



SQUASH HANDBOOK

FISU WORLD UNIVERSITY CHAMPIONSHIPS

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RELEASE DATE
JULY 2023



INTERNATIONAL
UNIVERSITY
SPORTS
FEDERATION

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1. THE HISTORY OF SQUASH IN FISU

In the summer of 1995, the Netherlands' University Sports Association, NSSS, and the National Squash Federation, NSRB, decided to organise the first World University Squash Championship. The idea to launch a premiere in this sport was based on its popularity among students worldwide and on the Netherlands' competency in organising international events. The World Squash Federation offered its absolute and active support and came up with a suitable date in the international calendar in August 1996. The overall level of the event was high, which was not surprising, since several countries had sent their national teams to this Championship. One example, among others, was the record of the winner in the men's contest, the Brazilian Paul Conolly, from Rio de Janeiro. As a national champion in 1995, he was also the Pan-American vice-champion in 1994. Such countries as Brazil, Belgium, Ireland, France, Czech Republic and Switzerland had also sent their best national teams.

The second edition of this Championship was held in 1998 in Cardiff (GBR), a city which is more known for its commitment to rugby, but where the British Open Squash Championships were held in 1995, 1996 and 1997. It was Britain's Jenny Tranfield who prevailed in the women's singles against the title holder, the superb Belgian champion Kim Hannes, already Belgium's senior champion at the age of 15. Among men, it was the French champion Thierry Lincou, who took the title from his compatriot Jean-Michel Arcucci. These two players are regular members of the professional PSA circuit. Squash has rapidly reached a high technical level among the sports represented in our Championship programme. Furthermore, thanks to its high participation level, its future in FISU seems to be assured.

In the 2000 edition, which was held in Pilsen, in Czech Republic, where 14 teams from all over the world participated. The sports complex which housed the Squash players (ESQUO) had already hosted the first professional championship in Eastern Europe in 1996, and therefore it had the experience of this kind of activity. From the sports standpoint, this tournament was a return bout for two male finalists. The winner Thierry Lincou (FRA) was the current champion participating for the third time. The other finalist had already been a challenger in the first edition in Maastricht (1996) when he had lost in the finals to the brilliant Brazilian Paul Conolly. It seemed that Thierry Lincou was very familiar with university championships; he particularly enjoyed the atmosphere which is so different from that of professional tournaments. The ladies' finals was magnificent. It set Canadian Baizley against Wing-Yin from Hong Kong. At the end of 5 sets, none of the players could take a clear lead – the game point was on both sides on several occasions. Finally Canadian Marnie Baizley proved the sturdier player and took the title.

The 4th edition of the World University Squash Championship was played in Linz, Austria. These events did not damp the spirit of 43 men and 17 women who had come to Austria to do their utmost. The Egyptian team really stood out during the tournament. In the men's tournament, three Egyptians took the first three places. Karim Darwish (18th in the WSF ranking) surpassed his compatriot Mohammed Abbas (27th in the WSF ranking) in the finals. In the team competition Egypt took the gold medal over France and became the defending champion for the first time. Karim Darwish, Mohammed Abbas and Engy Kheirallah decisively won the match over the very solid French opponents. The bronze medal went to Great Britain, which won the play-off against Canada.

The city of Szeged, Hungary, was the place where high level student Squash players met for the 5th World University Squash Championship in 2006. The team competitions finished in the evening at the World University Squash Championship in Szeged, Hungary, after a well-balanced finals between the French and the British team, which took the gold medals. Chris Ryder (GBR) and Lim Yoke Wah (MAL) took the gold medals for men and women in the individual finals of the Championship. Egypt and Australia, both strong nations in Squash, hosted the World University Squash Championships in 2008 and 2010 respectively. The 2018 Championship was hosted in Birmingham (GBR) with a record number of 103 participants. The 2020 edition was supposed to take place in Shanghai (CHN) but has unfortunately been cancelled due to the Covid-19 pandemic. After the ease of the pandemic we had Squash going back to Egypt, a leading nation in the sport, in 2022. The event was hosted in New Giza and saw the home athletes secure the top places on the individual competition. On the team event, Egyptians also took the first place beating Switzerland in the semi-final and France in the final.

The 2024 edition will be held in Johannesburg, South Africa.

