LIBRARY DAILY POSTING INDEX: REFEREING & RULES

Year	Month	Day	(features, bold)	2021	July	04	White clothing rule dropped
2019	Nov	06	Rules 1930	2021	July	12	Graham Waters (Canada)
2019	Nov	19	White / Pastel clothing	2021	Aug	24	International / World Referee
2019	Nov	21	Scoring & Tin height	2021	Aug	31	Refereeing formats & positions
2019	Nov	26	Aces (before being called points)	2022	Jan	05	Referee video playback (2005)
2019	Dec	01	Single serve rule	2022	Jan	17	Pakistan's first female referee
2019	Dec	12	Warm-up times	2022	Mar	09	ISRF Rules Committee 1983
2019	Dec	21	Time between games	2022	Mar	10	Experimental event 1938
2020	Feb	02	Change of Referee	2022	Mar	14	Video review introduction (2011)
2020	Feb	08	Bumper strip	2022	Oct	15	Turning & interception
2020	June	07	Tennis scoring, 1994	2023	Jan	02	Rules in Arabic (1957)
2020	June	17	Tri-Ref 2014	2023	Jan	06	Handicap Rules 1930
2020	July	17	Separate injury rule	2023	Jan	14	RAC Sub-Committee 1912
2020	Aug	22	Minimal Interference intro 2001	2023	Jan	31	US Hardball ball extract 1981
2020	Sept	29	ISRF International Referee programme	e 2023	Feb	17	1984 Two racket amendment.
2020	Oct	12	90 secs between warmup & start rule	2023	Feb	21	Scoring from 1920s
2020	Oct	15	Service rule proposal 1935	2023	Mar	04	Rule Changes 1960
2020	Nov	06	PAR becomes 'standard'	2023	Sept	05	3-referee system (1993)
2020	Nov	18	Three or five games in Rules	2023	Oct	25	Tri-Ref system
2020	Nov	28	Ball bouncing before service 1974	2023	Dec	06	Pastel clothing
2021	Jan	04	'Rackets' dropped, sport name (1993)	2024	Feb	21	Referee hand signals
2021	Feb	19	Bleeding Rule (1993)	2024	Mar	09	First tie-break 1983
2021	Feb	25	PAR / HiHo comparison 1954	2024	July	06	Mike Breckon
2021	Mar	24	PAR - from setting to 2 clear (2011)	2024	Aug	13	Rules book 1930s
2021	Apr	08	1st International Referee Conference	2024	Sept	02	Rules standardising 1926
2021	May	01	Chaz Evans, NZ Hall of Fame	2024	Sept	18	17" tin experiment 1937

Updated to: 28 February 2025



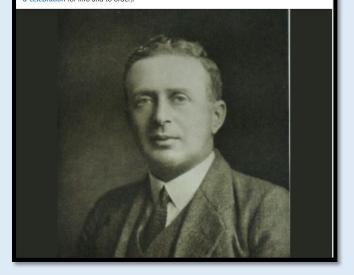
The first time a 17" tin was used in competition was 1989. True, but as early as 1937 a lower tin was tried at an event in London. Here is the report on the experiment.

THE EXPERIMENTAL SQUASH COMPETITION

DURING the week beginning March 21 a most interesting squash competition was held at the Dolphin Square courts under the direction of the Squash Rackets Association with Colonel Basset in charge. The colone of the Squash Rackets Association with Colonel Basset in charge. The colone of the Squash Rackets Association with Colonel Basset in charge. The colone of the Squash Rackets Association with Colonel Basset in charge. The colone of the Squash Rackets Association with Colonel Basset in charge. The colone of the Squash Rackets and a slightly faster ball was being used. For some time players have been agreed that the present standard ball was too slow for the average player who prefers too the colone of the



There were no rules of squash, with those of the sport of rackets being generally used until 1926. At that point the Squash Rackets Committee of the Tennis & Rackets Association (T&RA) drew up the rules, and also devised the squash HiHo (hand-in, hand-out) system to replace PAR15, attributed to committee member Edgar Baerlein (pic). More detail on T&RA and the standardisation can be found in 'Squash Then And Now' (https://www.squashlibrary.info/squasha-celebration for info and to order).

