



WORLD SQUASH UPDATE

Issue 80

May/June 2019

FOR ALL WSF REGIONAL & NATIONAL FEDERATIONS

cc: WSF Regional Presidents, WSF Commission Members, Stakeholders, PSA members, SPINs, Media, Accredited Products and Companies

FROM: WSF EXECUTIVE BOARD

TO: WSF REGIONS AND NATIONS

WSF STRATEGIC PLANNING & STAFF UPDATE *(Circulated on 25 April)*

Colleagues will have read this in the April Briefing circulated to Regions and Nations:

The timing of the end of the Olympic bid and Andrew Shelley's leaving will be used for (i) a full scale 'deep dive' Strategic Review involving all stakeholders to determine future WSF priorities, and (in tandem) (ii) development of key criteria and a global process to identify and recruit a Chief Executive Officer.

The Board reviewed the decision of Andrew Shelley to step down and decided that to deal with this in the following manner:

- 1. Because of the importance of making the right appointment and while also determining the strategy, and structure of WSF this process would not be rushed.*
- 2. It was noted and welcomed that Andrew Shelley would be willing to offer office support after his finishing date (30 June), subject to discussion and agreement.*
- 3. President Jacques Fontaine along with Board members Peter Lasusa and Huang Ying How will lead the development of the framework for our in depth strategic plan in tandem with the search for our new CEO.*

During this process the WSF office will be set-up to conduct 'business as usual' over the coming months.

The Board wants to confirm that given our strong relationship with the Professional Squash Association, both for the Paris 2024 Olympic bid and generally via our MOU, both bodies agree that the bid outcome sends a very clear message that we must focus solely on strategies that will help ensure that the sport flourishes, rather than what we think will please the IOC. There will be sport-wide efforts to promote and grow squash globally that might place us closer to Olympic Games acceptance but this will not define us going forward.

The 'deep dive' Strategic Planning will reflect these intentions in terms of re-calibrating priorities in our own plan, and also the joint strategic planning that we will undertake with the PSA.

This planning will not be done as an internal project as the WSF Board regard it as essential that Region & Nation input is deeply embraced, and accordingly, representatives of a cross section of Member Nations will be on the intended strategic planning committee and it will be led by an experienced strategic planning facilitator. A good deal of our time at the up-coming Annual General Meeting in Cape Town, South Africa in November will be devoted to this essential process.

We will be updating the member nations routinely on these important developments for our sport. Thank you for your cooperation and support.

Jacques FONTAINE,
President, World Squash Federation

WSF BOARD & EXCO MEET IN LISBON

In April, alongside the European Team Championship Division 3 in Lisbon, the WSF Board and the WSF Executive Committee (Board + Regional Presidents + PSA) met. Key outcomes for information were:

* **Led by** President Jacques Fontaine the Executive Committee reviewed the outcome of the bid to secure a place on the programme of the Paris 2024 Olympic Games. The use of entirely different criteria that had been published to justify the addition of break-dancing had already led to formal protests to both the Paris Organising Committee and the IOC. While a meeting with the IOC Director of Sport was eventually offered, at the time of the meeting he had not provided a slot.

The late bringing forward of the announcement was also unhelpful as we fund-raised to cover the costs, leaving us and bid partners PSA with a substantial deficit to cover.

However, all felt the quality and strength of the bid was excellent – it was only the movement of the IOC away from genuine sports and into youth activities that caused the failure.

In light of this, the general intention is to focus initiatives and activities solely on the benefit they bring to the sport, rather than trying to positively influence the IOC.

When the opportunity to be considered for Los Angeles 2028 comes around a view will be taken on the approach, cost and amount of effort to be expended upon it.

* **The Board** reviewed the decision of Andrew Shelley to step down (see next page) and decided to deal with this in the following manner:

- Because of the importance of making the right appointment and first determining the strategy and structure of WSF this process would not be rushed.

- It was noted and welcomed that Andrew Shelley would be willing to offer office support after his finishing date (30 June), subject to discussion and agreement.

- President Jacques Fontaine and Board members Peter Lasusa and Huang Ying How will lead the development of plans.

During this process the WSF office will operate as normal.

- The timing of the end of the Olympic bid and Andrew Shelley's leaving will be used for a full scale 'deep dive'

Strategic Review, relationships and priorities for WSF as mentioned above.

* **WSF Commission** reports were reviewed as were update reports on the development of WSO (World Squash Officiating) and Club Locker Transition, amongst other topics.

* **The Executive Committee** were updated on progress being made towards recommendations from the Voting Review Group following their survey of National Federations. A report will be received by the Board in time for an AGM motion to alter the procedure, if thought appropriate.



For promotion and ranking points

These events form part of the WSF and PSA Satellite Tours.