2. STATISTICS

EDITION	YEAR	COUNTRY	CITY	COUNTRIES	MEN	WOMEN	ATHLETES	OFFICIALS	TOTAL
1	1996	NED	Maastricht	17	39	21	60	12	72
2	1998	GBR	Cardiff	17	40	14	54	19	73
3	2000	CZE	Pilsen	14	39	19	58	18	76
4	2002	AUT	Linz	18	43	17	60	22	82
5	2006	HUN	Szeged	14	37	23	60	23	83
6	2008	EGY	Cairo	19	44	24	68	30	98
7	2010	AUS	Melbourne	11	23	15	38	13	51
8	2014	IND	Chennai	11	24	17	41	23	64
9	2016	MAS	Kuala Lumpur	19	43	23	66	35	101
10	2018	GBR	Birmingham	19	51	27	78	25	103
11	2022	EGY	New Giza	12	35	18	53	22	75

3. SCHEDULE

ARRIVALS	ARRIVALS	OPENING DAY 0	INDIVIDUAL COMPETITION DAYS 1 TO 4	TEAM COMPETITION DAYS 5 TO 7 & CLOSING CEREMONY	DEPARTURES DAY 8
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NB: Venues have to be ready two days prior the opening day for practice. The practice courts have to be closed one hour prior to the Opening Ceremony on Day 0.

4. SPORT REGULATIONS (TECHNICAL REGULATIONS)

4.1. GENERAL TERMS

The Squash championships shall be organised in accordance with the relevant World Squash Federation (WSF) championship regulations, unless otherwise stated.

All participating players and coaches will require a SPIN (WSF Squash Personal Identification Number) as a condition of entry.

The programme and duration of competitions will be determined by FISU in agreement with the Organising Committee and the ITC Championship.

Each country may enter a maximum of 12 persons, comprising a maximum of 8 competitors (across individual and team championships) and a maximum of 4 officials.

4.2. DURATION & FORMAT

The maximum duration of the Championship (individual and team) shall be seven days, and include:

Individual Championships (men & women)

These championships shall comprise separate men's and women's singles championships and permit a maximum of 3 male and 3 female entries per nation.

The duration of the event may vary, but usually last 3-4 days.

The Championship will be played to a knock-out format, and where possible a monrad type format will be adopted.

The Individual Championship will be played as best of 5 games to 11 points.

There will be no bronze medal play-offs.

Team Championship (mixed teams)

This Championship shall comprise a mixed team, and permit a maximum of 3 male and 3 female entries per nation (the squad). Each tie shall comprise 2 male and 2 female player selected from the squad.

The duration of the team championship shall usually be 3 days.

The team event will be played as best of 5 games to 7 points for pool and knock-out stages. Players will play to one point at 6-all, i.e. the next point will determine the winner of the game 7-6.

The event will be played to monrad format, with matches other than the main draw played as best of 3 games to 11 points. There will be no bronze medal play-offs.

Squad submission and team nomination shall follow WSF Regulations unless otherwise specified NB. Nations may enter up to 8 players in total, so may choose to nominate different players for individual and team events, or they may nominate the same 3 male and 3 female players to compete in both individual & team events.

Tournament Software

The event is required to use any tournament software programme for scoring & results that is approved by the World Squash Federation.

Tin Heights

All matches (men's & women's individual & teams championships) will be played with 17" tin.

4.3. PRE-COMPETITION PROCEDURE

Three (3) months before the Championship, the Organising Committee has the right to collect 50% of the total cost of stay per athlete and official from participating countries.

Seeding and draw arrangements for the Individual Championships shall follow WSF World Championship Regulations. Nations will be asked to provide relevant information on each player's recent form at time of entry to assist the Seeding Committee.

The seeding for the individual championships usually takes place a minimum of 2 weeks prior to the event. The seeding for the team event will take into account the results of the individual championship. Draws will usually take place the day before the start of each championship.

4.4 Technical Officials (nomination & costs)

The host shall provide an agreed number of suitably qualified referees to cover the size of draws and match schedule, estimated to be between 8 to 12, comprising the following qualifications:

At least 3 WSF (Level 4) referees. At least 2 should be from a nation other than the host nation.

Arrangements for and management of Technical Officials will be the responsibility of the Championship Referee, who will be appointed by the host, and provide technical advice on the sport as part of the OC. The Championship Referee should be an experienced WSO Level 4 referee, and will oversee the effective officiating of the Championship, including the daily referee allocation to matches and the general performance and wellbeing of the referees. The appointment of the Championship Referee is subject to approval by the TCC at least 9 months prior to the event.

All costs for the 2 WSO Level 4 referees from outside the host nation shall be shared by the participating delegations.

All costs for referees from the host nation, including the designated WSO Level 4 referee shall be borne by the Organising Committee. If the host nation does not have sufficient referees of at least WSO Level 3, they must provide them from another nation at the cost of the OC.

A participating nation may request to bring a referee as part of its delegation of officials (at its own cost), but the request will be subject to approval by the TCC & OC, must be made at least 4 months prior to the event, and accompanied by certification of the referee's current level of qualification (at least WSO Level 3).