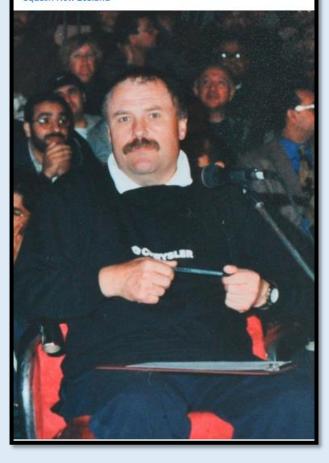


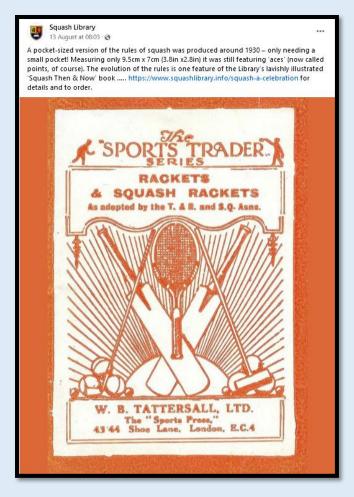


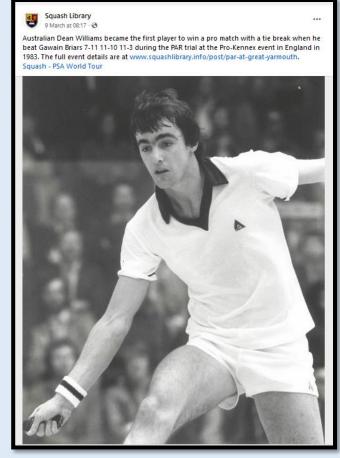
Referee Chas Evans is being inducted into the New Zealand Squash Hall of Fame today. He became one of the best referees in the world, officiating at seven men's and six women's world championships between 1983 and 2003. He also officiated at the 1998 Kuala Lumpur and 2002 Manchester Commonwealth Games. In 1991 he refereed the men's final at the World Open in Adelaide, when Rodney Martin beat Jahangir Khan.

A feature of his refereeing was his empathy with players. He was strong-minded and there was never any doubt he was in charge, but he had a down-to-earth brand of humour that helped ease tense situations.

The full list of NZ H of F members is at www.nzsquashhalloffame.co.nz. Squash New Zealand



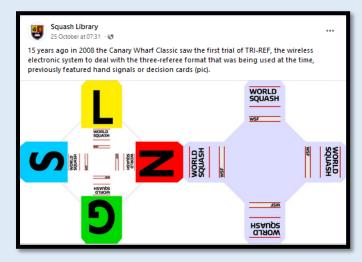










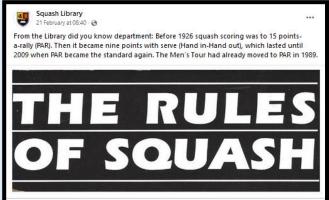






In 1960, in one of the last Squash Rule changes presided over by the British SRA (before the World Federation was formed in 1967) some significant ones were made. They were:

- Penalty points had been introduced after WW2 but the wording was altered to encourage referees to use it where appropriate. Updated wording meant that the referee only had to decide whether a player had "made every effort to comply" with the rule instead of deciding that there had been a failure to comply.
- The referee the power to award a stroke where a player was prevented from making a winning return because of the interference or distraction caused by the opponent.
- Play in match to be continuous was extended, giving the referee power to award the match to the opponent if a player who in their opinion persisted after having been warned in delaying play or stalling in order to gain time.
- The referee was empowered, in the absence of an appeal, to draw the markers attention to the fact that the latter has called the score incorrectly.

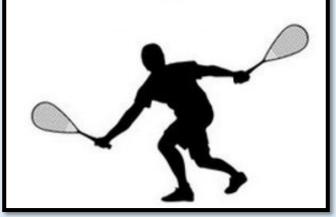




The Rules approved at the ISRF AGM in October 1984 to become effective from 1 May 1985 said

- The game of squash rackets is played between two players, each using a standard racket......
- The game of squash rackets is played between two players with standard rackets

The change was made after somebody was playing with a racket in each hand! World Squash Federation





The rules for Hardball Squash produced by the US Squash Racquets Association in 1981 included rule 11 Condition Of The Ball, including cracking and breaking, which covered the ground thus: US SQUASH

- No ball, before or during a match, may be heated, chilled or otherwise artificially treated
- except by the mutual decision of the players or by decision of the referee.