*~ WSF World and WSF Regional Junior Championships
~ National Senior & Junior Championships
~ National Junior Opens
~ Satellite Tournaments*

General details and event registration [here](#)
World Junior ranking lists can be seen [here](#)



ANDREW SHELLEY STEPS DOWN

After nine years in the role of WSF Chief Executive, Andrew Shelley confirmed his desire to step down to the WSF Board in March, finishing in his role at the end of June.

As can be seen from the Board meeting notes on page two, the Board have plans to deal with this; and as Andrew has said that he is happy to support the WSF office during the transition period, it was emphasised that it will be business as usual for the WSF administration.

An extract

Here is how he explained his reasons and his plans in an extract from his letter:

The Olympic bid is over – sadly, far earlier than we had hoped – and the challenges facing us need strong impetus as we consider our future relationships and strategy.

With this in mind I have decided that it is the right time for both WSF and myself for me to step down as CEO.

I saw the Olympic bid through as promised but if I stay a little longer I will only be hanging around and hanging on.

Instead, I should be letting a fresh CEO make a start.

It is definitely in our best interests not to delay.



For myself, I set off with the intention of working in squash for a couple of years before getting a 'proper' job. Instead of that brief period I have spent 43 years on the front line of our sport, and it is the right moment for me to step down from a central role,

but step back a little too.

I have been incredibly fortunate in having three jobs in the 43 years that I have been passionate about – in a sport that I love too.

I have been supported by the stellar talents of Lorraine and Jazz (and before them Heather Hills at WISPA), who have masked so many of my failings and enabled me to muddle through. It is time to release Lorraine and Jazz from their burden!

My intention is to carry on working if an opportunity arises, and ideally in squash. Also to have time to fulfil my vision of a Squash Archive so that squash's books, programmes, handbooks, magazines and films are collected together and available in perpetuity. (The

next natural stage is a squash museum, but one thing at a time!)).

To conclude, I would like to thank you Jacques, and the Board members too for all your friendship and support.


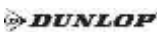









While I first joined a WSF committee in 1985, and acted as TD for World Championships from the institution of the role in 1990 until I started on the staff in 2010, actually working full time for WSF has been a great chapter of my life.

WSF APPROVED BALLS

Dunlop provide the WSF Adopted Ball, which is used for all WSF World and Regional Championships.

A number of manufacturers make balls that have been tested to conform to the WSF Squash Ball Specifications and so are quality assured.

They are all listed here:

	Artengo SB 990 Squash Ball
	Dunlop XX Yellow Dot Championship Ball
	Eye Squash Ball
	HEAD Sport AG Yellow Dot Ball
	Huashen Double & Single Yellow Dot Balls
	Karakal Squash Ball
	MR Price Sport Maxed Squash Ball
	Prince Rebel Pro Ball
	Taiball Yellow Dot Ball
	Tecnifibre Squash Ball
	Victor/VICTEC Doppel-Gelb Squash Ball

NZ TO HOST THE WSF MEN'S TEAMS

World team squash returns to the North Island city of Tauranga after just four years as New Zealand hosts the WSF Men's World Team Championship 2021.



It was in 2017 that the fifth largest city in New Zealand staged the Women's World Junior Team Championship - and now the Devoy Squash & Fitness Centre (pictured below during the 2017 championships) will welcome the world's leading men for the Men's World Team Championship, 38 years after the biennial WSF championship was last held in New Zealand, in Auckland, in 1983.



Subject to final confirmation, the event will take place from 13-19 December 2021.

Wayne Werder, the Chair of the Organising Committee, commented: "I have fond memories of playing for NZ in this event and have always viewed it as an important part of the international squash calendar. We are delighted to see this event back in New Zealand and for Tauranga to be named as the host of the 2021 World Championship."

"The World Junior Championships in 2017 was very well received and showed Tauranga's ability to deliver world events - we look forward to delivering another world class event in 2021."

WSF CEO Andrew Shelley added: "Our World Team Championships are flagship events attracting a great array of national teams, and as soon as they read this announcement the men will be looking forward to a great Kiwi experience in 2021! New Zealand has proved itself as a great host nation and the combination of great facilities, top notch management and hospitality will add to it in two years' time."

WSF ACCREDITATION

WSF Accredited Products available from these companies mean assured standards when building or renovating squash courts.

Contact details on the [WSF website](https://www.worldsquashfederation.com/)

WOMEN'S WORLDS AT THE PYRAMIDS

The 2019-2020 PSA Women's World Championship, will take place in front of the Great Pyramid of Giza, the only remaining ancient wonder of the world, after an agreement was reached between PSA, Egyptian events company I-Events and title sponsors CIB.

Due to take place from October 23 - November 1, 2019, the tournament will bring 64 of the best female squash players in the world together to compete for the sport's biggest prize - and a share of a \$325,000 prize fund - with the spectacular pyramids set to provide a stunning backdrop for the first time since the Al Ahram Open was staged there in 2016.

