re-submit their ranking list before first league match. If a College team is unavailable to play at the start of the league, the onus is on the captain of the college team to inform the opposition. College teams will submit a revised ranking list in the first half of the season after playing 4/5 matches.

11.3. Since College teams in particular may find difficulty in travelling to matches outside Dublin, Clubs are asked to facilitate them, as far as possible e.g. by playing at weekends in advance of the date fixed.

## **Appendix A - Change History**

27th August 2024: Separate League & Cup rules from main Leinster Squash rules document. This document now relates solely to League and Cup competition. Other rules (Previous Rule 1 and Rules 13-17) have been moved to the [Leinster Squash Rules](#) document.

*[Updated 27th August 2024]*