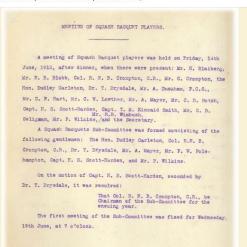
 At any time, when not in the actual play of a point, another ball may be substituted by the mutual consent of the players or by decision of the referee.

 A ball shall be determined broken when it has a crack which extends through both its inner (b)
- (c) and outer surfaces. The ball may be squeezed only enough to determine the extent of the crack. A broken ball shall be replaced and the preceding point shall be a Let.

 Upon determination of a cracked (but not broken) ball, the ball shall be replaced and the
- (d) preceding point shall stand.



In 1912, before the SRA began standardising squash, a leading London club, the RAC, formed a sub-committee of squash players; the first task they undertook was to draft regulations to cover play. (Note: the club spelt rackets as racquets until 1936).





When the Rules of Squash were published in 1930, they included these notes on handicapping:

Player may be handicapped:

By receiving additional hands;

By receiving points;

By owing hands;

By owing points;
By receiving or owing both *hands* and points.

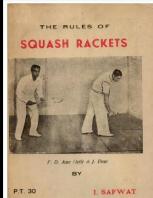
Where of two players one owes points and the other receives points, or when both receive points, both commence the game from the handicap allotted.

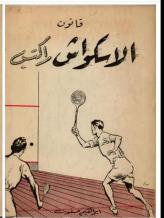
Where both players owe points, the player owing the higher number of points commences play at the difference between the two handicaps, the opponent commencing play at Love.

A player is said to receive a hand when notwithstanding that he shall have, as Hand-in, served himself out or failed to return the ball correctly, he shall continue to serve commencing from the alternate Court until he shall again fail to return the ball correctly or serve himself out.

A player playing another who owes a hand shall take the handicap by himself receiving a hand A player who receives on handicap one or more additional hands and who is Hand-in at the commencement of a game shall not avail himself of his handicap until he shall have once been Hand-out. Where both players owe hands or where both players receive hands the difference in handicap shall be played.







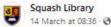


Before the 1976 Rules of Squash update Rule 14 (a) stated that 'if the striker shall have followed the ball round, and so turned, before playing the ball, a let shall be allowed'. But a caveat about interception was added in 1976, which is still current, with slight wording changes.

January 1976:

A let would be the decision 'unless, in the referee's opinion, a winning stroke has been intercepted then the striker shall win the stroke'.

9.1.5. If the striker had turned, a stroke is awarded to the non-striker. unless the non-striker made a deliberate movement to intercept the ball, in which case, a stroke is awarded to the striker.



Eleven years ago (March 2011) the Canary Wharf Classic which is playing this week saw the pivotal trial of the option of a video review if a player disputed a refereeing decision. Initially two a game, reduced to one during the event, a player could appeal to the TMO (Television Match Official) who was then based in a TV truck and who would have angles and slow motion available to them.

The intention was to cut down altercations, involve the audience and, vitally, help the quality of decisions based upon review. (In that event 21 of 50 decisions were altered by the TMO).

Following the success of the trial it was rolled out for all major events. Squash - PSA World Tour



Photos courtesy Steve Line



Lower tins and ball speed reviews. Not just a recent discussion and change area; as here is an article from the UK Tennis magazine in 1938 concerning experiments that took place at Dolphin Square in London. (See the Library ball history at

https://www.squashlibrary.info/.../squash-balls-from-then...).

THE EXPERIMENTAL SQUASH COMPETITION

DURING the week beginning March 21 a most interesting squash competition was held at the Dolphin Square courts under the direction of the Squash Rackets Association with Colonel Basset in charge. The tin in the court had been lowered from nineteen inches to seventeen and a slightly faster ball was being used. For some time players have been agreed that the present standard ball was too slow for the average player who prefers something he can hit. It was also felt that a faster ball would introduce the passing shot, which is practically impossible with the present ball. But a faster ball had been used in the last and good players had been unable to finish off a rally against a player of the same class. In consequence the only possible solution seemed to be to lower the tin, as obviously it is much too late to alter the dimensions of the standard outer DURING the week beginning March

solution seemed to be to lower the tin, as obviously it is much too late to alter the dimensions of the standard court. Sixteen players took part in the invitation competition and all seemed agreed that the experiment was well worth trying, and that once they had grown accustomed to making full use of the extra two inches it would counteract the extra two inches it would counteract any handicap experienced by the stroke player. At the moment, as the result of the competition seemed to indicate, the up and down player who prefers to keep the ball at the back of the court was likely to triumph, but it must be remembered that J. A. Gillies did reach the final and only just lost, while N. E. Hooper made great use of the extra inches in practice, although he rather forgot about them in match play. Summing up, we would say that the changes should definitely improve the

