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Updated to 31 December 2024

2024

Squash Library 30 September at 08:27 - 📀

A major rule change for the pro game came in 35 years ago in 1989 when ISPA (Men, now PSA M/W) proposed ed this. (Full rule change details from 1920s to present are in 'Squash Then And Now: https://www.squashlibrary.info/squash-a-celebration for details. PSA Squash TourWorld Squash Federation

As from January 1989 all ISPA tournaments should be played with a lower tin 43cm (17in) as opposed to the present 48cm (19in), with American scoring [PAR], players having only one serve and that the cut or service line should be abolished.

(All except the service line abolishment came into effect)

B May at 08:36 · O

20 years ago this month PSA piloted the scoring move down from 15 to 11 points per game at the 2004 Super Series Finals in Broadgate, London. At the time the PSA Chief Executive Gawain Briars said, 'There has been major interest on this issue over the last few years, with other associations wanting scoring harmony in the professional divisions, promoters wanting a system which they consider is more attractive to their customers, and broadcasters (and now possibly streaming) wanting a more abbreviated game to suit the 'one hour' viewer attention span.

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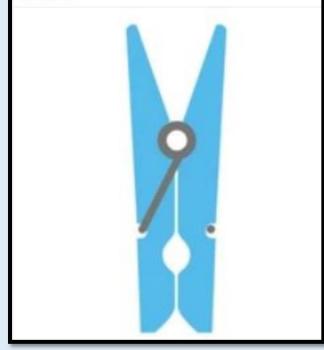
The first event to use it was the Hong Kong Open in August that year. Squash - PSA World TourHong Kong Squash



2023

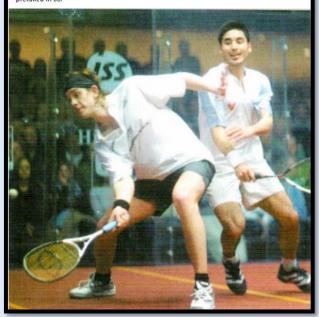
Squash Library 18 April at 08:34 · 🔇

Highly ranked players disrupting draws by being unseeded when their rankings dropped having not competed in many months due to long term injuries or possibly pregnancy was dealt with by the Women's Tour (WISPA) with the introduction of Pegged Ranking in 2003. This enabled players to resume at a seeding level reasonably close to their one at the time they stopped, and so avoiding impacting those they would play against too. It was later also added by the Men's Tour (PSA). The Library has uploaded full Tour Rules going back to the 1980s at www.squashlibrary.info/psa-tour-guides, so the details can be viewed there. Squash - PSA World Tour



Squash Library

The first Canary Wharf Classic in 2004, before the event joined the PSA Tour, featured a final played best of seven games to nine points. James Willstrop (ENG) beat Thierry Lincou (FRA) 9-7 9-5 5-9 9-4 9-10 9-2 in 87 minutes. Willstrop (foreground) also won in 2007, 08 and 13, Lincou prevailed in 06.



2022

Squash Library 30 December 2022 at 08:45 - 🔿

PRESS RELEASE

On this day in 1987 ISPA (now PSA) initiated moves towards changing the rules for scoring, tin height and serve for the Men's Tour. With the exception of abolishing the service line they were implemented. Squash – PSA World Tour

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INTERNATIONAL SQUASH PLAYERS ASSOCIATION

Not for use until NOON December 30th 1987

ISPA BOARD PROPOSE RULES SHAKE-UP

Professional squash is poised to debate the need for rule changes for its own events following a recommendation from the Board of the International Squash Players Association which goes before the membership at the Association's annual meeting in Spring 1988.

The Board is suggesting that as from January 1st 1989, all I.S.P.A. tournaments should be played with a lower tin $(43\,\mathrm{cm}~(17^n))$ as opposed to the present 48cm $(19^n))$, with American scoring, players having only one serve and that the cut or service line should be abolished.

During 1987, the French Open, Canadian Open and U.S. Open operated these rule changes and will continue to do so in 1988.

Said I.S.P.A. chairman, Stuart Davenport, "We have known for some time that rule changes are necessary in order for squash to move forward, to have more spectator appeal and to recognise that to-day's players are so much fitter than their counterparts of yesteryear.