The 2019-2020 event will also see the World Championship return to the Pyramids at Giza for the first time since 2006 - when Australian David Palmer defied the odds to defeat Gregory Gaultier and win one of the greatest ever men's finals.

Pyramid selling!

The Great Pyramid of Giza is only one example of the spectacular locations that squash has helped enhance in a dynamic way over the past years. A glass court has been erected at incredible locations such as New York's Grand Central Terminal, on top of the Peninsula Shanghai, which overlooks the city's famous Bund, and the Théâtre Graslin in the French city of Nantes, among many others around the world.



"We are thrilled to announce that the 2019-2020 PSA Women's World Championship will take place in Egypt and are very excited to be bringing the sport back to one of its most iconic and breathtaking locations," said PSA Chief Executive Alex Gough.

The 2019-2020 PSA Women's World Championship will take place between October 23 - November 1, 2019 with a men's PSA Platinum event due to be staged simultaneously. The PSA Men's World Championship will take place in Doha, Qatar between November 7-15.



WSF has integrated World, Regional and National Masters events into a **WSF World Masters Tour (WMT)**, being in five year age bands from 35+ to 80+, to create an exciting unified structure for Masters Players.

The published calendar with event contact listings will enable players to plan their competing from information all in one place. This has now begun and can be seen [here](#).

After reviewing movement of players between regions, if viable an accompanying WSF World Masters Rankings can be developed.

The components are:

Tier 1. *WSF World Masters Championships.*

Tier 2. *Regional Open Championships.* (It is hoped that each Region will run a Regional Masters Open annually or biennially)

Tier 3. *Regional Closed and National Open Masters Championships.*

Events may be registered [here](#)

Current WSF Accredited Companies are



PHOTOGRAPHS: Many supplied with thanks to SquashSite.co.uk and squashpics.com

DAVID JOINS WSF KENYA AMBASSADORS

Shortly after bringing her illustrious professional squash career to a close, the sport's ultimate ambassador Nicol David will join fellow players Camille Serme and Borja Golan for the 2019 WSF Ambassador Programme visit to Kenya, where the latest World Squash Federation initiative will be hosted by the Kenyan Squash community in the country's capital Nairobi.

Launched in 2011, the WSF international promotional initiative takes leading squash players, together with an international coach and referee, into younger squash nations to help raise the sport's profile - through clinics, exhibition matches, refereeing and coaching seminars, and media presentations.



Nicol David & Borja Golan pictured with the Mayor of Zagreb Milan Bandić during the 2015 visit to Croatia

The team

Joining Malaysia's former world No.1 David, France's world No.4 Serme and Spaniard Golan, a former world No.5, will be Belgian national coach Ronny Vlassaks and international referee Marko Podgorsek, from Slovenia. The 2019 campaign will take place from 27-30 June.



Camille Serme with several youngsters at Grand Sport in the Armenia capital Yerevan during the 2018 visit.

David is a tireless squash campaigner and ambassador. The 35-year-old record eight-time world champion played significant roles in all of the sport's Olympic bids since 2005; was the leading light in several Women's Tour Promotional visits to raise the profile of the sport in all corners of the globe in the 11 years preceding the WSF Programme; and

participated in four of the 'Ambassadors' initiatives from 2011 to 2015.

The hosts

"We are all excited as this is truly the biggest event yet for our sport," said national representative Gakuo Ndirangu. "The timing is perfect: Squash is now really on the up and with all the squash clubs taking up a greater initiative in the promotion of the game at all levels and having great players, coach and referee here in June will stimulate this even more. Events will be hosted by Parklands Sports Club and the Nairobi Club, with all others joining in too."



Parklands Sports Club, one of the event hosts

WSF CEO Andrew Shelley added: "As always, we are immensely grateful to Camille and Borja for taking time away from the busy international tour schedule to lead this vital promotional visit – and are thrilled that Nicol will be able to be with us again too and delight Kenyans with both her charm and her skills.

"We look forward to meeting and interacting with the Kenyan squash community and help the national federation boost the sport's profile."

The history

The WSF Ambassador Programme first visited the Baltic country of Latvia in 2011, followed by a trip to the African countries of Malawi and Namibia, then Panama and Venezuela in 2013, Papua New Guinea in 2014, before focussing on the Balkan region in 2015 with appearances in Serbia, Romania and Croatia. In 2016, the team visited Dalian and Macau in China. After the 2017 edition was postponed, the WSF team headed to Armenia and Ukraine in 2018.

WSF EYEWEAR POSTER

In order to minimise the small danger of eye injury to youngsters WSF makes the wearing of suitable protective eyewear mandatory for juniors, as well as encouraging players of all ages to consider doing so. To help promote awareness of eye protection still further we have a scalable poster that can be downloaded by centres and placed on court doors, notice boards or in changing rooms.

It can be found [here](#)

PARA-SQUASH CLUB AT GOLD COAST

The National Squash Centre on the Gold Coast has held a successful "come and try" wheelchair squash day - the first of many planned for the centre.



