



SuperChamps National Graded Club  
Championships  
2023 Rules



**Rules Covering the Following Events:**

- Graded Teams SuperChamps District Eliminations
- Graded Teams SuperChamps National Finals

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## 1. Competition Information

### 1.1.Purpose of event

The District SuperChamps events are played to identify the strongest club in the respective district for each grade.

The National SuperChamps events are played to identify the strongest club from each district for each grade.

### 1.2.Team composition

Teams are composed of five players of the same sex, from the same club, who are of the same or a lower grade (B, C, D, E and F/J).

At the District SuperChamps clubs in a single district play off to find the District Champion in each grade. The District Champion is then eligible to travel to the National SuperChamps finals to play off for the national title representing their club and their district.

## 2. Eligibility

### 2.1.Club Eligibility

Any Squash NZ Member Club can compete in the SuperChamps District and National competitions.

### 2.2.Player Eligibility

To represent a club all competing players (men and women) in any one team must fulfil the following criteria - homegrown player(s) permitted to teams as per the criteria below.

#### 2.2.1.Club Players:

- a) Be a full financial member of that club prior to the 2<sup>nd</sup> June 2023
- b) Be on that club's grading list on 2<sup>nd</sup> June (NB: this means any transfers need to be effected on 1<sup>st</sup> June or earlier – contact your District for deadlines); and
- c) Live in the same district as that club;
  - i) A player that lives in multiple districts concurrently, and therefore meets the eligibility criteria for multiple clubs, may decide which of these clubs he/she plays for. They must appear on the 2<sup>nd</sup> June Grading List for the club they wish to play for.
  - ii) NZ Players returning from overseas to take part in the competition must have been active club members for the club they wish to represent prior to departure overseas and must fulfil all other eligibility criteria i.e. full financial membership and appearing on clubs grading list.
- d) Play interclub for that club (or not play interclub for another club).
  - i) Where a woman entering SuperChamps plays men's interclub, her men's interclub allegiance will not be taken into consideration for eligibility and vice versa

#### 2.2.2.Homegrown Players

- a) To support clubs who invest significant time and resources into the development of juniors or other players; players may continue to play for the club they were a member of as a junior after moving away from that district for study/work opportunities.

- b) As soon as a player plays Superchamps for a different club, this rule will no longer apply to them. This rule may be waived where a player has not had the opportunity to play for their club due to a team not being entered from their club. Where a player competes for another club in the same year where their club has entered a team this will remove their ability to apply the homegrown player rule

### **2.2.3. Grading eligibility**

- a) Squash New Zealand will run a grading list as at 2<sup>nd</sup> June. Each district will be emailed their respective grading list for checking player eligibility and grading.
- b) To appear on the 2<sup>nd</sup> June grading list for a particular club, players will need to have been moved to that club **NO LATER THAN** 1<sup>st</sup> June.

N.B. District transfer deadlines take precedence over National Transfer deadlines.

- c) Any tournaments that are scheduled to not be fully completed until the 2<sup>nd</sup> June or later are not to have any results of matches played prior to the 2<sup>nd</sup> June inputted onto the grading list until the 2<sup>nd</sup> June or later.

Squash New Zealand reserves the right to alter grade eligibility and seedings should there be evidence of withholding or manipulating results. Squash NZ and/or the District reserve the right to request evidence of player eligibility if there is a suspicion of team 'stacking' contrary to Rule 2.2 Only results from club tournaments, district events or sanctioned club grading events will be considered for grading purposes. Where there is evidence of individual results being entered to manipulate the grading list those results will be deleted.

### **2.2.4.- Dispensations**

Squash New Zealand and the Districts reserve the right to apply dispensations to individual players in respect of rule 2.2.

Please note: In cases where club transfers are involved, approval from a player's home club must be obtained.

### **2.3 – Referee Exam**

- a) All players will be required to have passed the Club Referee qualification (available on the Squash New Zealand website). The qualification is valid for two seasons e.g. if you sat the test in 2021 the exam will have expired by 2023. Squash New Zealand will verify that all players in teams representing their district have gained this qualification. Any matches played at SuperChamps National Finals by players that have not passed this test by the Monday prior to the event i.e. **Monday 11<sup>th</sup> September** will count as 3/0 losses for their team, with grading points lost.
- b) It is the responsibility of the player to ensure this test is completed with enough time for results to be collated.

\*Districts are encouraged to impose the refereeing rule for their district SuperChamps.

