



LSRC SQUASH LADDER: RULES & FAQs

WHAT IS IT?

The LSRC Squash Ladder is provided as a service to our club's entire squash playing community. It is intended to encourage flexible and friendly competition and aid players in finding partners at their approximate level of skill.

The ladder is completely separate from the internal club leagues and is contested continuously throughout the year on a week-by-week basis.

HOW DOES IT WORK?

The ladder lists all our eligible squash members in ability order (*) and players can move up the ladder, improving their club ranking, by challenging and defeating players who are listed above them.

WINNING A CHALLENGE

- If you successfully challenge another club member (i.e. you win the match), then **you move up to your opponents' position in the ladder, and your opponent will fall below you by one place.**
- If you or your opponent has reached a total of **three participation points** (see the related section, below), this will result in you, and/or your opponent, moving up the ladder rankings by an additional place, irrespective of the result (win/lose).

LOSING A CHALLENGE

- If you are unsuccessful (i.e. you lose the match), then **both players stay in exactly the same positions in the ladder as before.**
- If you or your opponent has reached a total of **three participation points** (see the related section, below), this will result in you, and/or your opponent, moving up the ladder rankings by an additional place, irrespective of the result (win/lose).

PARTICIPATION POINTS

- Each time you contest a ladder match, you and your opponent will be awarded with a 'participation point' irrespective of the match result (win/lose).
- **After playing three ladder matches** (i.e. accumulating a total of three participation points), **you will automatically move up the ladder rankings by one place.** This system is designed to reward active squash players at the club and allows players to progress up the ladder rankings irrespective of their results, i.e. a player may have lost a series of challenges on consecutive occasions, but can still climb the ladder by virtue of their regular participation.
- When a player has reached a total of three participation points and has been rewarded by moving up the ladder rankings by one place, their participation points will then be **reset back to zero** and the process begins again, i.e. after six matches you will have moved up two places in the ladder and after nine matches – three places and so on.
- The accumulative total of ladder games a player has contested, e.g. 22 matches, will also be displayed on their ranking record and updated after each ladder match played.

WHO CAN I CHALLENGE?

Ladder members **can challenge anyone above them,** irrespective of their current ladder position.

HOW MANY CHALLENGES CAN I ACCEPT AT ONCE?

Please only accept **one challenge at a time** on a first come first serve basis.

Apply common sense when responding to multiple challenges.

Remember, after each ladder match you play, the rankings can change depending on the result of your game. Therefore, it is strongly recommended that you don't organise multiple ladder matches at the same time and you wait until your latest match result has been processed (which typically takes a week) before accepting or issuing a new challenge.

WHEN DOES A MATCH NEED TO BE PLAYED BY?

The ladder is designed to allow flexible competitive play throughout the year. However, once a player has initiated a challenge to another ladder member, the match must be played within a **three week timeframe of the original request**.

I'VE BEEN CHALLENGED AND I CAN'T PLAY MY MATCH – WHAT HAPPENS NOW?

If a player has been challenged and cannot play their match **within the three week time limit**, e.g. due to a persistent injury or an extended holiday, they can simply award their challenger with a **walkover (WO)** – a default (3-0) victory for their opponent.

WHAT HAPPENS IF A WALKOVER IS AWARDED TO ME?

If you are awarded a walkover (WO) victory by your opponent, **you will automatically move up to your opponents' position in the ladder, and your opponent will fall below you by one place.**

A participation point will only be awarded to the player who has received a WO victory. The player who is unable to fulfil their match obligation won't receive a participation point.

The player who has received the WO victory will need to add their result to the sheet on the board – **stating 'WO' in the 'Match Result' column** - and this will then be processed along with the other ladder results that week.

WHAT ARE THE RULES OF PLAY

- Ladder matches are best-of-5 games (i.e. first player to win three games).
- Ladder games are scored to either 11 or 15 points (to be agreed by the players before the match begins).
- The player who scores 11 or 15 points first wins the game except when the score reaches either 10-all or 14-all, and the game then continues **until one player leads by two clear points**, e.g. 19-17.
- Either player may score points (PAR – point–a–rally). The server, on winning a rally, scores a point and retains the service; the receiver, on winning a rally, scores a point and becomes the server.
- There are no handicap systems used during ladder matches.
- The **'Lights Out'** rule is in operation during ladder matches, so a winner is always determined, i.e. **a draw isn't possible**.
 - If a player is clearly leading an opponent when the lights go out, e.g. 2 games to 1 and 7 points-all, then the player leading will be determined the match winner.

- If two players are locked on identical points and games when the court lights go out, e.g. 2 games-all, 8-all, the player **who reached 2 games first, i.e. 2-0 or 2-1**, will be determined the match winner.
- In the rare situation where two players are locked at 2 games-all, with the lights going out before the start of the fifth game (i.e. 0-0), the player **who reached 2 games first**, i.e. 2-1 or 2-0, will be declared the match winner.

WHAT HAPPENS AFTER I'VE PLAYED MY MATCH?

After playing a ladder match, please fill out the result, stating both players' names (winner and runner-up) and the score, e.g. 3-1, on the sheet provided on the club board.

A walkover (WO) victory must be recorded in the same way – however, **remember to add 'WO' in the 'Match Result' column, otherwise your opponent will be wrongly awarded a participation point**. That's it – simple.

The ladder results sheet will be picked up off the board each week by a committee member and a new one will be added. That week's ladder results will then be processed, with the club rankings and participation points updated accordingly. The newly confirmed rankings and participation points will then be posted on to the club board each week.

I'M NOT IN THE LADDER – HOW DO I JOIN?

You must be a fully paid-up member of LSRC to become part of the ladder.

Any LSRC member can add their name to the bottom of the rankings sheet to indicate they'd like to join the ladder.

Any ladder matches featuring non-members won't be valid.

THE 'NEW MEMBER CHALLENGE'

- When a new member of the club joins the squash ladder, they can issue a 'one-off' challenge to any ladder member.
- If the new member is successful in their first challenge (i.e. they win the match), then **they move up to their opponents' position in the ladder, and their opponent will fall below them by one place.**
- However, if the new member challenges unsuccessfully (i.e. they lose the match), **then they are added to the very bottom of the ladder rankings.**

I'M LISTED IN THE LADDER – BUT I DIDN'T OPT-IN?

Please don't scratch your name out from the ladder rankings sheet.

All eligible LSRC squash players have been entered into the ladder to try and boost wider competitive participation in the sport at the club. If you don't wish to contest a ladder challenge, you can simply reward your challenger with a walkover victory (WO).

I HAVE MORE QUESTIONS ABOUT THE LADDER – WHO DO I CONTACT FROM THE CLUB?

You can contact either Andy Reed (Wednesday club nights) or Joel Reed (Thursday club nights), who will be able to answer your questions.

SURELY I SHOULD BE RANKED HIGHER THAN THAT?

If you feel you are ranked too low, then you can immediately start challenging players and play your way up the ladder rankings.

(*) The LSRC committee established the initial ladder rankings order. Former active players in the club's four internal squash leagues were ranked in the top positions in the ladder to reward their previous involvement and achievements, followed by the rest of our club's squash

players, who are ranked based on their previous performances in the county leagues and internal club competitions.