

LEICESTERSHIRE COUNTY SQUASH LEAGUE

RULES OF THE LEAGUE

Season 2026–27 Adopted August 2026

1. Governance and committees

The competition shall be managed by the LSRA General Committee and Executive Committee as defined in the Constitution.

2. Club and team entry

The competition is open to any club in the Leicestershire area at the discretion of the Executive Committee.

At the discretion of the General Committee, each club may enter one or more teams. All players must be members of the club they represent.

There is no limit on the number of teams a club may enter into the league. However, no more than two teams from any one club may play in Division 1; no such restriction applies to other divisions. It is recommended that all players be members of England Squash (ES).

3. Divisions, promotion and relegation

All divisions shall be decided by the Executive Committee. As a guideline, divisions should consist of equal numbers of teams, and promotion and relegation shall be on a “two up, two down” basis wherever possible. Club requests and common sense will also be taken into account.

4. Order of merit and player eligibility

- (a) No player may represent more than one club during a season, except with the permission of the Executive Committee or as a registered “loan” player.
- (b) The nominated club secretary shall post an order of merit on the Leicestershire County Squash League website at least 7 days before the club’s first match.
- (c) The order of merit must be in Squash Levels order, unless otherwise agreed by the Executive Committee.
- (d) Additional players may be added to the order of merit only by the club secretary, by request to the Secretary. A player so added may only be used once the Secretary has agreed the addition.
- (e) If an unregistered player is used, that result will be struck off, and every match played below that player’s position will be recorded as a 3–0 defeat for playing out of position.
- (f) Any club attempting to play a match without having posted a complete order of merit will forfeit the match.
- (g) The Executive Committee may review any order of merit on request from a club and shall have the power to alter any player’s position.
- (h) Only players on a club’s order of merit may play for that club during the season, subject to Rule 4(f) and 4(i), or where they are registered on the “Loan List”.
- (i) A player’s position within the team may vary from week to week, in line with movement in the Squash Levels list.
- (j) No new player may be introduced during the last 4 weeks of the season.
- (k) Squash Levels shall indicate the correct position for each player.
- (l) No player may play more than 26 matches in a season, including “loan” games. A loan player may not play at Number 1 as a guest, nor against their home club.
- (m) Before the second half of the season begins, all clubs must resubmit their order of merit in line with Squash Levels; this may alter team composition.
- (n) Any player without a Squash Level must be placed where the club believes that player should rank. The Executive Committee reserves the right to move the player if their position is clearly incorrect.

- (o) Any player holding a team position must play at least 2 games in the first half of the season, or they will be removed from the order of merit for the second half. Any new player brought into the order of merit for the second half must play at least 2 games, or the team in which they are placed will be fined 20 league points.
- (p) Junior Players - A parent must give permission for a junior player (U18) to:
Join the Loan player list
To play each competitive match as a Loan player
The parent(s) should be in attendance at the match if the junior is under 14
- (q) Loan List – The loan list/bank players will contain all players submitted by their secretaries that will be available to play for any other team in the divisions and will be published on the website for captains and secretaries to see.
The "loan" player may play for several clubs during the season and will not be tied.
The "loan" player will still be allowed to play for their home club.
The maximum number of games per season will apply. Currently 26 per season.
A "loan" player will not be allowed to play at number 1 for a team and his squash level will dictate their position below number 1
A team must field a majority of home players, in a team of 5 the maximum is 2 loan players.

5. Match format, attendance and scoring

- (a) Each team shall play two matches against every other team in its division — one at home and one away. Teams score 1 point for each game won across the match, and the winning team scores 5 additional points.

Both teams must have at least 3 players present at the venue at the scheduled start time. The remaining 2 players must also be in attendance within 30 minutes of the scheduled start. A team must field a minimum of 3 players.

The home team must provide 2 courts for the match. Failure to do so will result in the away team being awarded the match 5–0.

If a team fails to fulfil a fixture, the team not playing will be fined 15 league points, and the opposing team will be awarded 20 points.

Any team wishing to change its home night after the fixtures have been issued must advise all of its opponents and confirm the change with them.

- (b) All teams in Division 1 should make every effort to use Tuesday as their home night.
- (c) Start times are a free choice but must allow sufficient travelling time for away teams. A start time after 7:00 p.m. should be used wherever possible. Note: the start time is the time play begins, not the arrival time. Teams not ready to play at the scheduled start may forfeit any outstanding games if court time runs out.
- (d) The scoring for all divisions shall be PAR 11.