## **3. Entries**

### **3.1. District SuperChamps Entries**

- a) Clubs must register their teams with their district for the SuperChamps District Eliminations by their district's publicized closing date.
- b) All teams must fulfil **ALL** requirements of Section 2 Eligibility.
- c) All teams can consist of up to seven players. 5 players will compete in each tie with 2 players stood down in each tie.

### 3.2.National SuperChamps Entries

- a) The winning team at each grade in the SuperChamps District Eliminations is entitled to enter the national finals so that each district is represented at each grade by their best club team.
- b) Winning Teams must confirm entry to national eliminations, to their District Administrator following the end of SuperChamps District Eliminations. All District Administrators will submit entry forms to Squash New Zealand by 28<sup>th</sup> July 2023. The host clubs will vary from year to year.
- c) If the Winning District Team in a grade is unable to enter, their place will be offered to the runner-up, and then the third placed team, and so on.

Additional teams may be invited to attend the event as per the Protocol for Inviting Additional Teams below.

All teams must:

- Submit entries by the closing date – No late entries will be accepted
- Have the appropriate entry fee accompanied with the official entry form
- Submit players in playing order as at the 2<sup>nd</sup> June Grading List when submitting entries– Team Playing Order Rules as per Section 4 must be adhered to

All teams can consist of up to seven players. 5 players will compete in each tie with 2 players stood down in each tie.

### 3.3.Protocol for Inviting Additional Teams

- a) Where all 11 districts enter teams to the National Finals Squash New Zealand will **NOT** invite any additional teams to the National Finals.
- b) Where all 10 districts enter teams to the National Finals Squash New Zealand will **NOT** invite any additional teams to the National Finals.
- c) Where 9 districts enter teams to the National Finals Squash New Zealand **may** invite 1 team to bring the number of participating teams to 10. The process for inviting teams is outlined below.
- d) Where 8 districts enter teams to the National Finals Squash New Zealand will **NOT** invite any additional teams to the National Finals.
- e) Where 7 or less districts enter teams to the National Finals Squash New Zealand **will** invite the appropriate number of teams to bring the number of participating teams to 8. The process for inviting teams is outlined below.

1. Process for invitation shall be as follows:

1. Host district runner up at that grade
2. Neighbouring districts runner up at that grade
3. Host district number three at that grade
4. Neighbouring districts number three at that grade
5. Host district number four.....and so on.

N.B. Squash New Zealand reserves the right to not invite teams should the host and neighbouring districts District SuperChamps events not provide enough teams to ensure the invitation process can be upheld.

Neighbouring districts are determined by the map below:



Invited Teams must return all information to complete the entry form to their District Administrator within 48 hours of the original invitation e-mail being sent. All District Administrators will submit entry forms to the host club and Squash New Zealand immediately upon its return from the invited club.

#### 4. Team Playing Order

##### 4.1. B-E Grade Team Playing Order

- a) The order shall be such that a player cannot play above another player graded higher (e.g. B2 cannot play above B1).
- b) Within each half grade players may be submitted in order of playing strength to a maximum of 100 points difference (e.g. an B2 with 1950 points may play above an B2 with 2000 points 50 points difference between the players, however they may not play ahead of someone with 2100 points as there is more than 100 points difference).

##### 4.2. F/J Grade Team Playing Order

- a) In the F/J Grade competition all players shall play in grading points order (from highest to lowest grading points).

##### 4.3. Team Playing Order Dates

- a) In determining the Playing Order for SuperChamps District Eliminations all gradings shall be taken from the Date set by the district, please refer to your district for the set date.
- b) In determining the Playing Order for SuperChamps National Finals all gradings shall be taken from the 18<sup>th</sup> August 2023 grading list.
  - a. Teams may be required to change their playing order to satisfy rule 4.1 and rule 4.2 following the 18<sup>th</sup> August 2023 grading list.
  - b. Any grading changes that occur after the 18<sup>th</sup> August grading list will not be considered for final team orders.
- c) Teams can alter their team or playing order **ONCE** to reflect current form, after the 18<sup>th</sup> August grading list has been published. All team playing order alterations must be received

by 25<sup>th</sup> August 2023.

**NB: Squash NZ reserves the right to alter playing order and seedings should there be evidence of withholding results.**

- a) All players are required to play in the order the team is submitted and there shall be no change to the team playing order between ties.
- b) All team orders shall be circulated to all other team managers (by email) by the 1<sup>st</sup> September.
- c) Prior to the Managers' meeting, the Tournament Director will make a final check of the team compositions from the 18<sup>th</sup> August grading list. Final ratification of all teams and playing orders will take place at the Managers' meeting.
- d) The team orders confirmed by the Tournament Director shall apply for all rounds of the competition.

