



# CANADIAN NATIONAL JUNIOR CIRCUIT POLICY

(Approved October 2023)

## OVERVIEW

The National Junior Circuit (NJC) and Points Table Ranking Program are designed for High-Performance Juniors in Canada playing at a National and International Level. They will provide a transparent ranking program to be used for selecting squads, international endorsements, and National Teams. The Club Locker Universal Ratings will continue to be available for all players in Canada and provide an excellent approximation of your level of play as it relates to other players globally. As a new initiative, the Squash Canada Junior Athlete Pathway Committee will continue to review the NJC program at regular intervals throughout the season.

## POINTS BASED RANKING SYSTEM

Players earn points towards their ranking by playing in the National Junior Circuit (NJC) sanctioned events. Points will be earned based on the finishing position they achieve in the tournament, and size of their division at entry close.

To determine a player's ranking, an average of their highest points-earned tournaments is taken and compared against the averages of other ranked players in their age group. For the 2023-24 season, the average of a player's top 3 tournaments will be used for their ranking with 6 sanctioned NJC events scheduled (see below for event details).

Only tournaments from the previous 12 months (determined as 52 weeks) will be factored into a player's ranking point average. After 12 months, tournament points become inactive and no longer affect a player's ranking.

**NOTE:** Tournaments will not be included in the ranking calculation on or after to the drop-off date listed on a player's profile.

A minimum of three tournaments in a specific age division within a 12-month period are required to receive a ranking.

The rankings calculation takes place every Wednesday by 5:00am EST and will consider all active tournaments, including those from the previous weekend.

For a full breakdown of the points available in different tournament types please view the Junior Ranking Points Table. [Please click here to see the Points Table.](#)

To be listed in the NJC ranking players must be either Canadian citizens or Canadian residents for a minimum of 12 months.

International players who are not permanent Canadian residents may earn junior tournament points by participating in accredited tournaments but will not appear on the NJC Rankings.

When a player ages into a new division, their ranking is removed from the younger age division.

Tournaments from the younger age division are carried over into the rankings for the older age division. These tournaments will count as exposures in the new age division. The points earned in each of these tournaments will be converted to older age divisions at a divisor of 1.3 (i.e. 2000 points in GU15 will convert to 1,538.46 when aging up to the U17 category).

**NOTE:** The three tournaments that are converted into the older division are the top active point-earning tournaments from the younger age division.

## **COMPETING IN HIGHER AGE DIVISIONS**

Rules to compete in an older division in NJC tournaments:

- The Top 8 NJC ranked players (as of entry deadline) in U17 are permitted to play U19.
- The Top 4 NJC ranked players (as of entry deadline) in the U15 categories are permitted to play in a higher age category
- The Top 4 Club Locker rated players (as of entry deadline) in the U11 and U13 categories are permitted to play in a higher age category

When a player plays in an older age group, he or she will earn points towards a ranking in the older age division AND their current age group. Points in a higher age category will be calculated at a 1.3 factor when applied to a lower division (i.e., 2000 points earned in U19 will translate to 2600 points in U17). A player will officially become rated in the older category when they play two NJC tournaments in that division. Reminder that players must play in three NJC events to show up in the NJC system at all.

## **SEEDING AND WITHDRAWALS**

In any given draw, players will be seeded by the discretion of a seeding panel including members of the local tournament committee and members of the Squash Canada Junior Athlete Pathway Committee. NJC Rankings will be the primary factor for seeding decisions at NJC circuit events with the panel primarily assessing unranked and/or international players. Squash Canada will seed 25-50% of the draw as appropriate. Seeding will be based on rankings, including international, national, provincial, and/or head-to-head results where appropriate. Seeds will be placed in draws according to Squash Canada's Hosting Standards.