6. Division winners and ties

At the end of the season, the club scoring the most points shall be the winner of each division. In the event of a tie, the team with the greater number of matches won shall take precedence. If teams remain equal, they shall play off at a time and place decided by the Executive Committee.

7. League trophy

The winners of Division 1 shall hold the Leicestershire League Trophy for one year. The trophy may not be won outright and shall remain the property of the Leicestershire County Squash League.

8. Fixtures and permitted changes

All matches shall be played on the dates arranged by the Executive Committee. The only exceptions are matches altered before the season starts (for the first half) or during the winter recess (for the second half), and advised as such to the Secretary. Charnwood's home matches are an exception and cannot be moved within 2 weeks before the first games

During the season, a change is permitted only for the following reasons:

- (a) A strike that affects the playing of the game (e.g. loss of water or electricity).
- (b) Extreme weather conditions.
- (c) Any reason deemed acceptable to the Executive Committee (e.g. a club's premises destroyed by fire, or a clash with a national competition for 3 or more regular players). A change is not permitted for: illness, weddings, the unavailability of usual players, holidays, and similar.
- (d) No matches shall be scheduled during Leicestershire half-term weeks wherever possible.
- (e) Once the season has started, if a fixture is changed and the Secretary has been informed, there will be an automatic 5-point fine for both teams. If the Secretary has not been informed, there will be an automatic 10-point fine for both teams. The only exceptions are those permitted under Rules 8(a), (b) and (c).

9. Submitting results

Both teams are required to enter the result on the Leicestershire County Squash League website within 48 hours of the match date, after which the screen will lock. Temporary team captains can be appointed through the Secretary.

10. A.G.M. attendance

Every member club must have at least one person representing it at the A.G.M., unless prior absence has been agreed by the Executive Committee. Failure to comply will result in a fine on the club, the amount to be decided by the Executive Committee.

11. Rules of play

The rules of play shall be those of England Squash (ES). An ES-approved ball shall be used.
[England Squash - Rules and regulations](#)

12. Disputes

Any dispute must be submitted in writing to the Secretary within 14 days. The decision of the Executive Committee shall be final.

13. Recording of matches

No recording of a match shall take place without the permission of both players involved.

14. Club and team contact details

Each club must submit the name, address, telephone number and email address of its Club Secretary to the Treasurer by 1 September each year. The same information for all team captains must be provided at least 1 week before the start of the season. This information must be kept up to date.

15. Fixture changes and non-attendance

Before the season starts, any team may alter a fixture without penalty, whether financial or in league points. Likewise, during the mid-season break, a team may alter a second-half fixture without penalty. After these dates, any team that does not attend a fixture will be fined 15 league points.

Subject to Rule 8, any team failing to give 7 days' notice of its intention not to complete a fixture will be liable for the costs incurred by the home team. Any such claim must be made through the Executive Committee. Any club that refuses to pay these costs will be suspended.

Charnwood's home fixtures cannot be changed, owing to the scheduling constraints imposed by Loughborough Leisure Centre

16. Critchlow Fellowship Cup

The "Critchlow Fellowship Cup" shall be presented annually to the team deemed the most sociable during the season. The cup shall be presented at the A.G.M. and held for one year. The

away team shall record a mark out of 10 for each of its opponents on the computerised score card, reflecting the good fellowship enjoyed on the evening.

17. League fees

An annual fee shall be agreed at the A.G.M. and is payable by every club. An invoice will be sent to each club secretary for action. League fees must be received by the Treasurer before the season starts. All clubs will be advised of their payment status by the Treasurer. Any club failing to pay its fees on time will be fined 10 points per team, per match, each week, until the outstanding fees are paid.

18. Safety

Eye protection must be worn by all junior players (under 19) during any competition, including when competing in adult age groups. It is also mandatory for players of all ages when playing in doubles competitions.

Standard prescription glasses are not designed for squash. Players who wear prescription glasses must either wear appropriate squash eye protection worn over prescription glasses or prescription eye protection for squash.

Wearing eye protection is strongly recommended for all players, juniors and adults. During training, practice and other non-competitive activities. We expect coaches to prioritise player safety and ask players to wear eye protection where appropriate.

When buying eye protection, look for the British Standard BS EN 18527-2:2021 to ensure it meets the necessary safety standards.