5. SERVICES

The Organising Committee shall inform the participating countries through the bulletins and its website about the possible and potential services and their costs.

Wi-Fi shall be available for all delegations for free at the squash venue and accommodation. Costs for a laundry services, physiotherapy and racket stringing will be provided as soon as possible to assist with budgeting.

Technical Officials

Technical Officials (TO) Services is complex and must not be underestimated. The Sport functional area must set up an efficient team early in advance, led by the Championship Referee.

In coordination with other relevant functional areas, the Technical Officials Services team is responsible for:

- NTOs recruitment in coordination with the Competition Manager and NF;
- Liaising with World Squash Officiating for the appointment of the neutral WSO Level 4 referees and their travel arrangements;
- Dupport services such as visa, invitation letters, flight tickets and accreditation;
- Managing and delivering TO clothing / uniforms when requested;
- Procuring suitable accommodation for the period required;
- Providing daily catering and transportation;
- Ensuring that all TOs are properly qualified (in close cooperation with FISU);
- Ensuring suitable viewing/seating/technical arrangements at court-side;
- Arranging video referee equipment if required;
- Hosting Technical Officials' meetings;
- Per diem and travel expenses.

6. COMPETITION VENUE

The Organising Committee shall present during the inspection visit the layout of the competition venue(s). The complete layout must be sent to FISU Championships Department and FISU TCC for approval. This layout should include all competition and training areas as well as the different areas, accesses and services allocated for each client group taking part in the competition or involved in its delivery.

7. EQUIPMENT

Equipment is listed in the FISU Squash Venue Minimum Requirements.

The Championship Referee Manager will arrange equipment for referees depending on the system used (e.g. for electronic scoring).

8. TRAINING SESSIONS

The training sessions schedule should be drawn up by the Organising Committee with approval of FISU Technical Committee Chair and provided to the participating teams at least 4 weeks in advance of the start of the Championship to make the planning as smooth as possible. A bookings process and contact should be communicated to give teams fair access to training facilities.

Host should expect requests for training sessions up to 4 days prior to start of the event. Most nations will require training facilities 2 days prior to competition.

9. COMPETITION PROGRAMME

The competition programme (dates and draft playing schedule) shall be approved by the FISU Technical Committee Chair during the inspection visit and published on the event website and the WSF calendar as soon as approved. Every reasonable effort shall be made to avoid taking place at the same time as other major events relevant to the target student participants.

10. SPECIFIC MEDICAL AND ANTI DOPING CONTROL REQUIEREMENTS

The venue medical plan shall be presented by the OC and approved by the FISU TCC during the inspection visit.

Doping Control

TESTING DAY(S)	NUMBER OF TESTS	ESA	GHRF
2	6	1	0

11. SPORT PRESENTATION

Sport presentation is the audio-visual presentation of a sport in each competition venue of a FISU World University Championship, and includes the opening, medal and closing ceremonies as well as the sporting competition.

Sport presentation has become a vital instrument of major sport events and is key to delivering the Championships sports successfully. It aims to attract, educate, and entertain live audiences at the competition sites and elevates the sport experience for all client groups.

Sport presentation comprises elements such as video clips, sounds, announcements, Championship mascots, creation of fan teams, the involvement of cheerleaders and other innovative elements that increase the understanding of the sport and the attractiveness of the competitions. It is complex and must be carefully planned to the second, as it can have a substantial impact on the operation of broadcasters and venue teams. Therefore, close collaboration and early communication with broadcasting, awarding ceremonies and the ICT is essential.

Sport presentation planning should ground on one common creative theme that fits with the specific Championship concept. Nonetheless, as every sport has its own unique characteristics, it is important that each sport presentation is tailored to the particular sport while still embracing the main theme.

Due to its complexity, FISU suggests the OC to consult expert advice for assisting the OC in developing their sport presentation strategy in an early stage of the event lifecycle. Considering the importance of sport for the sport presentation planning, the OC is recommended to place sport presentation under the responsibility of the sport manager of the Organising Committee.

12. SPORT TIMELINE

DEADLINES	ACTIONS
Event -12 months	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Inspection Visit – Venue visit & equipment approval (FISU TCC) - Competition programme and venue medical plan approval (FISU TCC)
Event -6 months	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - General entries (NUSFs)
Event -3 months	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Quantitative entries (NUSFs) - ITO list (FISU - WSF)
Event -1 month	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Individual entries (NUSFs) - 50% payment from the participating countries - ITO cost (OC) - Event Handbook (OC - FISU TCC)
Event -1 day	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Accreditation & teams' confirmation (NUSFs) - Referee meeting (ITOs - NTOs - FISU TCC - OC) - General Technical Meeting (NUSFs - OC - FISU)
EVENT	
Event +1 month	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Final report to FISU

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