As this was the first para-squash trial on the Commonwealth Games legacy courts, we experimented with the types of racquets and balls used. The players found that normal length racquets were best for reach, but opted for a racquetball style ball with higher bounce. They also adapted to allow two bounces per rally similar to wheelchair tennis.

The feedback was great and there will be more trials held as the Carrara-based centre looks to establish a Para-Squash club and a Wheelchair Squash League.

AND IN TEHRAN



In cooperation with the Tehran City government, festivals for disabled sport have been run, and at them there has been featured a glass mini-squash court and single front walls, reports Masoud Ghareh Ziadeddini, of the Iranian Squash Federation. He also reported great feedback for the initiative.









NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT RESOURCES

The WSF Development Commission have collected details of several national development programmes as a resource for all member nations. They are on our website [here](#).

More programme details are welcome

WSF CERTIFIED EYEWEAR BRANDS 2019

The following brands have passed national safety standards and, having applied for WSF Certified listing, are the only brands permitted for use in WSF, Regional and many national junior events.

BRAND NAME	APPROVED MODEL
	Artengo SPG 100 Size S Artengo SPG 100 Size L
	Dunlop I-ARMOR (R-07) Dunlop Junior (9903 Jr) Dunlop Vision (R-16)
	Grays GT Eyewear
	Shield Pro R16 Covet R615 Radar R43 Radar Jr R717JR
	i-Mask
	2500 (9903Jnr) Pro 3000 (R43) Overspec (KA642)p
	Mantis Protective Eyewear
	Rage (9903V) Rage Junior (9903JR) Prolite (RB10C) Speed (R601) Attitude (PRO2) Shark (R43) Marvel (SE-7)
	Rage (9903V) Rage Junior (9903JR) Prolite (RB10C) Speed (R601) Attitude (PRO2)
	Split Vision Type II
	R615

IMPORTANT READING FOR COACHES AND ADMINISTRATORS

Please go to the World Squash website to read information about player protection. Titled *Safeguarding Athletes from Harassment & Abuse in Sport*. It can be found [here](#)

PSA MAY RANKINGS



SOBHY BREAKS BACK INTO TOP 10



United States No.1 Amanda Sobhy has risen four places to sit at World No.8 after the PSA Women's World Rankings for May were released.

Sobhy, the 25-year-old Harvard-graduate from Boston, last week reached her first PSA World Tour Platinum semi-final since rupturing her achilles in March 2017, with a run

to the last four of the El Gouna International Squash Open.

Sobhy, who beat World No.3 Nour El Tayeb and World No.10 Laura Massaro en route to the semis, has returned to the top 10 after a two-month absence.

Meanwhile, El Gouna International champion Raneem El Welily remains at World No.1 for a sixth successive month ahead of World No.2 Nour El Sherbini. El Tayeb stays at No.3 ahead of France's Camille Serme, who has cut the gap on the Egyptian to just 20 points. New Zealand's Joelle King rounds off the top five.

England's Sarah-Jane Perry stays at No.6 ahead of El Gouna runner-up Nouran Gohar. Wales' Tesni Evans drops to No.9, while England's Massaro drops two spots to No.10, her lowest ranking since May 2008.

PSA Women's Rankings – May 2019

1	Raneem El Welily	EGY
2	Nour El Sherbini	EGY
3	Nour El Tayeb	EGY
4	Camille Serme	FRA
5	Joelle King	NZL
6	Sarah-Jane Perry	ENG
7	Nouran Gohar	EGY
8	Amanda Sobhy	USA
9	Tesni Evans	WAL
10	Laura Massaro	ENG
11	Annie Au	HKG
12	Alison Waters	ENG
13	Victoria Lust	ENG
14	Salma Hany	EGY
15	Joshna Chinappa	IND
16	Yathreb Adel	EGY
17	Hania El Hammany	EGY
18	Nicol David	MAS
19	Joey Chan	HKG
20	Olivia Blatchford Clyne	USA

DESSOUKY RETURNS TO TOP 20



A semi-final finish at last week's El Gouna International Squash Open has seen Egypt's Fares Dessouky rise 24 places to World No.18 after the PSA Men's World Rankings for May. Dessouky, a former World No.8, had been ranked outside of the top 20 for 12 months as he recovered from a torn ACL

sustained in 2017.

The 24-year-old was in fine form in El Gouna as he beat the likes of World No.2 Mohamed ElShorbagy and World No.7 Miguel Rodriguez en route to the semi-finals as he reached the last four of a PSA Platinum tournament for the first time in two years.

Eventual El Gouna International winner Ali Farag tops the men's rankings for a third successive month ahead of ElShorbagy, while Tarek Momen ensures that it's an all-Egyptian top three for a fourth month in a row. El Gouna finalist Karim Abdel Gawad moves up two places to No.4, while Germany's Simon Rösner completes the top five.

