**Junior Guidelines**

**JUNIOR MATTERS 2014-2015**

Please note, there have been some changes to the guidelines for this season.

*Irish Squash Junior Secretary: Henry Gillanders*

*Provincial Junior Secretary  Contact details:*

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*Ulster:*

***Player Behaviour:***

All junior players are required to be familiar with the Conditions and Rules for Juniors Travelling to Tournaments and Events. A copy of these conditions and rules is available from your provincial junior secretary and can also be downloaded from your provincial website and from [www.irishsquash.com](http://www.irishsquash.com/). Also see below section on representing Ireland and protocol for parents, guardians and supporters.

***Tournament Organisation****:*

Provincial junior opens should be run over 2 days, unless there are strong logistical reasons to do otherwise, it is the decision of each provincial organization to decide.

The Junior Nationals will be run over three days.

Players and parents should note that when a tournament is played over 2 days that matches will be scheduled for 9:30 on Saturday and Sunday morning to allow for reasonably early finishes on both days.

***Tournament Draws:***

The standard Swiss 8 or Swiss 16 is the default draw format, where a competition is ‘over-subscribed’ players 7v10 and 8v9 will play off on Friday and the main draw on Saturday will have the 2 winners. The 2 losers will play off against each other. Entries of 11 and over will result in a 16 draw. Round Robin format will be used when entry numbers dictate.

***Withdrawals:***

Where a player withdraws from the competition up to the day of the event there will be a redraw but where the withdrawal is on the day of the competition there will be a redraw only where the player is in the top 4. Players should also note that penalties apply for players who withdraw after the draw or who fail to complete the competition.  The bye-laws on late withdrawal can be found on the competition entry page on [*www.irishsquash.com*](http://www.irishsquash.com/).

***Walk/Over***

A walk/over will be awarded against any player who does not present him or herself within 15 mins of the published match start time. It is the player or player’s guardian’s responsibility to check for changes in published start times on the day of the match.

***Entry Fees:***

The entry fee is payable at the venue before the first match. Entry fees will be €20 (£15stg) per player (€30/£25 for 2 siblings & €40/£30 for 3 siblings).

***Seeding:***

Tournaments will be seeded by the junior secretary on the basis of Irish Squash rankings published on www.irishsquash.com. Rankings will be updated after each tournament. Players dissatisfied with their rankings should, in the first instance, communicate through their provincial junior secretaries (listed above).

***Balls:***

In line with ESF tournaments the Dunlop Double Yellow ball will continue for all age groups except U11s**.**

***Ranking points:***

The points to be earned in this season’s junior tournaments are the same as those in use on the Senior Tour. The extra points for the Junior Nationals do not apply to U19 players.

Players who move up in age group carry 30% of the points already earned at the younger age group.

Event 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18

Nationals 2000 1800 1600 1400 1200 1000 900 800 700 600 500 400 300 200 100 80 60 40

Opens 1500 1350 1200 1050 900 750 600 450 300 150 125 100 80 60 50 40 30 20

Other Irish Squash sanctioned tournaments e.g. Mount Pleasant JMO and Prince East of Ireland and one day tournaments.

Ranking points determined by the number of players in a draw, e.g. in a 16 player draw, 1st place gets 160, 2nd place gets 150 points. In a 15 player draw 1st gets 150 points and 2nd gets 140 points and so on. Points are awarded on this basis for all finishing places.

‘Points Rankings’ are used to select players for panels (U19 & U17, and teams (U15 & U13), and will be published on www.irishsquash.com and updated after each tournament. The seeding of tournaments is NOT based on ‘Points Rankings’ but on ‘Irish Rankings’ and these will be done by the Irish Squash Junior Secretary, Henry Gillanders.

***Squad Sessions:***

The dates for the squad sessions will be published on the Irish Squash website, email notification will be sent to the players and their parents. Failure to attend squads may lead to a player not being selected on a team.

The squad sessions are heavily subsidized by Irish Squash by on average 55-60%. The duration of training sessions is estimated and can change at the discretion of the National Coach. **There will be no refund of coaching fees in the event that coaching times are changed or reduced.**

***Schools Competition:***

The age rule for these competitions is the same as all other junior competitions and a player must be under the relevant age on the final day of the competition.

