



# Canadian Squash Championship Special Regulations for the Open Events

## Basic Premise:

To make matches more meaningful and competitive, fewer number of matches for those who reach the semis and finals so that the level of play in latter stages remains at its highest, playing down for positions 1 through 16, and strongly discouraging withdrawals, defaults or retirements.

- Cap the main draw at 16;
- If more than 16 registrants, hold a qualification round capped at 16 to fill 4 qualifier spots in the main draw;
- Play off all positions in the main draw from 1 to 16;
- Possible consequences for main draw in-tournament withdrawals, defaults or retirements.

***Approved by the Squash Canada Board of Directors***

***January 18, 2017***

***Beginning with implementation for the 2017 Canadian Squash Championships***

-----

*These regulations do not apply to age category events at the Championships.*

*The regulations supersede 'normal' Championship hosting standards. Where not otherwise specified below, all other applicable regulations and standards for the Canadian Squash Championships shall apply.*

*Where needed, Squash Canada reserves the right to alter, add and interpret these regulations when they may be silent or ambiguous, impractical given circumstances, and/or in the interest of the integrity or operation of the Championship.*

### **1. Entry Deadline**

In consideration of the qualification round process, travel arrangements, draw formulation, seeding, and venue and officiating arrangements, the entry deadline for the Open event only of the Championship shall be 45 days prior to the start of the Open main draw.

### **2. Draw Size**

The draw for the respective Men's and Women's Open events will be limited to a 16-player main draw and, should there be more than 16 entries, a maximum of a 16-player qualification round. Thus, there will be a maximum of 28 players in the Open event. Registration for the Open event, however, will not be capped. If more than 28 players register, the process outlined below will be used to determine which 28 players shall qualify for the Open event.

### **3. Entry Qualification**

#### **3.1 Main Draw**

##### First Twelve Entries

As at the entry deadline, twelve entries will be awarded to registered players as outlined below in priority sequence until all twelve positions are filled:

- Defending Canadian Open Champion;
- Top 100 PSA World ranked players as at 45 days prior to the start of the Open main draw;
- Top ranked players on the most recent Canadian Rankings published at least 45 days prior to the start of the Open main draw;

##### Entries 13 to 16

Should there be more than 16 Open registrants by the Open entry deadline, the final four entries in the main draw will be determined via a qualification round. The four winners of the qualification round(s) shall qualify for the main draw.

The successful qualifiers will have their places in the main draw drawn by lot (random) from amongst the top 8 seeds. The first name drawn will go into the first vacant qualification place, and so on. This drawing of names must be made in the presence of a minimum of two Squash Canada representatives, or one representative plus a witness.

#### **3.2 Qualification Round**

Should there be more than 16 registrants by the Open entry deadline, a qualification round capped at 16 players will be held immediately prior to the start of the main draw of the Championship.

Should there be more than 16 registrants relegated to the qualification round, the entries will be awarded to registered players based on the most recent Canadian Rankings published at least 45 days prior to the start of the Open main draw.

A player who registered by the Open registration deadline, but who does not qualify for either the main draw or qualification round, shall be given the opportunity to enter the 'A' Category at the Championships. Squash Canada may impose a reasonable time limit for acceptance of the entry into the 'A' Category. Should a player in such circumstance decide not to enter the 'A' category, a 100% refund of the registration fee shall apply.

### **4. Draw Format**

#### **4.1 Main Draw**

The main draw format will be a 16-player draw featuring a top and bottom bracket with playoffs that will play down to all places, 1 through to 16.

As a condition of entry, players must commit to playing all main draw matches for placement.

#### **4.2 Qualification Round Draw**

The qualification round draw shall be a single elimination format.

A player who completes the qualification round but does not qualify for the main draw, shall be subsequently and automatically entered in the 'A' Category of the Championships, at no additional cost.

## **5. Seeding**

### **5.1 Main Draw**

Eight players will be seeded by a Seeding Committee, based on a combination of current PSA World Rankings, most recent Canadian Rankings published at least 45 days prior to the start of the Open main draw, head to head matches and past Canadian Championship results.

The random draw method shall be used for the entire draw including the seeds; 1<sup>st</sup> seed placed at the top, 2<sup>nd</sup> seed at the bottom, 3/4 seeds drawn, then 5/8 seeds drawn. For the remainder of the draw, the next name drawn will go into the first vacant unseeded place, and so on. This drawing of names must be made in the presence of a minimum of two Squash Canada representatives, or one representative plus a witness.

### **5.2 Qualification Round**

50% of the qualification round shall be seeded based upon the most recent Canadian Rankings published at least 45 days prior to the start of the Open main draw, subject to review and possible amendment by the Seeding Committee.

The remainder of the draw is then completed using the 'random draw method'. The first name drawn will go into the first vacant unseeded place, and so on. This drawing of names must be made in the presence of a minimum of two Squash Canada representatives, or one representative plus a witness.

## **6. Byes**

Where it is necessary to have byes in the draw, the byes will be awarded to the highest seeded players. If there are 3 or 7 byes, a random draw will be done to determine which 3/4 seed, or 7/8 seed, as the case may be, shall receive the bye.

## **7. Entry Qualification Publishing**

Squash Canada will publish the qualified list of entries for the main draw and qualification round within seven days of the Open entry deadline. Squash Canada reserves the right to change this deadline at their discretion.