New Zealand's Paul Coll drops a place to No.6, with Colombia's Rodriguez staying at No.7. Peru's Diego Elias rises to a career-high No.8 ranking after winning the Macau Open in April. He swaps places with Egypt's Mohamed Abouelghar, while India's Saurav Ghosal stays at No.10.

PSA Men's Rankings – May 2019

1	Ali Farag	EGY
2	Mohamed ElShorbagy	EGY
3	Tarek Momen	EGY
4	Karim Abdel Gawad	EGY
5	Simon Rösner	GER
6	Paul Coll	NZL
7	Miguel Angel Rodriguez	COL
8	Diego Elias	PER
9	Mohamed Abouelghar	EGY
10	Saurav Ghosal	IND
11	Omar Mosaad	EGY
12	Joel Makin	WAL
13	Raphael Kandra	GER
14	Zahed Salem	EGY
15	Declan James	ENG
16	Gregoire Marche	FRA
17	James Willstrop	ENG
18	Fares Dessouky	EGY
19	Ryan Cuskelly	AUS
20	Daryl Selby	ENG

SQUASH

PLAYER HANDOUT

**WORLD
SQUASH**

OFFICIAL
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WSF

WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS SPECIAL

Squash Player's special issue on the PSA World Championships, the first \$1million event in the sport

WORLD FEATURES

Social heart of Worlds; World-class sibling rivals; Chicago is squash's kind of town; Thanks a million

ON TOP OF THE WORLD

Egyptian star Ali Farag reveals his path to the top of the game

ANOTHER OLYMPIC FIASCO

Rod Gilmour argues that the IOC has been disloyal to squash

MORE FEATURES

University carries British Open torch; Hong Kong issues challenge to clubs; Aitken brews up rankings climb; Todd's club initiative; Zug goes to college



NEWS

Squash contemplates Olympic legal action; David's Open swansong; PSA bans iPhones

EDITORIAL: Time for another approach

OBITUARY: Sir Nigel Broomfield

OFF COURT

Competition winners; Prince's new racket range; Prince steps in at British U23 Open

WSF

Chief executive Andrew Shelley says squash must ignore the sport's latest Olympic snub

WORKSHOP

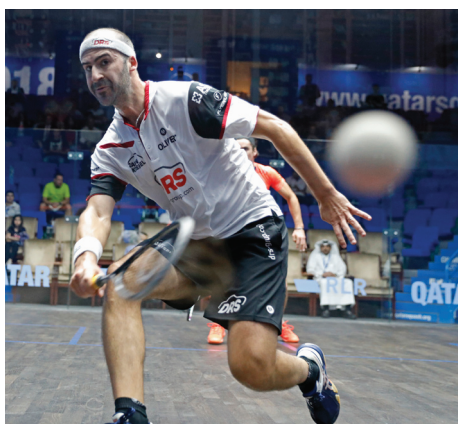
NEWS: Coaching programme renamed; SquashSkills goes German; Easter camp; Five-star courses

MY GAME: Ramy Ashour talks to *Squash Player* about tactics and deception



TACTICS: The T is the command centre of your game. Ian McKenzie explains how to win it

MATCH POINTS: World no.5 Simon Rösner talks squash with Ian McKenzie after a superb year for the German



STRENGTH & CONDITIONING: PSA lead physio Derek Ryan looks at S&C for squash players in part two of his series

PHYSIO'S THERAPY: Phil Newton advises what to do when you get hip pain

COLUMN: Lee Drew analyses Tarek Momen's touch



ON COURT

Round-up; Quote of the Month; Rankings; Performance of the Month; Short Shots

EVENTS

Classic 'Superman'; ToC heralds new era; Stefanoni's breakthrough; Egypt on song

CALENDAR

Selected events coming up, including the European Team Championships and British Open

PLAYERS OF THE MONTH

JANUARY

Karim Abdel Gawad claims back-to-back PSA titles and Yathreb Adel scores a career-best win

FEBRUARY

Ali Farag wins his first Tournament of Champions title and Lisa Aitken has a career-best triumph

MARCH

Mohamed Abouelghar lands the Motor City Open and Hania El Hammamy has her best PSA success

FROM THE GALLERY

Ian McKenzie's off-court musings from the Canary Wharf Classic and PSA World Championships

SUBSCRIPTIONS

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Since the WSF's worldwide standardised coaching programme became re-named World Squash Coaching, WSC activities have continued across the globe with courses are around the world at all levels.

For example, at WSC Level 1 there have been well attended courses in Teheran, Jaipur and Budapest. There was also the first ever WSC Level 1 course in Fiji with sixteen candidates, run by Oceania Regional Course Manager Jason Fletcher.

A Level 3 course with was run at the end of March at the superb facilities of the Hong Kong Sport Institute - run by WSF Tutors Maniam Singaraveloo and Michael Khan, joined by Hong Kong National Coach Chris Robertson. (see photograph).