Late withdrawals after the draws have been released may be replaced with the next player on the waitlist if the waitlisted player is ranked below the withdrawing player. However, in the event of a withdrawal from a top-seeded player or if the waitlisted player has a higher ranking than the withdrawing player, Squash Canada reserves the right to entirely reseed the draw, rather than simply replacing the withdrawing player with the #1 player on the waitlist. If there is no waitlist, the withdrawing player will remain on the draw and the first-round match will be recorded as a default.

For all junior accredited tournaments, a player may withdraw without penalty before 12:00pm (noon) in the time zone of the tournament on the Monday prior to the start of the tournament. Any

withdrawal after this deadline and before the start of a player's first match is considered a late withdrawal. Any player who is registered for a tournament and does not show up to play is also considered a late withdrawal. Injuries proven by a doctor's note or bereavement is the only way to waive any penalties.

The request must be submitted by emailing [info@squash.ca](mailto:info@squash.ca).

Penalties for late withdrawals are as follows:

- 1st late withdrawal within a 12-month period: No penalty, but the late withdrawal will be noted on the player's record.
- 2<sup>nd</sup> and further withdrawals within a 12-month period: The player receives a rankings penalty. The penalty is a zero-point tournament being added to the player's record. The zero-point tournament counts as a tournament exposure and will be treated like any other tournament with regards to rankings.
- 3 or further withdrawals may result in Code of Conduct action including suspension.

The tournament director may default a player if that player has not arrived on court by 15 minutes after the scheduled match time. Players may be permitted to continue in the tournament at the discretion of the tournament director. In no case is the tournament director obligated to make special accommodations for a player.

Players are expected to arrive at each tournament with the intention of playing and completing all scheduled matches. Defaulting from an event is a violation of Squash Canada's Competition Manipulation Policy and a Code of Conduct Policy issue. Any player deemed to have needlessly defaulted out of a tournament will receive a mid-tournament default ranking penalty. The penalty will be a zero-point tournament being added to the player's record. The zero-point tournament counts as a tournament exposure and will be treated like any other tournament with regards to rankings.

If a player begins a tournament but is unable to complete all scheduled matches due to illness, injury or bereavement, the zero-point mid-tournament default ranking penalty can be waived with a doctor's note. The doctor's note must be submitted by emailing [info@squash.ca](mailto:info@squash.ca) within one week of the last day of the tournament. The doctor's note cannot be written by a family member and must be from an independent source.

In the case of an approved and received doctor's note, the player will receive the lowest amount of points available based on the round achieved at the time of the withdrawal. For instance, if a player defaults a semi-final match, he or she will receive points for a 4th place finish if there was a 3/4 playoff match scheduled.

If you believe that results have been inputted incorrectly or notice penalties that you believe should be reversed, or any other appeals you may have please email [info@squash.ca](mailto:info@squash.ca). It is the player's responsibility to submit a challenge to the rankings within 30 days of the last day of the tournament.

## **TOURNAMENT PROCEDURE AND POLICIES**

Standard point-a-rally scoring (PAR) to 11 points will be used in all accredited junior tournaments. All matches in accredited junior tournaments are best-of-5 games.

In all Squash Canada-accredited junior play, players are responsible for refereeing their peers. Winners and losers are responsible for officiating after their match – the winner acts as referee and the loser as marker – unless released by the Tournament Director and/or Tournament Referee. The Tournament Director and/or Tournament Referee may also ask players to referee matches at other times or on other courts.

The referee and marker must be ready and present immediately following the completion of their match. While the losing player must remain at the court to time the four-minute warm up, the winning player may go to the tournament desk to turn in their score sheet and obtain the score sheet for the next match on their court if Club Locker Live Scoring is not being used.

A player who abandons their referee responsibilities will be given zero points for their participation in the event. In addition, failure to referee matches is in violation of the Squash Canada Code of Conduct Policy and may result in disciplinary action.

A minimum of 3 scheduled matches will be provided for all players in an accredited tournament. Players are expected to compete in all scheduled matches.

Late withdrawals, injuries, or other unexpected events may lead to some players receiving 2 or fewer matches.

