

Yorkshire League Format and Rules

1. The Yorkshire League is an inter-club competition run by the Yorkshire Squash and Racketball Association (YSRA).
2. Clubs must be located within or close to the Yorkshire boundary. All participating clubs and players must be affiliated with England Squash (ES). Out-of-county clubs may participate at the committee's discretion. Any new team wishing to enter the league must start in the lowest division. Each club in the Yorkshire League must appoint a member to act as a representative for their club at the YSRA AGM.
3. Teams in all divisions consist of five players. Participating clubs can enter as many teams as they wish.
4. The League will consist of a Premier division and as many other divisions as teams are available. Each division will generally consist of about ten teams.
5. The League season will normally run from September to April. Each team will play every other team in their division twice, once home and once away. The season will also consider half-term breaks and other national squash events, such as Masters, which may restrict the availability of players.
6. A team entry fee of **£100** for the **2026-27 season** must be paid before the first round of fixtures. In the Premier League, the fees for referees are **£75 per match**, which includes a travel allowance for the 2025-26 season, and this should be paid in advance to YSRA; all fees are agreed at the AGM for the following season. All Clubs must provide the YSRA Treasurer (finance@yorkshiresquash.com) with the contact details to send the league invoices, so there is a specific point of contact to communicate with.
7. Juniors (Under 19) must wear eye protection; players must not play a junior who is not wearing eye protection, and they should claim a 'walkover' if a junior player refuses to wear eye protection, and the string must not be played.

Match Management

8. Where a club enters more than one team in the division, the top two teams shall, as far as possible, play on the same night.
9. Where 2 Teams play in the same division they must play each other at the start of each half of the season.
10. Premier division matches shall take place on Wednesday nights.

- 11.** Matches will normally commence at 7.30 pm, minor discretion is allowed to align with club booking systems. The home club must ensure that adequate court time is available for the match's completion.
- 12.** All matches must be completed on the fixture's day and played entirely on the courts of the home club (see also Rule 14).
- 13.** All matches allocated for the first half of the season must be played by the end of the first half. Doubling up matches from the first half to the second half is **NOT** permissible. All matches must have been completed, and the results received by the end of April.
- 14.** Teams can only rearrange fixtures with express permission from the league secretary. Clubs are not obliged to accept requests to rearrange and are entitled to claim the walkover (see rule 15). Rearrangements are only considered under exceptional circumstances, such as temporary forced closure of the club, e.g. closed for safety reasons or severe weather conditions preventing teams from travelling safely. Any request to rearrange a fixture must be given in writing to the opposition captain and the League Secretary, only the league secretary can make the final decision on requests for rearrangements. If Team captains bypass this process, both teams will be penalised 10 points. If the rearrangement is approved, the match should be played as soon as possible after the original fixture and within the correct half of the season (see rule 13). The League Secretary should be informed of the new date and will update the fixture list on [LeagueMaster](#) accordingly.
- 15.** A 2-point penalty will be awarded for each walkover, i.e. 2 points per string, 20 points for a team walkover. The penalty will double where a name is entered instead of 'walkover'. Any team that gives two walkovers in a season may be relegated, regardless of their final league position. (see also rules 13 and 14).
- 16.** Three players from each team must arrive at least 15 minutes before the start time of the match and the other two players within 30 minutes of the start time. Ties will be forfeited by players who only meet this requirement unless the two captains have agreed to the contrary. If a player fails to turn up within 10 minutes after the rest of the match has finished, the team shall be deemed to have played out of order (if applicable). Team Captains are expected to communicate with each other any reason for delays to players arriving, e.g. traffic delays, train cancellations.

17. Each team will play in order of merit, as nominated. The Premier League captains will exchange team lists before the start of the match, the playing order is as follows:

Court 1	Court 2
String 4	String 5
String 2	String 3
String 1	

Team captains are responsible for ensuring each fixture is played according to Rule 27, and any queries relating to individual players must be made to the other captain or the League Secretary within 24 hrs of the fixture being completed.

18. All matches must be marked by the home team. Premier division matches must be marked by an England Squash qualified official appointed by the Yorkshire Referees Society. In the other divisions, the home team provides markers unless otherwise agreed. The league does not permit family members to mark their own family during a fixture; a penalty of 2 points will be applied against the string if this is to be found true. In the Premier League, all matches **MUST** be marked by either the appointed England Squash Referee for the fixture, with all other matches being marked by a home team player, or a home club member who has undertaken the World Squash Officiating (WSO) level 2 or above qualification; evidence of their qualifications must be provided upon request.

In the Premier League and Division 1, teams must have at least one player who holds WSO level 2 qualification or, through their PSA membership, has undertaken the Player Certificate - Tournament level. Captains will be asked to nominate qualified players. Ideally, these players should be refereeing the home matches.

19. All ties will be the best of five games. Point-a-rally, PAR 11 scoring will be used in all divisions. Each game counts one point, and the team winning the match gets five bonus points.

20. The home team must submit match results via LeagueMaster within 48 hours of the game's completion. Clubs that fail to comply with this limit will be penalised 5 points.

21. The rules of play shall be the [World Squash Federation's](#) current edition, and the ball used shall be the Dunlop Pro double yellow spot.

22. The home team is responsible for providing refreshments and hospitality after the match. As a matter of courtesy, the away team captain is responsible for informing the home team captain if any of the away team will not be staying after the match. In addition, Premier League Teams are expected to extend an invitation to the match referee to join them for the post-match hospitality.