***Communication between players/parents and Irish Squash:***

If you have an issue relating to junior squash please let us know by contacting your provincial junior secretary who will be able to provide you with an explanation or who will be able to follow up your query through the Irish Squash junior committee and the Irish Squash Junior Secretary. **Under no circumstances should any issue be brought to the Irish Squash office or the Junior Secretary in the first instance.**

***In order to be eligible to play for Ireland***

The current eligibility requirements to play for the National Team are found in Byelaw No. 7 and are set down below:

*To be eligible to play for Ireland a person shall:*

Have been born in Ireland (that is the ROI and Northern Ireland); or a citizen of the ROI or of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and have lived permanently in Ireland for the previous 2 years; or lived permanently in Ireland for the previous 2 years and either parent was born in Ireland; or played in any two of the Irish and Provincial Open Championships in the previous season and also in the previous season shall have informed the Secretary of the Association in writing of the wish to be considered for selection for Ireland and either parent was born in Ireland; or previously played for Ireland while eligible to do so; and not have represented another country in a recognized international match in the previous 2 years and an honorary or individual member of the Association; and normally resident in Ireland, be a member of Irish Squash or be a member of a club which is affiliated to Irish Squash and which Provincial Association is not in default in the matter of paying subscription to Irish Squash; and any requirement as regards age, as specified in Appendix 1 to these Byelaws; and with the criteria specified for the current season by the relevant Irish Selection Committee

**Selection Criteria for U13, and U15**, **2014-2015:**

1. Players must be eligible to play for Ireland (see Byelaw 7) and be under the relevant age on the final day of the relevant competition and be selected by the selection committee.

2. The Selection committee comprises three members: The Junior Administrator, the Team Coach, and the National Coach.

3. Team Selection will be based on the ranking points gained from a player’s best three competitions from The Connacht Open; ; The Ulster Open; The Munster Open; The Leinster Open; The Irish Junior National (Closed) Championship and other sanctioned Irish Squash tournaments. The Irish Junior Nationals earns higher points than the Provincial Opens. In the event of equality of points the selection committee will chose the player finally.

4. Players wishing to be considered for selection must play in the Irish Junior Open although that competition will not earn any points (please note: *this competition has an earlier entry closing date as opposed to the provincial opens*).

5. If a player is unable to compete in a tournament (or complete all matches over a tournament weekend) due to illness/injury a doctors/physiotherapists certificate/letter must be submitted to Irish Squash in the week following the tournament.

6. The Selection Committee will also consider a player’s general behaviour on and off court, attendance at squad sessions, commitment to squash and adherence to whatever training programme is recommended by the Team Coach or National Coach. Players may be selected to play on teams outside their own age group, at the discretion of the Junior Sub-Committee of Irish Squash and the Selection Committee.

7. Once a player receives notification of selection, all monies must be paid by the required date, otherwise their selection will be revoked.

8. Players moving up from one age group to the next during the season will carry over 40% of the points gained at the younger age group.

9. Where players enter a tournament in an older age group the points thereby earned will also be credited to their actual age group. This only applies when playing compulsory events in the older age group and points are earned under the rules of that age group, (e.g. U 19 category in Nationals carry no extra points).

10. The Selection Committee will have the final say in team selection matters.

11. A wildcard rule is operational for all age categories to ensure that the strongest teams represent Ireland.

The national rankings will be used to select the members of the team, with the exception of two optional wildcards per team which can be chosen at the discretion of the selection committee. A wildcard selection will be based on, but will not be constrained to:

