



U.S. JUNIOR OPEN

ELIGIBILITY AND SELECTION CRITERIA

Approved May, 2026

EVENT INFORMATION:

The 2026 U.S. Junior Open will be hosted in Philadelphia, PA from December 19-22, 2026. Matches will be played at The Arlen Specter US Squash Center, Drexel University and the University of Pennsylvania, among other venues.

According to the U.S. Junior Open tournament guidelines, Squash Canada has the right to nominate a maximum of 8 male and 8 female athletes per age category for participation in the tournament.

This policy therefore has been developed to outline the player eligibility requirements for Squash Canada endorsement and the process by which the association will decide which eight players per division will receive endorsement in cases where there are more than eight eligible players who express interest in participating in the event.

Note: As per US Squash policy, only International players and/or non-U.S. residents who do not actively play in US Squash accredited junior squash tournaments are eligible to enter through the international player entry portal. Players who have 4 or more active junior tournament exposures on the deadline indicated by US Squash are considered active participants in the US Squash system and must enter the tournament through the U.S. player entry portal.

PURPOSE:

This policy governs Squash Canada's selection of the athletes to compete in the U.S. Junior Open.

COMMUNICATION:

This Policy and any amendments to this Policy will be posted on the Squash Canada website.

AUTHORITY:

The Board of Directors of Squash Canada has delegated the authority for selections and decisions under this Policy to the Junior/Athlete Pathway Committee.

TIMELINE:

1. **By June 1, 2026** – The Expression of Interest (EOI) Registration will be released and communicated.
2. **By July 31, 2026** – Fill out an Expression of Interest [here](#) and pay a \$100 deposit (refundable if not selected).
3. **By August 20, 2026** – The first selections occur, as per the Selection Criteria below.
4. **Following the first NJC Event of 2026/27 Season** – Second selections will occur, as per the Selection Criteria.
5. **By the given Event Registration Deadline** – Register for the event with the organizing group to be considered for selection. All athletes interested in participating should register for the event. The organizing group will,

according to their policies, refund those athletes who do not get endorsed by Squash Canada.

6. **As soon as possible after selection** – Athletes will book flights or travel and complete any required training (ex. Canadian Safe Sport Education).
7. **Squash Canada Coaching registration deadline** – [Register here](#) by the November deadline indicated in order to participate in the Squash Canada Coaching program at USJO.
8. **1-3 weeks prior to event** – Expect a Team announcement via press release and a Team Canada meeting.

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA:

To be eligible for selection to the U.S. Junior Open, the player must:

1. Meet the respective age eligibility requirements;
2. Meet the relevant event criteria;
3. Be a Citizen of Canada, or a Permanent Resident of Canada, or be a resident of Canada for at least three (3) years continuously immediately preceding the Championships (provided that residents who are in Canada as students or who are temporary workers are not eligible). Notwithstanding the foregoing, a junior who is a student but who is residing in Canada with a parent who is a Permanent Resident of Canada or who has been a resident of Canada for at least three (3) years, will not be so disqualified;
4. Be a registered member in good standing of a Provincial/Territorial Squash Association, and a player in good standing with Squash Canada;
5. Be prepared to comply with any potential vaccination requirements;
6. Fill out an Expression of Interest by July 31, 2026 [HERE](#) and pay a \$100 deposit (refundable if not selected); and
7. Pay any required fees.

SELECTION CRITERIA:

Athletes must register their Expression of Interest [HERE](#) by July 31, 2026 to be considered for selection by Squash Canada's Junior Athlete Pathway Committee. Deposits are refundable if not selected.

Additionally, in order for an eligible player to be considered for selection to the U.S. Junior Open, they must be duly registered for the event online with US Squash by 11:59pm on the given deadline.

US Squash's online registration will require that non-U.S. players pay their entry fee and will immediately place the player on a waitlist. Paying the entry fee starts the eligibility process, but US Squash does **not** consider the entry complete or finalized until the player sends his or her age verification document (passport) to US Squash and receives an endorsement from Squash Canada. Please note that there is a separate entry section for International players which allows you to bypass the US Squash refereeing requirement.

