



IRISH SQUASH

AFFILIATION POLICY

2023/24

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Preface

Irish Squash as the NGB for squash on the Island of Ireland has a responsibility to all affiliated clubs and individual members to ensure the game is administered and played in a safe and fit for purpose environment, an important part of that responsibility is our affiliation process. As part of the constitution of Irish Squash the four provincial associations of Ulster, Leinster, Munster, and Connacht are deemed to be affiliated to Irish Squash.

Irish Squash Affiliation Policy

In line with best practice and Sport Ireland guidelines it is the policy of Irish Squash that all clubs and individual members must be fully insured. This ensures that individual members have the required personal accident insurance in place during both club activities and all official Irish Squash competitions/training etc and that clubs are covered by an appropriate level of public liability insurance.

Irish Squash has a group personal accident and public liability insurance policy operated by AXA. This policy covers all-island and includes all affiliated clubs and all affiliated members players, coaches, referees, administrators, and any other volunteers participating in squash.

Benefits of Affiliation for NGB

- (i) As a source of income – which will support the development of our Sport through Irish Squash events and initiatives, such as participation programmes, Women In-Sport, coaching, tournaments, and training camps, etc.
- (ii) In support of the development of our sport and to support grant application – the level of Affiliates is a key factor for us as an NGB. Therefore, increased affiliations will result in higher Grant Allocations, which in turn will increase Irish Squash's resources to develop our game.
- (iii) As a source of information – the number and geographical location of our affiliate base provides Irish Squash with valuable information, which is a key ingredient in developing strategies and initiatives to promote and develop our sport throughout the country.
- (iv) As a means of increasing our visibility and facilitating communication to our local communities and thereby the promotion of our sport at local level.

Affiliations Costs

Both the club and their individual members will need to be affiliated to Irish Squash and it will be the responsibility of the club to register and administer the payment fees due to Irish Squash for their club and various category of individual membership. (i.e. competitive player, social player, junior etc).

The cost for club affiliation is €120 and the benefits the club receives are as follows:

1 Insurance. All affiliated clubs are covered under Irish Squash's Public Liability insurance Policy.

2 Single Platform. SportyHQ is a single platform IT infrastructure used by Irish Squash to help organise our sport, generate player ratings and rankings, run tournaments, and connect the squash community. Clubs will be expected to adopt SportyHQ free of charge as a direct benefit of affiliation to Irish Squash to help manage their membership fees, court booking system and run club events.

3 Funding - All affiliate clubs will have access to funding opportunities from Sport Ireland and other government sources which can only be applied for through the NGB

4 Referees and Regulations – All affiliate clubs will have access to a panel of properly trained Referees and Markers to ensure that the World Squash rules and regulations are adhered to. Referee courses are available to all members.

5 Coaching – All affiliate clubs will have access to WSF Qualified coaches and Coaching Ireland certified Coaching Courses for members, facilitated by our qualified Tutors.

6 Access to the Garda Vetting process (in ROI) and the Access NI (in NI) note Irish Squash has a dedicated Child Protection Officer. In addition all members will be supported with our Child Protection Policies which conform to the highest standards **7 Shape your Sport.** All affiliated clubs can contribute to the direction of squash in Ireland and share their experiences with best practice ideas.

The cost for the individual member categories are as follows:

<u>Category</u>	<u>Fee (Irl)</u>	<u>Fee (NI)</u>	<u>Definition</u>
Competitive player	€25	£20	Plays in provincial leagues or IS Tournament
Social player	€15	£10	Plays within the club only
Associate	€10	£10	A non-playing member
Junior	€5	£5	A player under 19 (social or competitive)
Student	€10	£10	A university student under 23
Overseas	€15	£10	Resident outside of Ireland but wishing to play in IS Tournament
Mini member	€0	€0	Determined by individual club policy
Trial member	€0	€0	Determined by individual club policy

The benefits the individual members receive are as follows:

1 Insurance. All affiliated members are covered under Irish Squash's Personal Accident Policy when engaging in any squash activities, including playing in non-affiliated facilities and when playing abroad.

2 Tournaments. All affiliate members are eligible to participate in all Irish Squash approved tournaments and events.

3 Opportunity to represent your Province/Country, only affiliate members are eligible for Provincial and National Team selection.

4 Training Camps. Affiliate members can attend Irish Squash Training Camps if they are selected by their respective National Coaches.

5 Development: All affiliate members can have access to WSF coaching and referee programmes.

6 Shape your Sport. All affiliated members can contribute to the direction of squash in Ireland.

The Affiliation Process.

Irish Squash expects that the Club collects the affiliation fee on behalf of Irish Squash.

The fee is derived from the number and type of members in the club as outlined in the various categories above and is collected annually in October for the next twelve-month period.

The Club submits the payment to Irish Squash. The submission process can be manual or Automated, if possible, through the single platform SportyHQ. The SportyHQ system will enable the club to submit its affiliation fees in an automated fashion (Bulk Upload), otherwise the club can manually submit the list of players using XL spreadsheet. If the club submits the file manually, the Irish Squash administrator will upload the players on the system. The affiliation payment must be done at the same time as the file submission.

The information to be provided by the club will be:

- Club Name
- Player Name (First and Second)
- Date of Birth
 - Gender (i) Male
 - (ii) Female
 - (iii) Other
 - (iv) rather not say
- Player email address
- Type of Irish Squash Membership

In a lesser number of cases Irish Squash or the Province will collect affiliation directly when a non-affiliated player presents at an Irish Squash sanctioned Tournament or Event.

All information will be subject to the operation of the Irish Squash Data Protection Policy.