For NJC events, players will have a minimum of 3 hours between scheduled match start times.

Athletes must be prepared to play a maximum of 3 matches per day of tournament.

The Canadian Junior Open operates on a different timeline than all other tournaments. Please see the tournament page for the entry deadline.

All players who register for a tournament after the regular entry deadline are considered late entries and will be entered into the division on a first come, first served basis if the division is under the division size cap.

The cut list is released for tournaments after the regular registration deadline to confirm the final player entry list and to indicate which players have been placed on a waitlist in the event of oversubscribed divisions. The cut list will be made public at the regular registration deadline.

All players who sign up for a tournament after the regular registration deadline (late entrants) will automatically be placed on the waitlist, regardless of draw size at the time of entry. If the draw has not reached the division size cap, the player will be moved to the main draw for the tournament.

If entries exceed the division size limit and a waitlist already exists in a specific division, late entrants will be placed at the bottom of the waitlist behind all players who were originally placed on the waitlist when the cut list was released.

Any player on a waitlist will be available to participate in the tournament should a space open due to a withdrawal.

**NOTE:** Any waitlisted players will still be moved to the main draw to replace any withdrawing players until the waitlist closes at 12:00pm (noon) 24 hours before the tournament starts.

Late withdrawal penalties can be found in the “Tournament Withdrawal and Match Default” section above.

Division start times indicate the earliest possible match time a player can expect to receive within their division.

All players must be age-eligible through the last day of the tournament in which they are competing.

Note: Athletes must adhere to all squash Canada policies and tournament regulations, which may include but are not limited to the UCCMS, Code of Conduct, and screening/safe sport requirements. In addition, athletes must be certified at a minimum of a Club Referee or higher.

## **2023-24 CANADIAN NJC SANCTIONED EVENTS**

- September 29<sup>th</sup> - October 1<sup>st</sup>, 2023: Ontario Gold 1 @ Mayfair Parkway; Greater Toronto Area, ON
- November 3<sup>rd</sup> – 5<sup>th</sup>, 2023: Alberta Jesters @ Calgary Winter Club; Calgary, AB
- December 9<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup>, 2023: Canadian Junior Open @ The Club at White Oaks; Niagara-on-the-Lake, ON
- February 16<sup>th</sup> – 18<sup>th</sup>, 2024: Pacific Northwest Jesters @ Cedar Hill Recreation Center; Victoria, BC
- April 5<sup>th</sup> – 7<sup>th</sup>, 2024: Ontario Junior Open @ The Club at White Oaks; Niagara-on-the-Lake, ON
- May 2<sup>nd</sup> – 5<sup>th</sup>, 2024: Canadian Junior Closed @ Venue TBA, AB

## **FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS**

### ***How many events do I have to play?***

- You must play 3 events to be rated under your division
- Rankings will be a big factor in junior national team selections. Please ensure that you are playing at minimum 3 NJC sanctioned events if you wish to be selected to for Squash Canada’s national team.

### ***Benefit of rankings over ratings?***

- The National Junior Circuit Rankings are designed as a tool for High Performance Juniors in Canada playing at a National and International Level. They will provide a transparent framework for selecting squads, endorsements, and National Teams. Club Locker ratings will continue to be available for all players in Canada and provide an excellent approximation of

your level of play as it relates to other players globally. Information about the Club Locker Universal Ratings can be found [HERE](#).

- In certain circumstances if athletes are tied in the points table and there are no relevant head to heads, rating may be taken into consideration by seeding and selection committees. Ratings are also generally considered for all other junior and senior tournaments both domestically and internationally

***Why are Juniors allowed to show up in multiple divisions?***

- Athletes that meet the standards laid out in the NJC policy have the option to play up a division. If an athlete has played 2 or more events in any age category, and the minimum of 3 events overall, they will appear on the NJC ranking for that category. Juniors should always consult their coaches and support teams before making the decision to play up in an age category.