23. The home team is responsible for the courts' condition before matches occur. They must ensure that the courts are safe to play on, with particular care taken on the playing surface (floor).

24. The height of the front wall Tin must remain 480mm; however, if two professional players play each other, they may request to play their match at the lower height of 430mm; all other matches must be played at the standard height.

Qualification of Players

25. All players must be bona fide members of the club they represent. Any club wishing to register a Yorkshire^{*(see rule 26)} player must do so before the first match of the season and must meet the eligibility criteria to be considered a Yorkshire Player. The following criteria will be used to approve requests:

1. Birthplace in Yorkshire
2. Live and reside and pay Council tax in Yorkshire before the start of the season
3. Played Inter-counties for Yorkshire

Overseas players who move to Yorkshire to play may only be considered for registration as a Yorkshire player after residing in Yorkshire for 2 continuous years, they must meet one of the eligibility criteria above, appropriate evidence must be presented to support the claim.

26. In the Premier division, each team must have at least two players eligible to play for Yorkshire* (or own county see below and Rule 26) in the Inter-County Championships or reside in Yorkshire. Teams can only play a maximum of 3 professional players in any fixture. A professional player is defined as any player that holds a valid PSA membership. Exceptions to the rule include:

- Junior players under 19 years of age who are not full-time on the professional circuit
- Full-time students studying in Higher Education
- Professional Female players
- Ex-professional players

Any player registered as a PSA professional player within a team will be deemed to be a professional for the whole season. If they deregister from the PSA during the season, they will be considered a non-professional at the start of the following season.

*In the case of a non-Yorkshire-based team, the above rule is mirrored for their own county.

27. All players must be entered into the Players List in [LeagueMaster](#) with their valid ES membership numbers and date of birth. Teams must be nominated in [LeagueMaster](#) in merit order a week before the first fixture date. Teams must play in nominated order and **must** be re-nominated at the halfway point. The league secretary may make exceptions. It is recommended to use [Squash Levels](#) as a guide; the league permits some discretion where players are ranked very close; if players are not nominated in merit order, the league reserves the right to seek clarification and request a change if deemed necessary.

Teams may nominate players up until the Christmas break, any player who was nominated in the first half but did not play will need to be removed from the second half nominations and team captains are expected to adjust their second half nominations accordingly, with players in correct merit order.

28. Teams must not nominate players in a team that will not play for that team.

29. Players may play for their nominated or higher team but not a lower team.

30. Players may play up to a higher team four times over the whole season. On playing up a fifth time, they will be team-tied to the higher team for the remainder of the half-season.

31. The players within a team must play in club-nominated order, including those playing up.

32. If a player plays out of order, the string and all strings below will be awarded to the opposition.

33. Any team playing a non-nominated player will have that player's match, and all those below them void, and the points will be awarded to the opposition. In the first half of the season, teams may nominate players until the Christmas break; however, they must be registered on LeagueMaster at least 24 hours in advance of any fixture.

34. No player may play for two different clubs in the League or two teams in the same division during a season.

35. Teams may register new players until the Christmas break. They must have played a game before this date to be eligible to play for the rest of the season (unless there are exceptional circumstances and with permission of the League Secretary, e.g. If a player was injured in the first half or if a team needs a player to fulfil a fixture but may only request a player at the lower order below string 3 using squash levels as a guide, each request is dealt with on a case-by-case basis, the decision of the league secretary is final. No team will be permitted to bring a player in at no 1 or 2, which is deemed as obtaining an unfair advantage and being anti-competitive.

Promotion, Relegation and Trophies

36. Promotion and relegation shall typically be one up and one down between the Premier League and Division 1 and two up and two down between all other divisions. It will be decided by the number of points won by teams during the season. If two teams are level on points, the aggregate of points in the matches played between the two teams will decide. Should this be the same, there shall be a playoff match at a neutral venue unless agreed otherwise by the two captains.

In the Regional format (North & West/South & East), teams will play home and away in the first half, at the Christmas break, both regions will be split, and the top 3 teams in the North & West will play the top 3 Teams in the South & East home and away. Promotion will be offered to the top 2 teams at the end of the season based on points; if teams are level, a play-off may be necessary to determine the promotion places.

The bottom 3 teams in each division will also play each other home and away.

37. A trophy will be awarded to the winner of the Premier League and presented at the YSRA AGM or another suitable event. The winning club is responsible for engraving the trophy and returning it before the event.

Disputes & Discipline

39. All disputes shall be submitted in writing to the League Secretary, who will either decide the matter or refer it to the League Disputes Committee, as defined in the Code of Conduct. The League Secretary will compile a log of disputes over the season for review at the end. All decisions from previous seasons cannot be used in argument for any current season. All decisions are final

Should a season be truncated before the halfway point, play and tables to that point will be declared null and void. If after the halfway point, the divisional tables as they stand shall be taken as the final tables.

Any disciplinary outcomes are open to an appeals process; in the first instance, team captains must write to the League Secretary to start an appeal. Once the appeal has been reviewed and a decision has been made, the league secretary will write to each club affected by the decision. The committee's decision is final.

39. The League Secretary has the authority to take specific actions as specified in the Yorkshire SRA Code of Conduct.

40. The League reserves the right to overturn any decision should new evidence or information be necessary to alter a previous decision. All decisions consider the competitive balance and fairness in the league so that clubs/teams and fixtures are treated equitably.

Amendments to the Yorkshire League Format and Rules

41. Changes to the Yorkshire League Format and Rules shall be agreed upon by the YSRA AGM where practical or at the committee's discretion when required.