## **8. Draw Publishing**

### **8.1 Main Draw**

The draw will be published a minimum of 14 days prior to the start of the Open main draw.

### **8.2 Qualification Round Draw**

The draw will be published a minimum of 24 hours prior to the start of the Open qualification round.

## **9. Withdrawals**

### **9.1 From Main Draw**

#### **i. Prior to Start of Qualification Round**

Should a player entered and qualified for the main draw withdraw from the Championship prior to the start of the qualification round, the entry in the main draw will be filled by the highest seeded player in the qualification round draw. If the withdrawn player was a seeded player, the seeding and draw may be re-done at the discretion of Squash Canada.

- ii. **After Start of Qualification Round but One Hour Before Start of Open Main Draw**  
Should a player entered and qualified for the main draw withdraw from the Championship after the qualification round has commenced, but not less than one hour before the Open main draw has commenced, the entry in the main draw will be filled by a 'lucky loser' as described below. If the withdrawn player was a seeded player, the seeding and draw may be revised at the discretion of Squash Canada.

Players who lose in the final round of qualifying are eligible to be lucky losers. At the conclusion of the qualification round, in the presence of eligible players, a Squash Canada representative will conduct the draw for the order of lucky loser qualification consideration. The first name drawn will be lucky loser number one and so on. They will go into the main draw as follows:

- (a) The first vacant place is filled by lucky loser number one.
  - (b) Should any other withdrawals occur these are filled by the next in line.
  - (c) If simultaneous withdrawals occur, then these are filled in the draw from top to bottom
- Note: It is the responsibility of the designated lucky losers to keep the Squash Canada representative or Tournament Director informed of their whereabouts so that they can be contacted immediately should there be a withdrawal after the finish of the qualification and before the start of the first main draw match.

Note: any player who does not finish their qualification round match due to retirement through injury or illness is not eligible for a lucky loser position.

- iii. **After the Open Main Draw Has Started**  
Withdrawals, defaults and/or match retirements in the main draw will be closely scrutinized by Squash Canada, and may involve consequences for the player where explanations for such are not deemed satisfactory to Squash Canada at its sole discretion.

If a player withdraws from the event because of illness or injury they must supply a medical certificate within 72 hours of the end of the tournament, unless Squash Canada communicates to the player that it is satisfied with the overt legitimacy of the injury or illness.

Squash Canada may also require the player to be assessed by an on-site medical professional.

Squash Canada may use their discretion to contact medical professionals to verify medical certificates and may refuse to accept it if evidence is not substantiated.

Medical certificates must be issued from a medical doctor, and include a statement of the injury or illness, prescribed treatment and be on headed paper with the company and/or medical doctor's name, address and date, and signed by the medical doctor authorizing the document.

### ***Possible Consequences***

- a. **Prize Money Implication**

If the player is otherwise so eligible, any prize money entitlement shall be withheld temporarily or permanently by Squash Canada until such time that it is satisfied, in its sole discretion, as to the injury or illness explanation.

b. Future Entry Implication

If the player has previously withdrawn, defaulted or retired from a Canadian Squash Championship Open main draw, and where explanations for such were not deemed satisfactory to Squash Canada at its sole discretion, Squash Canada reserves the right to refuse entry to the next such championships and/or to require a performance bond of the player.

c. National Team Implication

If the player withdraws, defaults or retires from a Canadian Squash Championship Open main draw, and where explanations for such were not deemed satisfactory to Squash Canada at its sole discretion, and where the player is a current member of a Squad within Squash Canada's National Team Program, a further review and possible player sanction may be enacted in accordance with the Squash Canada – Athlete Agreement.

## 9.2 From Qualification Round

- i. In the instance where there were 16 or less players who registered and qualified for the Open qualification round, and a player withdraws:
  - Prior to the qualification round draw being published, and the player was seeded, the seeding will be re-done;
  - After the qualification draw has been published, the seeding and draw will remain unchanged, subject to the discretion of Squash Canada.
- ii. In the instance where there were more players who registered for the Open event and were not initially qualified for one of the 12 main draw or 16 spots in the qualification round, and had entered the 'A' category, and a player in the qualification round withdraws:
  - Prior to the 'A' category and qualification round draws being published, the next highest ranked player in the 'A' category based upon the most recent Canadian Rankings published at least 45 days prior to the start of the Open main draw, and who had registered for the Open event prior to the entry deadline, will be given the opportunity to enter the Open qualification round. Squash Canada may impose a reasonable time limit for acceptance of the entry into the qualification round, after which the entry opportunity is forfeited in order to provide the opportunity to the next highest ranked player, as the case may be. If the withdrawn player was seeded, the seeding will be re-done.
  - After the 'A' category and qualification round draw has been published, the qualification round spot will not be filled, subject to the discretion of Squash Canada. If the withdrawn player was seeded, the seeding may be re-done at the discretion of Squash Canada.

## 10. Qualification Round Playing Schedule/Rest Period

The qualification round shall normally occur in one day, on the day immediately prior to the start of the main draw. It is therefore expected that players may play up to two matches on the day of the qualification round.

Matches should be scheduled so that players are given a minimum of four hours' rest between the end of their previous match and the beginning of their following match.