"The I.S.P.A. Board believes that now is the time to grasp the nettle and set an example to the rest of the squash world. But our members will have the final say.

"Personally I believe that the lowering of the tin is the biggest single factor that can help break the pattern of long matches and that American scoring will help the game to be followed and understood by a much wider public.

"I feel the International Squash Rackets Federation will welcome our initiative and view it as an opportunity to see whether changes, if approved, should eventually be implemented for the rest of squash."

EFFECTS OF PROPOSED CHANGES

Lowering of the tin: Has the effect of 'lengthening' the court and will see players drawn more out of position. The skilful player can attempt more winners and the drop shot will become an even more potent weapon that it is today.

American scoring: The system suggested is a simplified version of that used in the USA. Genes are to 15 points with a point awarded to the winner of every rally. At 14/14 the non-server will have the option of one point (sudden death) or playing to 17 points.

One serve/no cut line: The abolition of the cut or service line halfway up the front wall, above which players currently have to serve, will enable players to develop an attacking serve. Having only one serve will cut out time wasting and speed up matched.

Squash Library 5 November at 08:51 · 😪

Frenchman Thierry Lincou beat Nick Matthew (ENG) 11-4, 11-8, 11-10 in the Hong Kong Open final on 5 Sept 2004. He didn't just win the title, he had the distinction of becoming the first player to win a Tour title in the newly introduced 11 point format. The Men's Tour reduction from 15 was contentious at the time – see www.squashlibrary.info/features for background. Hong Kong SquashSquash - PSA World Tour



Squash Library 25 October at 08:49 - 🕲

In March 2004 PSA announced that Men's Tour Point-A-Rally game scoring to 15 points would be dropped to 11. This was the subject of much debate at the time which you can see at www.squashlibrary.info/features, (courtesy: www.squashplayer.co.uk). It appeared in 2004 issue 6 of the Squash Player Magazine, including views of great champions, Jahangir Khan, Geoff Hunt and Jonah Barrington. Squash - PSA World TourSquash Player Magazine



Squash Library

22 October at 08:40 - 😋

This week in 1994 the men's Grasshopper Cup in Zurich, Switzerland used tennis scoring in an experiment. Players involved included Jansher Khan, Brett Martin, Rodney Eyles and Peter Marshall.

Points were scored at 15, 30, 40, and Game, except that at deuce (40-all), advantage was played and then game. A player served one complete game, then the service changed hands. A set was won by the first player to win 5 games. The match was won by the first player to take two sets (i.e. 2-0 or 2-1). Matches were the best of three sets. Analysis of the rallies showed that they were of similar length to PAR, but crisis points

Analysis of the failes showed that they were of similar rengin to race but class points occurred more often. The three in squash (point, game, match) were increased to four (point, game, set and match).

Player reactions were mixed, while Jansher Khan said that he simply played and let others worry about the scoring!

After the pros and cons were debated the trial was not extended. Squash - PSA World Tour



Seven years ago in September 2015, the tin height for Women's Tour matches was dropped from 19"/48cm to 17"/43cm, and so aligning with the Men's Tour. This change took place after the two Tours had merged at the start of the year. Squash - PSA World Tour

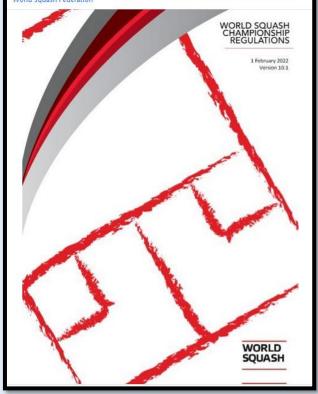
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Squash Library 12 August at 08:59 · @

At the WSF AGM in 2018 the following was agreed for some Juniors: "A player who is under 17 years of age on the final day of an event may subsequently exercise a different qualification reducing the gap of three years to one year in the requirements of K2 and K4: (A player may only make one change using the reduced time period, and thereafter would be required to conform to the three year period in respect of exercising an eligibility.) Full WSF Championship Regulations at www.worldsquash.org/world-championship-regulations-2/. World Squash Federation



2021



Squash Library

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For World Doubles Championships, Commonwealth Games and other major events from 2012 onwards the height of the tin used for men's, women's and mixed events was lowered from 43cm (17*) to 33cm (13") with the expanded doubles court width of 8.42 metres (27.63 ft), as used from 2010, being maintained. This followed player testing which showed that lowering the tin by 30% encouraged shot-making and using the full court for more entertaining play for spectators and broadcast viewers alike.

