

LEAGUE RULES

1. The Dunlop black, double yellow dot ball shall be the official ball in all divisions of the Ulster Squash League.
2. All players must be registered by their clubs and names, email addresses if applicable and ladder order must be sent to the League Convenor. Visiting players from other countries who guest for a club must also be registered and have played a challenge match to move up the club ladder. If a visitor is ranked highly in his or her own country, he or she may not play in the lower divisions of the Ulster League.
3. Players are registered for a club by Club Secretaries prior to the League Subcommittee producing fixtures for the season.
	1. A player may not play for more than one club team in any one week.
	2. A player may not play for more than one club within the jurisdiction of Ulster Squash in any one season, unless his transfer has been approved by the League Sub-Committee. This rule also applies to teams from a club playing in the same division; however, the rule does not apply to players who compete in Junior or Masters Leagues.
	3. Where a club has two or more teams in a division, each team must have a separate ladder and each ladder must compromise of at least four players.
	4. Any player who is registered with a club and who wishes to transfer after the date of the AGM must have the approval of the League Sub-Committee.
4. Clubs must play in ladder order and the current ladder positions must be on display for the opposing team to see. (Note: A club which has more than one team playing on the same night must ensure that, if there is a shortage of players for any reason, the lower (or lowest) team is the one to play without the full quota.) Substitutions must be made strictly in ladder order.
5. Players who play out of position, along with players in between that order, shall lose all points. A team which breaks Rule 3(a) shall lose all points from that position downwards. Teams playing with less than four players must concede walkovers in the lowest position(s). A minimum of two players must play to fulfil a fixture.
6. If a player on a higher team plays on a lower team, he or she must play at No.4 and forfeit the points.
7. Team results of matches must be received from the Team Secretary of the home club by the appropriate League Secretary in the approved format via email by 4pm on day following the fixture; otherwise the home team will be penalised five points. A match card must still be completed on the night of the match and be kept by the home team in case of any disputes arising from the match.
8. Matches are to start at 7 p.m. at the latest. Those clubs which have an early closing time may start at 6 p.m. by prior arrangement with the two Team Secretaries involved. In any unfinished matches, the outstanding points shall be awarded to the team not responsible for the inconclusive result.
9. Ties normally should be played in order of 4, 1, 3 and 2, unless prior arrangements have been made by the two Team Secretaries involved.
10. A walkover may be claimed if a team member is not available to play at any time after 7 p.m. (7.20 p.m. for teams travelling over 40 miles). Further ties can be claimed every 20 minutes until 8 p.m., when the whole match may be awarded against the offending team unless prior arrangements have been made by the two Team Secretaries involved.
11. The dates on which all matches are to be played shall be fixed by the League Sub-Committee at the beginning of the season. All senior matches are to be played on Tuesday evenings.. Wednesday evening may be used for matches outside Division 1 where it is not mathematically possible due to court availability on a Tuesday evening. Masters matches will be played on Thursday evenings. Other divisions will be as decided by Ulster Squash
12. League matches must be played at the venue stipulated by the League Sub-Committee and no individual matches are to be played elsewhere.
13. The dates will have to be strictly adhered to, except as follows:
	1. The away team may change the date if road conditions make it impossible to travel.
	2. The home team may; change the date if the court is unplayable for the match.
	3. In other exceptional circumstances, where the League Convenor has been notified in advance. In such circumstances, the League Sub-Committee will adjudicate and may authorise a change of date.
	4. For other unforeseen events the League Sub-Committee may authorise a change of date.
	5. A team which has to travel around 100 miles to its away venue may, with the consent of the opposing team and the League Administrator, play the fixture on the week-end before the stipulated date.

In the first two cases, the League Convenor must be informed immediately of the postponement and in all cases of the re-arranged dates, which must be within three weeks of the postponement.