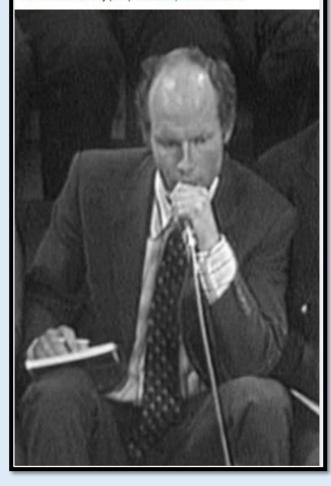
average player's enjoyment of the game as he or she will be able to enjoy a much better reward for a good hit, while the lower tin is not likely to upset the player in any way. The average player does not play within an inch or two of the top of the tin and the only difference the two inches will make to him or her will be to give him (or her) an extra margin of safety. Whether or not it will improve the play among the experts is a different story, although it is obvious that the changes can do no harm. Hence why they are worth trying. It obvious that the changes can do no harm. Hence why they are worth trying. It might be worth while lowering the tin another inch, making three in all and lowering the service line on the front wall a similar amount. That should speed up the game and make it more exciting to watch. It was noticeable that the faster ball helped considerably to shiming lets.

exciting to watch. It was noticeable that the faster ball helped considerably to eliminate lets.

In the final match, B. K. Burnett, the R.A.F. champion, beat J. A. Gillies by three games to two, 9—4, 4—9, 9—5, 3—9, 9—7. It was a good match to watch, providing as it did a contrast in styles. Gillies, making full allowance for a different ball, did not seem to be in touch but it was obvious that Burnett enjoyed the faster ball and his retrieving was very spectacular. In the final game Gillies ded 5—2, appearing to have Burnett well on the run and very tired but at that point he fultered and Burnett taking full advantage of the situation drew level and then forged ahead to 8—5. Gillies came after him and reached 7—8, but Burnett put him out and in the next rally won the match. For the winner there was a prize presented by Cuptain Palmer-Tomkinson.



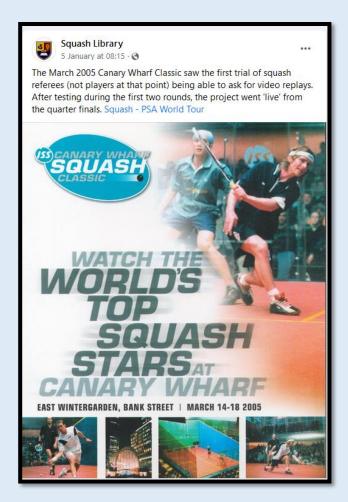
In the early years of WSF (then called ISRF) rules discussions were handled by letters sent between the members of the ISRF Rules Committee. But in 1983 the three members finally met in Hong Kong - for a full five days. This led to substantial changes being proposed and agreed by ISRF AGM for 1985 start, along with the introduction of a four year cycle for rule changes. (Led by Tony Swift, pictured, the other two attendees were Peter Hartley (ENG) and David Donnelly (AUS). World Squash Federation





Pakistan Squash Federation





2021





After the 'International Referee' grade began in 1986 recognising the most capable officials worldwide, until 2011 there were two grades. At that point the WSF decided to combine World the higher Referees (WR) with International Referees (IR), all being called WSF Referees (WSFR). (This was itself discontinued in advance of the start of the World Squash Officiating programme earlier this year, a WSF / PSA partnership, which grades officials by number). Squash - PSA World TourWorld Squash Federation



W.S.O.
WORLD SQUASH OFFICIATING



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In 1986 Canadian referee Graham Waters became designated as an International Referee. During thirty years up to 2016 in the chair he refereed every top player of the period, and handled them in pinnacle matches such as World Championship finals – and always with calm authority that reassured even the most volatile of player.