Dates for the WSF Coaching Conference in Cairo, Egypt have been confirmed – 31 Oct to 2 Nov 2019 – alongside the Women's World Champs. All WSF Registered Coaches along with other coaches are very welcome to attend.

To facilitate further growth, WSC is actively pushing to train more tutors and align more member nations. Constant reviewing of the syllabi, is a key activity too.

For further information please contact WSC Programme Manager Michael Khan at: coaching@worldsquash.org

WSF AGM & CONFERENCE 2019

Squash South Africa will host the Meeting this year in Cape Town.

Dates are Tuesday 5 (conference) & Wednesday 6 November (AGM). Full details [here](#)



In February it was announced that development of the website has started. Since then, the website providers have been undertaking a detailed analysis of the requirements and have started to build a design that will meet WSO requirements.

Referee Migration to WSO

WSO covers five levels (1-5) of formal qualification:

Level 1	Entry qualification level to referee, supervise, and officiate at a club event/state/province or county leagues
Level 2	Qualification level for selection to referee or supervise at junior competitions
Level 3	Qualification level for referees to officiate at both junior and senior matches at National Level.
Level 4	Qualification level for referees to officiate up to both junior and senior matches at National and International competitions
Level 5	Highest level of referees who officiate at National and International competitions

The migration process is key to establishing the officiating levels, standardising on competency levels and establishing an officiating baseline.

These key principles have been adopted for this migration process for currently applicable referees:

1. *All existing WSF referees will be allocated as WSO Level 4.*
2. *All existing Regional referees are provisionally allocated to WSO Level 3*
3. *Existing National referees are provisionally allocated to WSO Level 2*

To progress, all referees will need to complete the required accreditation requirements (modular course work, online tests) at the appropriate level and have any pre-existing assessments and activity records validated. Upon completion, following signoff by the respective National Federation (for Level 2) or WSO (for Level 3) the above levels will be offered.

Having completed the required accreditation requirements, existing WSF referees at level 4 will initially remain at that level. Level 5 are only allocated on the evidence available within the WSO framework.

The 2019-2020 season will act as a transitional period.

The competency of referees at levels 3, 4 and 5 will be assessed and validated. During this transitional period, allocation of referees to Tournaments will follow the same principles as exist at present.

REGIONAL EVENTS ABOUND

First ever European titles for Czech Republic and Poland



The home crowd in Prague was delighted when local favourite and no. 1 seed Viktor Byrtus (above, left) confirmed his

position of the best junior player in Europe by beating Swiss second seed Yannick Wilhelmi in the boy's final of U19 European Junior Championships.

The girl's final was played between two players who beat top seeds in semi-finals. Katie Malliff from England started very well but Karina Tyma from Poland managed to come back to win the close first game and was ahead for most of the rest of the match. Her dropshots were working really well on the glass court and she, like Byrtus, deservedly became the first European champion from her country.

Bronze medals were won by Toufik Mekhalifi from France and England's Elise Lazarus.

The outcome of the U19 Mixed Team Event saw a 10th win in a row for England who beat Switzerland 2/0 in the final. Semi finals (1) England beat (4) Czech Rep 2/1, (2) Switzerland beat (3) Ireland 2/1.

Thrills at the finals of European Division 3

29 teams from 19 countries participated in European Division Three played in Lisbon, Portugal.



The 4-a-side men's final ended in a draw between Poland and Austria. With them also equal in games, a point count was needed which saw Poland winners by a margin of just six points (130-124). Ukraine took bronze.

The women's final was equal at one match apiece before 14 year old Russian Varvara Esina came back from 1-2 against Sandra Polak (Austria) and won 3-2 Norway finished in the 3rd position.

Meanwhile, in Auckland

The 2019 Oceania Junior Championships ran from Saturday 13th April - Tuesday 16th April at the Remuera Rackets Club.

Some top quality squash was played over the 4 days with all ten finals providing great entertainment for those spectating both at the venue and through Squash NZ's livestream.

Finals results: U11: girls: Zoe Lepper (NZ) bt Grace Spencer (NZ) 3/1, boys: Eric Marsh (AUS) bt Nickolai Wolpers (AUS) 3/0. U13: girls: Anabel Romero Gemmelm (NZ) bt Maja Maziuk (AUS) 3/1, boys: Reece Holmes (NZ) bt Aryan Madan (AUS) 3/1. U15: girls: Natalie Sayes (NZ) bt Sophie Hodges (NZ) 3/0, boys: Oscar Curtis (AUS) bt Apa Fatialofa (NZ) 3/0. U17: girls: Sze Yu Lee (AUS) bt Ella Burge (AUS) 3/0, boys: Elijah Thomas (NZ) bt Ethan Eyles (AUS) 3/1. U19: girls: Alex Haydon (AUS) bt Anika Jackson (NZ) 3/1, boys: Matthew Gabe (NZ) bt Anthony Lepper (NZ) 3/1.