## 5. Replacing Players – Prior to the Event

### 5.1. Substituting Players

- a) All teams are able to substitute players in or out of their team when submitting their final team playing order prior to 25<sup>th</sup> August 2023.
  - b) Any teams needing to substitute players in or out of their team after 25<sup>th</sup> August 2023 shall make application in writing (by email) to the Tournament Director no later than 5.00pm on Friday preceding the competition (8<sup>th</sup> September 2023).
  - c) The Tournament Director will make all decisions on team substitutions and communicate these within 48 hours of the request being made. The Tournament Director will make the final call on where the introduced player(s) appear in the team playing order – this will be based on grading points. Any substitutions will result in a reseeding of the draws.
  - d) A player who has been substituted out of the team cannot be substituted back in at a later stage.

**N.B. All player substitutions must meet the eligibility rules as per Section 2.**

Any teams requesting substitutions to their team after the Friday preceding the competition must receive unanimous agreement from all managers.

## 5.2.Replacement Players

a) Any changes to team composition occurring after 18<sup>th</sup> August that are NOT substitutions (i.e. the player does not meet the eligibility criteria as per section 2) may only occur with the unanimous permission of the other teams in the competition.

## 6. Event Logistics

### 6.1.Event Format

a) The SuperChamps National and District Finals will be played on a pool basis, depending on the number of entries.

#### Eleven Districts Entered

Should all districts enter, the SuperChamps National Finals will be played on a pool basis as follows:

Pool A            1 4 5 8 9  
Pool B            2 3 6 7 10 11

#### Ten Districts Entered

Should ten districts enter, the SuperChamps National Finals will be played on a pool basis as follows:

Pool A            1 4 5 8 9  
Pool B            2 3 6 7 10

#### Nine Districts Entered

If nine districts enter the SuperChamps National Finals, Squash New Zealand may invite one more team to bring the number of participating teams to ten (as per rule 3.3 **Protocol for Inviting Additional Teams**), and run in the format outlined above. Should this not be possible the event shall be run with nine teams as per the following format:

Pool A            1 4 5 8  
Pool B            2 3 6 7 9

After the completion of pool play, there will be one round of play-offs to determine final placings.

#### Eight districts Entered

If eight districts enter the SuperChamps National Finals for any one grade, Squash New Zealand will not invite two more teams (as per rule 3.3 **Protocol for Inviting Additional Teams**).

The SuperChamps National Finals will be played on a pool basis as follows:

Pool A            1 4 5 8  
Pool B            2 3 6 7

This pool play should be completed by the end of Thursday.

On Friday, the second round of play will be played as follows:

Winner of Pool A v Runner up of Pool B - **Match A**  
Winner of Pool B v Runner up of Pool A - **Match B**



Third place of Pool A v Fourth place of Pool B - **Match C**

Third place of Pool B v Fourth place of Pool A - **Match D**

The finals day (Saturday) playoff will be determined as follows:

1st & 2nd Place

Winner of Match A v Winner of Match B

3rd & 4th Place

Loser of Match A v Loser of Match B

5th & 6th Place

Winner of Match C v Winner of Match D

7th & 8th Place

Loser of Match C v Loser of Match D

#### Seven Districts Entered

Where four districts are unrepresented at the SuperChamps National Finals for any one grade, Squash New Zealand will invite additional teams (as per rule 3.3 **Protocol for Inviting Additional Teams**) and the event will be run with either eight or ten teams. If further teams cannot be invited, the SuperChamps National Finals will be played on a pool basis as follows:

Pool A            1 4 5

Pool B            2 3 6 7

This pool play should be completed by the end of Thursday.

On Friday, the second round of play will be played as follows:

Winner of Pool A v Runner up of Pool B - **Match A**

Winner of Pool B v Runner up of Pool A - **Match B**

Third place getter of Pool A, third place getter of Pool B and fourth place getter of Pool A form a pool and play each other to determine minor placings.

The finals day (Saturday) playoff will be determined as follows:

1st & 2nd Place

Winner of Match A v Winner of Match B

3rd & 4th Place

Loser of Match A v Loser of Match B

5th, 6th & 7th Place

Final pool play matches played to determine placings.

#### Six or Fewer Districts Entered

Where fewer than seven teams enter the SuperChamps National Finals, Squash New Zealand will invite additional teams (as per rule 3.3 **Protocol for Inviting Additional Teams**). Where final entry numbers are six or lower, a single pool round-robin format will be used.