Such was the esteem that he was held in that in addition to assessing and mentoring, Graham spent many years managing the World Federation Referees Committee.

Squash CanadaWorld Squash Federation





In 1993 the Rules of the Game dropped 'Rackets' from the name of the sport. This followed the World Squash Federation (WSF) itself doing so a year earlier when it changed from being called the International Squash Rackets Federation (ISRF). World Squash Federation







The first international referees conference was held alongside the Men's World Team Championship in Cairo, Egypt in 1985. Managed by Tony Swift, the ISRF (now WSF) Rules Committee Chairman, It was convened as the starting point to bring together elite referees, those that were officiating internationally. Discussions were centred on the Rules, managing relationships with players, the development of standards, the start of the International Referee Programme and





Sunday prompt: White clothing was the rule until the late 1970s when it was loosened to allow 'light pastel' as worn here by Geoff Hunt playing Jonah Barrington in the British Open. This only lasted until 1983 when the World Federation dropped colour restrictions entirely (leaving national federations / clubs to set their own if they wished).







When the squash rules were updated in 2011 the setting provision for PAR 15 was altered. Until then if 14-all was reached the non-server could opt for play to 15 or 17 points, but this was changed to the game continuing until a player led by two points. (15 is an option in the Rules for general play).



When Squash Rules were discussed in 1974 there was concern expressed about the practice of bouncing the ball with the racket prior to serving. Delaying 'continuous' play was a possible issue, but it was also noted that it was technically a fault as it was a 'serve' when the ball was struck by the racket!



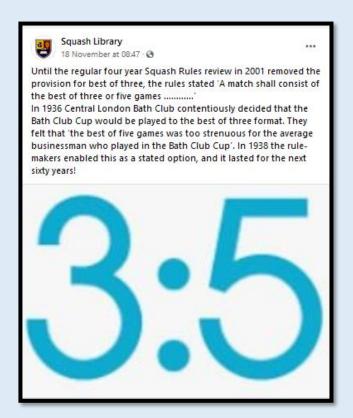


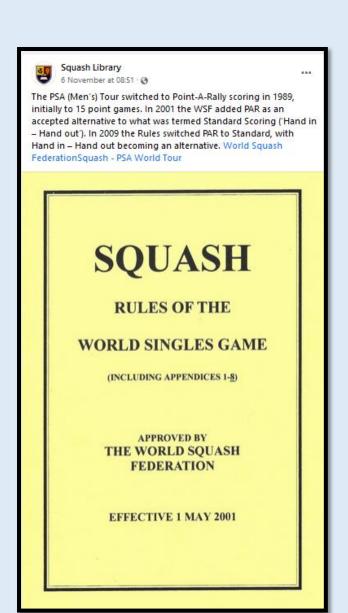
In 1954, renowned tennis journalist Lance Tingay not only reported on the final of the British Amateur Squash Championship but also conducted an early comparison with PAR (then called 'American Scoring), as opposed to 'Hand in, hand out'.

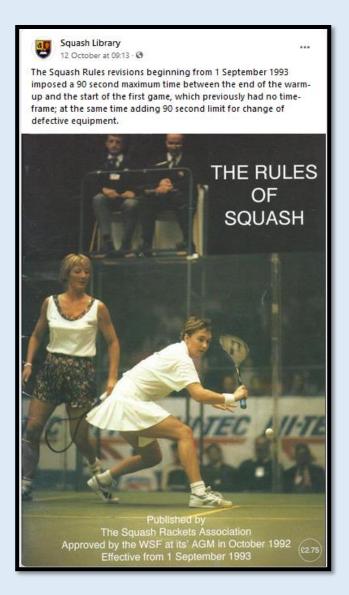
The very close match saw Alan Fairbairn (front) beat Roy Wilson 7-9, 9-1, 7-9, 9-7, 9-7.

He reported that game by game the result would have been 12-15, 13-4, 15-18, 15-12, 15-13, but also that if game endings were ignored the 'continuous' result would have been 12-15, 15-9, 16-18, 15-11, 12-9. The 67 year old experiment did show that the match would have been longer had games to 15 rather than 11 been used.