..... and Manilla

The outcomes of the South East Asian Championships held at Kerry Sports in the Phillippines capital, Manilla were:



Men's. Gold: Reymark Begornia (PHI), Silver: Benedict Chan (SNG), Bronze: Muhammad Amir Amiral (MAS) & Satria Bagus Lksana (IDN)

Women's: Gold: Noor Ainaa Ampandi (MAS), Silver: Sneha Sivakumar (SNG), Bronze: Wy Au Yeong (SNG) & Yvonne Alyssa Dalida (PHI)



Mixed Team: Gold: Malaysia, Silver: Singapore, Bronze: Indonesia and Phillippines. Brunei & Thailand also participated.

WSF CHAMPIONSHIP REGULATIONS 2019

The current World Championship Regulations applicable for World & Regional Championships can be reached on the World Squash website [here](#)

WSF WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS 2019

June

Doubles back on Gold Coast



Entries for the 2019 WSF World Doubles Championships, being held on Australia's Gold Coast from 17th to 21st June come from nine nations, including Colombia and Peru who are preparing for the PanAm Games this year.



Matches will be played at the Australian National Centre at nearby Carrara Stadium.

While seedings and draws will not be published until early June it is expected

that the 2018 Commonwealth Games Mixed Doubles pairing of Donna Urquhart and Cameron Pilley will be teaming up on home soil again.

July/August

WSF World Juniors in Kuala Lumpur



Hosted by the Squash Rackets Association of Malaysia (SRAM) for the third time since 1993, the biennial World Squash Federation event will take place at the National Squash Centre in the capital Kuala Lumpur from 5-9 August, following the WSF Men's & Women's World Junior Individual Championships from 30 July to 4 August.

18 nations will be competing in the 2019 team championships: Australia, Canada, Chinese Taipei, Egypt, England, France, Hong Kong China, India, Ireland, Japan, Malaysia, New Zealand, Republic of Korea, Singapore, South Africa, Sweden, Switzerland and USA.

Defending Women's Individual Champion Rowan Reda Araby misses out on defending her title by less than a



week as she turns 19 on 29 July, but Mostafa Asal, Men's Champion, is able to do so (*both pictured above winning last year in Chennai*).

Eight-time champions Egypt will defend the title they won for a sixth successive time in 2017.

December

The Men's Teams Comes to America



For the first time in the event's 50-year history, the WSF Men's World Team Squash Championship will be staged in the USA this year.



It will be held at *Squash On Fire*, the state-of-the-art membership-free facility in Washington, DC, a superb new 'pay to play' facility which opened above

Washington's newest fire station. It boasts eight squash courts, including an all-glass showcourt. The showcourt will see action at the atrium of the Ronald Reagan Building.

Dates are 15 – 21 December, and in the last major event of the year, Egypt (*pictured above*) will be defending the title they won in 2017 in Marseille.

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RAMY ASHOUR ANNOUNCES RETIREMENT



Ramy Ashour has announced his immediate retirement from professional squash.

Known on tour as 'The Artist', Cairo-born Ashour, 31, is regarded as one of the most talented squash players of all time and spent 21 months at World No.1 between 2010-2013.

He won PSA World Championship titles in 2008, 2012 and 2014. The last of those saw Ashour return after a six-month injury absence to claim the sport's biggest title in stunning style, beating long-term rival Mohamed ElShorbagy in the final – a match which has gone down in history as one of the greatest squash matches ever.

Ashour also became the first Egyptian for 47 years to win the sport's oldest tournament – the British Open – in 2013, which came during a 49-match unbeaten run as he won nine successive PSA Tour titles.

Since making his PSA debut in 2004, Ashour has lifted 40 PSA Tour titles, reaching 59 finals, while he won 358 of his 435 matches on the PSA Tour.



Despite his undoubted skills with a racket, Ashour has been ravaged by injury over the past decade and has suffered a range of hamstring and knee issues. The latter has kept him out of action since last May, with his final ever PSA appearance coming at the 2018 British Open.

"I'm not the biggest fan of beginnings and endings," said Ashour.

"During my 25 years on the squash court, I won a combined eight World Championships (including senior, junior and team), and I never loved anything

more than I have loved the game of squash. Squash has given me so much but also took a lot from me physically and mentally.

"While I look towards the next stage of my journey, I have to thank the people who have been with me every step of the way. First of all, my parents and my brother, who have always been there, have always been my biggest supporters and motivators, and who shared with me my best and worst times.

WORLD SQUASH DAY TARGETS ONE MILLION NEW PLAYERS



World Squash Day returns on Saturday October 12th with ambitious plans to attract one million new players to the game over the next decade. The theme for 2019 is for

every club on the planet to open their doors and hold a free taster session called The Big Hit.

Clubs and federations will be supported by social media campaigns and a new WSD website is being set up to provide further ideas and promotional material which can be downloaded free of charge.