## 6.2.Event Seeding

- a) The SuperChamps District Eliminations will be seeded by each District, according to the sum of the top 5 points of players in a team e.g. if the 6th listed player has more points than the 5th listed player their points will contribute to the sum of the teams points and the teams seeding, taken from the Districts set date.
- b) The SuperChamps National Finals will be seeded by the host club Tournament Director according to the sum of the top 5 points of players in a team e.g. if the 6th listed player has more points than the 5th listed player their points will contribute to the sum of the teams points and the teams seeding, from 18<sup>th</sup> August grading list.

## 6.3.Disputes Committee

- a) The Disputes Committee shall consist of the Tournament Director, and two other suitable people. The Disputes Committee shall rule on any protests made by teams/players about the SuperChamps National Club Graded Championship Rules. Their decision will be final.
- b) In the case where a decision cannot be reached by the Disputes Committee Squash New Zealand will rule on the case and all decisions from Squash New Zealand will be final with no discussion being entered into.

## 6.4.Team Protests

- a) Any protests (such as those relating to player eligibility and team eligibility) must be submitted to the Tournament Director by 5.00pm on the Wednesday prior to competition starting (6<sup>th</sup> September 2023). The Disputes committee in conjunction with Squash New Zealand will rule on any protest. All decisions will be final with no discussion being entered into.

## 6.5.Managers' Meeting

- a) A Managers' Meeting must be held at least one hour prior to the commencement of the first round of play. This meeting may be used as a forum to make alterations to playing orders/ personnel if proposed changes receive unanimous approval from ALL managers. If there is any opposition to proposed changes, they may not occur.
- b) Any managers not attending the managers meeting forfeit all rights to protest any changes. The Tournament Director will chair the meeting.

## 6.6.Daily Order of Match Play

- a) The daily order of match play shall be drawn by lots, except that the match between each team's number one shall be the third match in each contest.
- b) A separate order of play shall be made for each day's play.
- c) The order of play for the first day will be made by the host club's Tournament Director prior to the start of the competition and will be notified to participating teams on or before Monday prior to the start of the competition. The order of play for subsequent days will be drawn at the managers' meeting prior to commencement of the competition.

#### 6.7.Submission of Teams

- a) The teams in playing order for the first round must be handed to the Tournament Director at least one hour prior to the start of play. You may telephone or e-mail the Tournament Director with your playing order if you are unable to meet this deadline.
- b) Teams in playing order for each subsequent round must be handed to the Tournament Director within half an hour of the finish of play in the preceding round. This applies also to teams that have a bye in any round of the competition
- c) The Tournament Director will display the appropriate team playing orders as soon as all teams have been submitted.

#### 6.8.Replacement Players – Prior to start of tie

- a) At any time after the submission of teams and prior to commencement of play in any one tie of the competition, a player may be replaced by another nominated team member at the discretion of the Disputes Committee.
- b) Replacements will only be granted in the case of illness or injury (medical report or other such evidence required), or urgent personal business, that prevents the player from taking part in the tie after having been named in the team after the previous round. The Disputes Committee will have the final say on whether the illness/injury/personal business justifies a replacement being permitted.
- c) Replacements may only be from other nominated team members or reserves. The team playing order may need to be resubmitted to satisfy section 4.
- d) When a team has to default a match within any one tie of the competition, and is unable to field a replacement player, the default will apply to the No. 5 position with all other players moving up to play the matches from 1 to 4.
- e) Replacements from outside of the nominated team members may only be permitted by the Disputes Committee where, due to injury or urgent personal business, a team has less than five players able to play for any particular round. The replacement player(s) must be no higher on the grading list than the original player(s). Matches played by replacements from outside of the nominated team members will count as automatic losses for the team, although may count for personal grading points if both players agree.

#### 6.9.Replacement Players – After commencement of tie

- a) After the commencement of any one tie of the competition, replacements for that tie are not permitted.
- b) If the tie has already commenced and players cannot move up to play the matches from 1 to 4, the default will apply to the position the defaulted player was named in 6.7, with all players remaining in their named positions. This match counts as an automatic loss of points for the player defaulted and a 3/0 loss for the defaulting player.

#### 6.10. Scoring

- a) For grades C and below each individual match (both in District Eliminations and National Finals) shall be the best of five games with PAR to 15 (must win by 2).
- b) For B Grade each individual match (both in District Eliminations and National Finals) shall be the best of five games with PAR to 11 (must win by 2).