In the case where:

1. Eight or fewer eligible players have registered for a particular division, Squash Canada will endorse each of the entries.
2. More than eight eligible players have registered for a particular division, Squash Canada will use the following criteria to select which eight athletes it will endorse:
 - a) The Top 5 eligible and registered athletes per division will be automatically endorsed based on NJC Rankings (U15, U17, U19) and Clublocker Squash Canada ratings (U11, U13) as of August 1, 2026.
 - b) The next 3 eligible and registered athletes will be discretionary selections by the Junior Athlete Pathway Committee. These discretionary selections will be made following the first NJC Platinum event of the season, and no later than October 15, whichever occurs earlier. Considerations will include NJC results, Club Locker Rating, age, head to heads, and any other possible factors.

- c) All NJC Ranking/Club Locker rating ties will be broken by most recent head to head results between April 1, 2026 and the Junior Athlete Pathway Committee selection meeting. If no such head to heads exist, the athlete with the higher Club Locker rating in the previous period(s) will be considered the higher rated player.
- d) If a player is not one of the eight athletes endorsed in their age category, and the next oldest age division does not have eight eligible players duly registered, the next highest ranked player(s) may request to be entered in the age division above theirs.

REGISTRATION PROCESS:

Players wishing to participate at the U.S Junior Open must duly register using www.clublocker.com by the internal US Squash registration deadline.

U.S. Squash will refund the entry fee for players who registered but have not received endorsement from Squash Canada, in accordance with the applicable event refund policies. Refund eligibility will be subject to the respective governing body's event policies. See link: [Club Locker | Events | 2026 U.S Junior Open Squash Championships](#).

REQUIREMENTS TO REMAIN ENDORSED AND FOR REMOVAL:

To remain eligible, all players endorsed by Squash Canada to compete in the U.S. Junior Open, must adhere to each of the following:

- a) Maintain status as a member in good standing with their provincial/territorial squash association.
- b) Advise Squash Canada of any injury, illness, or other reason which has curtailed the athlete's training for more than 14 days. Squash Canada retains the right to request documentation to detail an injury or illness, and a medical practitioner's recommended timeline for return to training and competition, and/or to conduct further investigation.
- c) Sign a Squash Canada International Travel Waiver as a condition of endorsement.
- d) Fulfill all Squash Canada, host nation and/or host organizing committee travel, vaccination, or other health and safety requirements as may exist.
- e) Sign a Squash Canada - Athlete Agreement, if so requested.
- f) Demonstrate commitment to the event by maintaining training, fitness levels and ensuring that competitive performance is maintained at a high standard appropriate for competition at the event.
- g) At all times, agree to acquaint themselves with, and strictly abide by the Squash Canada Code of Conduct, Discipline and Complaints Policy, Appeal Policy, and all other policies, rules, and regulations of the organization located [here](#). Athletes are also expected to support and uphold safe, respectful, and inclusive sport environments in alignment with Squash Canada's Safe Sport principles.

Failure to satisfy any of the above noted criteria may result in Squash Canada's withdrawal of endorsement for entry to the event at the sole discretion of the Manager of Athlete Development.

WITHDRAWAL:

Any player who has received Squash Canada endorsement for entry to the U.S. Junior Open who becomes injured, ill, or for whatever reason wishes to withdraw from the event, shall be required to notify Squash Canada at the earliest opportunity.

If such withdrawal opens a spot in an age division, the above selection criteria will be applied in sequence for the replacement player, who may be given a reasonable timeline by which to accept or reject the opportunity for Squash Canada endorsement for entry to the event.

APPEALS:

Decisions taken in respect of this selection criteria may be appealed in accordance with Squash Canada's Appeals Policy as posted in the Governance tab at: <https://squash.ca/policies-procedures/>