Current form & recent results

Commitment

Attendance at squad sessions

Consideration and opinion of the selectors

**Selection Criteria for U17, 2014-2015**

1. Players must be eligible to play for Ireland (see Bye law 7) and be under the relevant age on the final day of the relevant competition and be selected by the selection committee.
2. The Selection committee comprises three members: The Junior Administrator, the Team Coach, and the National Coach.
3. A wildcard rule is operational for all age categories to ensure that the strongest teams represent Ireland.
4. Team Selection will be made from a panel of 6 boys and 4 girls. The top 5 ranked boys and top 3 ranked girls at the end of the season will automatically be placed on the panel. The national coach will make a wildcard selection for the 6th (Boys), and 4th (Girls), place on the panel. Players may be selected to the panel from a younger age group by use of the wildcard. Automatic panel selection will be based on the ranking points from a player’s best three competitions from The Connacht Open; The Ulster Open; The Munster Open; The Leinster Open; The Irish Junior National (Closed) Championship and other sanctioned Irish Squash tournaments.

1. The Selection Committee will select the team from the members of the panel based on what it considers would be the strongest team. Please note, the Irish Junior Nationals earns higher points than the Provincial Opens. In the event of equality of points the selection committee will select the player to the panel finally.

1. Players wishing to be considered for selection must play in the Irish Junior Open, although that competition will not earn any points.(please note: this competition has an earlier entry closing date as opposed to the provincial opens).

1. If a player is unable to compete in a tournament (or complete all matches over a tournament weekend) due to illness/injury a doctors/physiotherapists certificate/letter must be submitted to Irish Squash in the week following the tournament.
2. The Selection Committee will also consider a player’s general behaviour on and off court, attendance at squad sessions, commitment to squash and adherence to whatever training programme is recommended by the Team and or the National Coach, at the discretion Junior Sub-Committee of Irish Squash and of the Selection Committee.
3. Once a player receives notification of selection, all monies must be paid by the required date, otherwise their selection will be revoked.
4. Players moving up from one age group to the next during the season will carry over 40% of the points gained at the younger age group.
5. Where players enter a tournament in an older age group the points thereby earned will also be credited to their actual age group. This only applies when playing compulsory events in the older age group and points are earned under the rules of that age group ( e.g. U19 category in Irish Junior Nationals carry no extra points).
6. The Selection Committee will have the final say in team selection matters.

**Selection Criteria for U19, 2014 – 2015**:

1. Players must be eligible to play for Ireland (see Bye law 7) and be under the relevant age on the final day of the relevant competition and be selected by the selection committee.

1. The Selection committee comprises three members: The Junior Administrator, the Team Coach, and the National Coach.
2. A wildcard rule is operational for all age categories to ensure that the strongest teams represent Ireland.
3. A panel of up to 12 players (8 boys and 4 girls) will be selected based on performances in the Irish Junior Nationals, Irish Open and the Irish Senior Nationals. Players from younger age categories may be selected added to this panel by use of wild card selection on the basis that their presence would strengthen the panel. Compulsory tournaments for players not eligible to play at U17’s : Irish Junior Open, Irish Junior Nationals and Irish Senior Nationals.

1. The Selection Committee will select the team from the members of the panel based on what it considers would be the strongest team.
2. The selection committee will also consider a player’s general behaviour on and off court, attendance at squad sessions and commitment to squash and adherence to whatever training programme is recommended by the Team and or the National Coach.
3. If a player is unable to compete in a tournament (or complete all matches over a tournament weekend) due to illness or injury a letter or certificate from the doctor/physiotherapist must be submitted to Irish Squash in the week following the tournament.
4. If a player is unable to compete in a compulsory tournament or attend compulsory squads and he or she can make a valid case for his/her absence due to oversees educational commitments, the selection committee, at its discretion, may allow the player a place on the panel.
5. Once a player receives notification of selection, all monies must be paid by the required date, otherwise their selection will be revoked.

1. Players moving up from one age group to the next during the season will carry over 40% of the points gained at the younger age group.
2. The Selection Committee will have the final say in team selection matters.

Note on Wildcard Selection:

The availability of a wildcard selection option to the selection committee is to ensure that the best Irish team always travels to international events.

It is envisaged that the wildcard selection option would only be used in exceptional   circumstances, where there are valid questions over a players fitness (physical or due to injury), commitment, attitude, etc..

Note on reserve players

It is Irish Squash policy to play the reserve player at least once at an international event where practicable.