#### 6.11. Tie Rules

- a) Players must be on court ready to warm up no more than ten minutes following the conclusion of the previous match, or the anointed start time of the tie. Failure to do this will result in the match being defaulted if a complaint is made to the Disputes Committee by the opposing team.
- b) In pool play, each team will play the other teams in their pool once with each tie consisting of five matches - with team members playing their correspondingly ranked member of the opposing team once.
- c) All matches in pool play must be played.
- d) The final playoff round shall consist of the top placed team in each pool playing one another, the second placed teams playing one another etc. In the case where an outright winner is found before all matches have been completed teams can opt to not complete the remaining matches. Matches will only be played where there is agreement from both players.

#### 6.12. Winning Ties/Countbacks

Each tie shall consist of five matches and the team winning the most matches shall win the tie.

When teams play one another in a Pool, the final order of merit in that Pool is decided based on all results in that Pool, as follows:

- a) First by greater number of Ties won;
- b) If two teams have won the same number of ties then by the result between those two teams.
- c) If three or more teams have won the same number of Ties, then teams will be ordered based upon the number of matches won in the ties between those three teams only;
- d) If two teams are still equal i.e. have won the same number of ties and matches, then by the result between those two teams.
- e) If three or more teams still equal i.e. have won the same number of ties and matches, then by greater positive difference between games won and lost in ties between those three teams;
- f) If two teams are still equal after positive difference between games won, then by the result between those two teams.
- g) If three or more teams are still equal, then by greater positive difference between points won and lost in ties between those three teams;
- h) If two teams are still equal, then by the result between those two teams.
- i) If more than two teams are still equal, then by random drawing of places.

### 6.13.Results

- a) The host club Tournament Director is required to display the full match scores throughout the event and to forward these to the Squash NZ national office at the end of each day. The “Teams Result Sheets” provided should be used.
- b) These results will be communicated to the media and copies of the full results will be available for participants from the Squash NZ national office immediately after the end of the event.
- c) The host club is required to enter the results into the iSquash Grading List within five days of the event’s conclusion.

## 7. Timeline

- 1<sup>st</sup> June 2023 all club transfers completed – Check with District for local transfer deadlines
- 2<sup>nd</sup> June 2023 Grading Lists run by SNZ and uploaded to SNZ website to determine player eligibility
- District SuperChamps Team Playing Order date set by districts
- Teams entered to district SuperChamps events by District Entry Dates for Team Registration
- District SuperChamps Eliminations
- Winning Teams must confirm entry to national eliminations, to their District Administrator following the end of SuperChamps District Eliminations
- 11<sup>th</sup> August 2023 (at the latest) Districts submit all entry forms to the host club and Squash New Zealand
- Runner-up and neighbouring district teams invited to National Finals
- 18<sup>th</sup> August 2023 Grading Lists run by SNZ and uploaded to SNZ website to determine National SuperChamps Team Playing Order
- 25<sup>th</sup> August 2023 – Team playing orders and changes to team compositions as per the 18<sup>th</sup> August grading list submitted to host club
- 1<sup>st</sup> September 2023 – All team playing orders circulated to team managers
- 5.00pm 6<sup>th</sup> September 2023 All team protests are lodged to tournament director
- 5.00pm 8<sup>th</sup> September 2023 – All player substitutions submitted to Tournament Director in writing (e-mail) with notifications to teams of substitutions made within 48hours of the request
- 8<sup>th</sup> September 2023 – outcome of any protests communicated to team managers
- 11<sup>th</sup> September 2023
  - All club referees exams completed by players
  - Daily order of match play for first day notified to teams
- 13<sup>th</sup> – 17<sup>th</sup> September 2023 – National SuperChamps Finals.
  - B grade national finals in Otago
  - C grade national finals in Midlands
  - D grade national finals in Eastern
  - E grade national finals in Auckland
  - F/J grade national finals in Central

## 8. Trophies

Trophies for the SuperChamps District Eliminations will be awarded by the district associations.

Squash New Zealand will provide pennants and trophies for the following places for the

SuperChamps National Finals:

Graded Teams Finals winning team B grade men  
Graded Teams Finals winning team B grade women  
Graded Teams Finals winning team C grade men  
Graded Teams Finals winning team C grade women  
Graded Teams Finals winning team D grade men  
Graded Teams Finals winning team D grade women  
Teams Finals winning team E grade men  
Graded Teams Finals winning team E grade women  
Graded Teams Finals winning team F/J grade men  
Graded Teams Finals winning team F/J grade women

Davis Trophy  
Bouchier Cup  
Royal Oak Shield  
Hawkes Bay Shield  
Tawa Cup  
Tawa Cup Graded  
Southern Cup  
Bay of Plenty Cup  
Cashmere Club Cup  
Lancaster Park Cup