WSD founder Alan Thatcher said: "Our aim is to attract 100,000 new players to the game this year. Every club and squash facility is invited to host a Big Hit taster session to promote the health benefits that squash has to offer, alongside the fun and friendly social atmosphere that is a universal part of our great game.

"Each club can create their own pathways to look after those newcomers, including weekly group sessions, mentors to help them on their way, and social evenings to complement the huge fitness buzz that squash is guaranteed to deliver."

World Squash Day is endorsed by the WSF, the PSA, and the PSA Foundation.

Various national federations are already on board and planning campaigns to support the big day.

Thatcher added: "We hope this fantastic event will capture the imagination of the wider public and attract new people to the game. To make it a huge success, we need the support of every squash club and federation.

"Next year on World Squash Day we plan to launch *Squash: Project 200* to begin the 10-year countdown to the 200th anniversary of the birth of squash.

"If we can attract 100,000 new players to the game every year, that's one million new players, one million extra people buying rackets and equipment, and one million people spending money on hiring courts and supporting their local clubs and federations."

* To contact Alan Thatcher directly, please email him at alan@squashmad.com



Squash 57 (formerly Racketball) has great potential to stimulate the overall squash market by adding to the reach of the sport and providing more facility users.

We have an active WSF Squash 57 Commission that are developing a simplified Rules poster and - with the support of England Squash - a new promotional video for 57 is being produced. There are also plans to introduce 57 coaching elements into the World Squash Coaching programme.

In order to improve the understanding of the difference between the two balls they are being formally re-titled as follows:

Blue (Higher Bounce) Ball - was General Use (Blue)

Black (Lower Bounce) Ball – was Competition (Black)

We will be informing nations and also online sales companies that we are aware of to broaden awareness. Also, we are now able to offer WSF 57 Squash Ball Approval similarly to Squash Balls.



WHO NEEDS A SPIN CURRENTLY?

1. PLAYERS:

- (i) All players in all World Individual and Team Championships
- (ii) Major & Multi Sport Games
- (iii) Regional Team & Individual Championship entries
- (iv) WSF & PSA Satellite Circuit (U19/17 age groups)
- (v) World Masters Tour Registered Event entries
- (vi) All PSA members

2. TEAM OFFICIALS:

All designated Team Officials attending with teams or individual players at World and Regional Championships (this requirement covers anybody with access to the playing area, so, primarily, managers, coaches, physios – binding them to the Code of Conduct).

3. WSF REGISTERED COACHES AND TUTORS

Pre-requisite to register as a coach.

AND IN OTHER NEWS:

Darwin Kingsley Dies

Darwin P. Kingsley, III, the executive director of US Squash from 1974 to 1992, died on 7 April at the age of ninety-one. Kingsley (*pictured right*) was inducted into the U.S. Squash Hall of Fame in 2001.



"Darwin was a larger-than-life character for generations of squash players," said Kevin Klipstein (*pictured left*), the president and CEO of US Squash and. "Few were more intertwined with all aspects of squash in the U.S. during the twentieth century than PK. To me he has been and will continue to be the touchstone for all that we continue to aspire to as a sport and organization: integrity, sportsmanship, character, camaraderie and caring. He lived a full life into his nineties and we're all the better for it. He will be missed by many."

PSA Reaches 250,000 Page Facebook Likes

The official Facebook page of the PSA World Tour reached 250,000 page likes recently - meaning there has been a 25% increase in total followers across all of the Professional Squash Association's (PSA) social media channels over the past 12 months.

The milestone came shortly after the PSA signed a multi-year agreement with Facebook to bring live matches from the PSA Tour to Facebook Watch in territories outside of Europe and Japan.

2018/19 PSA World Tour Finals in Cairo

The PSA World Tour Finals will be held in Egypt for the first time after an agreement was reached by the PSA and title sponsors CIB to bring the world's leading squash players to the Wadi Degla Club in Cairo between June 8-13 for the 2018/19 edition of the season-ending tournament.

Featuring the world's top eight male and female players, the CIB PSA World Tour Finals will act as the season finale to the 2018/19 PSA World Tour campaign and has been successfully staged in Dubai over the past three seasons at venues such as the Burj Khalifa, Dubai Opera and Emirates Golf Club.



Executive Office: Maison du Sport International,
Avenue de Rhodanie 54, 1007 Lausanne, Switzerland
Administrative Office: 25 Russell Street,
Hastings, East Sussex, UK TN34 1QU
Tel: +44 1424 447440 Fax: +44 1424 430737
Website: worldsquash.org

Chief Executive – Andrew Shelley: andrew@worldsquash.org
Operations Manager – Lorraine Harding: lorraine@worldsquash.org
Assistant Operations Manager – Jasmine Pascoe: jasmine@worldsquash.org
Operations Assistant – Carol Hackett: carol@worldsquash.org