14. Teams postponing matches for reasons other than those quoted above, or teams failing to fulfil fixtures, will automatically forfeit the whole match and will, in addition, be penalised 13 points. Teams which play with less than two players shall be penalised 13 points. Relegation at the end of the season of one or more divisions may be the final penalty for a team which continuously misses fixtures.

1. Recognised squash clothing must be worn.
2. *Any player who is unable to play a league* match because of representative duties, or because of a clash of dates due to International commitment, shall be allowed to play the match on a date stipulated by the League Sub-Committee.
3. The League Sub-Committee reserves the right to deduct points from any team or club playing a member in a position which, in its opinion, does not reflect the member's true ladder status.
4. The League Sub-Committee shall expel from the League any player who is found to be impersonating another player, and any team which sanctions this malpractice shall incur the same penalty.
5. Teams which fail to pay the team fee by the 7th November shall be deducted five points in each subsequent match.
6. No Junior player aged under 14 shall play in the Ulster Squash League, unless ratified by the Junior Sub-Committee. All juniors playing in Ulster Squash leagues must wear protective eye wear at all times, if they don’t they will be forced to forfeit the match.
7. If there is a tie at the top of a division, the winner will be decided on a play-off on a neutral court.
8. Masters:

 Generally, all Ulster League Rules apply, with the addition of:

* 1. Teams may be any combination of men and women.
	2. Male players must be 45 years old and female players must be 40 years old prior to the date of the Ulster Masters Open.
	3. A player must be registered with the Masters League Secretary before he or she plays for a team.
	4. Players from all Divisions are eligible and will be handicapped prior to the commencement of Leagues.
	5. A player registered for a club in the Ulster League may be registered for another club in the Masters League.
	6. Matches shall commence not later than 7.00 p.m., unless prior arrangement exists between Team Secretaries.
1. Points system:

 All Divisions: one point per game, with one additional point for the winning team, except for the Masters Division where there is no additional point for the winning team.

1. If a team doesn’t fulfil a fixture, the next time the two teams play in a league or cup match, it will be played at the opponents venue.
2. Promotion/Relegation:

The teams finishing first and second in each division will automatically be promoted to the division above and the teams finishing last and second last in each division will be automatically relegated to the division below. Should a team not wish to be promoted despite finishing first or second, then that team will need to apply to Ulster Squash in writing, no later than 1st August, to have the rule waived.

* 1. Should a team wish to move up a division despite not finishing in the top two places, then that team will need to apply to Ulster Squash in writing, no later than 1st August, to have the rule waived.
	2. Should a team wish to voluntarily move to a lower division, then that team will need to apply to Ulster Squash in writing, no later than 1st August, to have the rule waived.
	3. Should a team wishes to remain in a division despite finishing last or second last, then that team will need to apply to Ulster Squash in writing, no later than 1st August, to have the rule waived.

The leagues sub committee will then consider any requests as above before fixtures are determined for the new season and consider other teams for promotion or relegation.

If the request is granted in the case of promotion as at a), then the team finishing third or another will be considered for promotion.

If the request is granted in the case of promotion as at b), then either the team finishing second will not be promoted OR the team finishing third from bottom will be considered for relegation OR the team finishing third from bottom in the division above will be relegated OR divisions may be expanded.

In the case of voluntary relegation being granted as at c), then the team finishing next to last or as applicable will not be demoted OR the team finishing third in the division below will be promoted.

In the case of a team remaining in a division as at d) then another team will be considered for relegation.

**N.B. Any team who wish to relinquish automatic promotion (a) or voluntarily request to move to a lower division (c) shall be debarred from winning that division. The league sub-committee will automatically deduct sufficient points from their end of season total to ensure they finish no higher than second place in the division.**

 26. New Teams:

Should a new team wish to enter the league, then that team will need to apply to Ulster Squash in writing, no later than 1st August in order that they may be considered for placement in other than the bottom division. Otherwise, new teams will be entered into the bottom division.

Ulster Squash

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