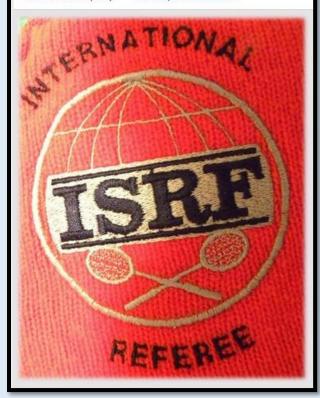


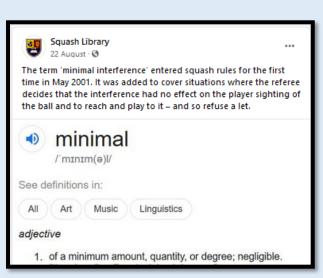


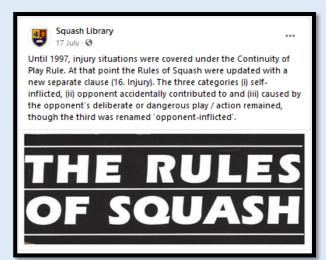


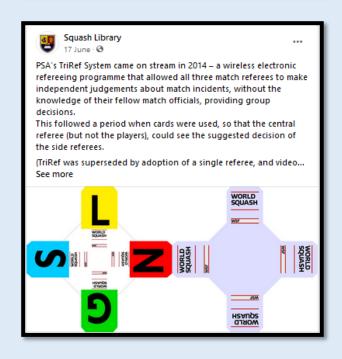


In 1986 the ISRF (now WSF) AGM gave the go ahead for the establishment of an 'international referee status', recognising the most capable worldwide referees. The first group of ISRF International Referees, appointed in 1986 for four years were David Donelly (AUS), Marcus Fischer (SWE), Mike Fitchett (SCO), Chris Foo (MAS) and Graham Waters (CAN). A year later further appointments made were Chas Evans (NZL, Peter Highstead (NZL), Bruce Kettle (ENG), Clive Pollard (NED), Christine Sinclair (AUS), Dave Tullis (CAN) and Don Wilkie (SCO). World Squash Federation











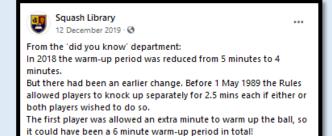
Squash Library

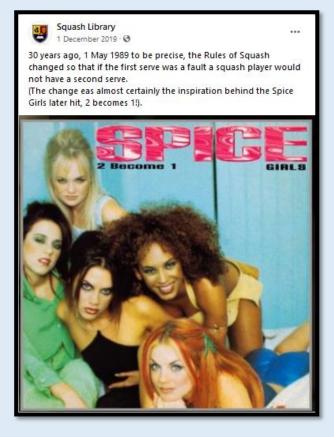




Another note from the Did You Know department:
Before the 90 second maximum period between games was introduced for general play in 1989, the designated gap was 1 minute between all games except between the fourth and fifth, for which 2 minutes was allowed.

(The gap is now 2 minutes for PSA & WSF Championship events, rather than general play 90 seconds) Squash Library





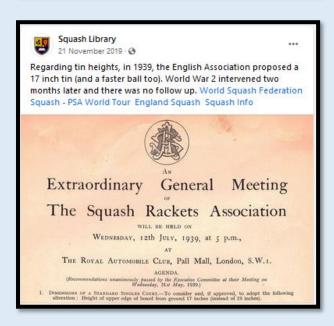


From 1 May 1989 the Rules of Squash were altered so that players could not request a change of referee anymore. (There had not been a reciprocal provision that allowed referees to request a change of players!).



From the Did You Know department! As can be seen from this extract of the Rules of Squash in 1949, there was a time when players would win aces rather than points! It seems that the change was made to calling them points at the start of the 1960s.

3. Aces, How Scored.—Aces can only be scored by handin. When a player fails to serve or to make a good return in accordance with the rules, his opponent wins the stroke. When hand-in wins a stroke, he scores an ace: when hand-out wins a stroke, he becomes hand-in.





Tour scoring & tin height key dates.

Scoring:

- Before 1995 scoring was to 9 points (Hand in / Hand out)
- In 1995 the Men's Tour moved to Point-A-Rally (PAR) to 15 points
- Then went down to 11 point games in 2004
- The Women's Tour moved to PAR in 2009

- The Men's Tour dropped from 19"/48cm to 17"/43cm in 1990
- The Women's Tour aligned at 17"/43cm in 2015

Squash - PSA World Tour World Squash Federation Squash Info