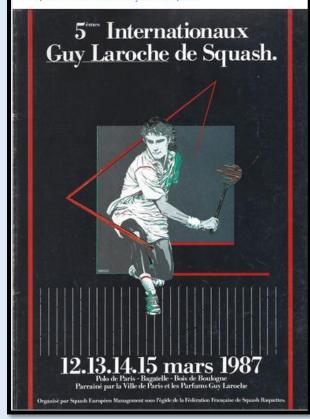




19 April at 09:11 · 3

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The 1987 French Open saw a number of experimental rules used. PAR scoring (to 15 points), one serve, the front wall cut-line removed and the tin lowered to 17"/43cm. Excepting cut-line removal, the three changes fed into the pro-game - although scoring later moved from 15 to 11 point games. Squash - PSA World Tour FFSquash - Fédération Française de Squash





Squash Library

28 March at 09:30 · 🕄 Sunday prompt:

Tour scoring & tin height key dates. Scorina:

- · 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.
- The Men's Tour went down to 11 point games in 2004

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- The Women's Tour moved to PAR in 2009
- Tin:
- 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





Squash Library 12 March at 08:43 · 🕲

In 2004 a landmark joint World Squash Anti-Doping Code was signed between the World Federation (WSF) and the Men's & Women's Pro Tours (then PSA & WISPA). The three associations published a common code in their regulations so that testing and penalty procedures became jointly administered. At that time the Director General of WADA, the World Anti-Doping Agency, stated "Squash has set an example of how professional organisations and leagues can work hand-in-hand with an International Federation to use the Code as the basis for the fight against doping in sport. It is an example we at WADA would encourage all professional organisations and leagues around the world to follow." World Champions Nicol David & Nick Matthew seen here promoting 'clean sport' in 2011. Squash - PSA World TourWorld Squash Federation





In 1968 after having been hit in his left eye by a racket causing loss of vision, Dr E.D. Kerr of High Wycombe in England had a metal protective mask made. His prototype was not taken up – probably because it would seem that protection was limited, especially with holes wide enough for a ball to pass through.

(As from 1 January 1999 WSF mandated that all Juniors and Doubles players were required to wear protective eye-guards during competition play).







24 January at 08:38 · 🚱

Washington has seen change this week, but also when the World Federation held its 1986 AGM there! The meeting reduced the top junior age from 19 to 18 (the bands became U12, 14, 16, 18). But 2 years later U19 was reinstated, and in 1998 age groupings changed to U13, 15, 17, 19.

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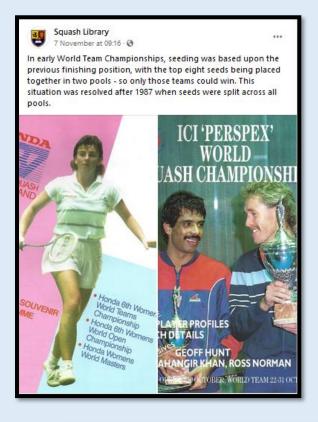
Squash Library 3 November at 08:46 · 🔇

Before Federations moved over to 'random draw' at points during the late 1970's, knock-out draws used pre-ordained seeding positions. So, for example, the number one seed would expect to meet the 16, 8 and 4 before the final. However, the 8 would have to battle past the closely rated 9, and the 4 would face 5. Then the winners would face off in another tight match. Not only would this 'protect' the top seed, but where draws tend to repeat e.g. national / local titles, the same players would meet each time. The old format:

| Top half | |
|-------------|---------|
| 1 v 16 | |
|] 1 v 8 | |
| 8 v 9 | |
| |] 1 v 4 |
| 4 v 13 | |
|] 4 v 5 | |
| 5 v 12 | |
| Bottom half |] 1 v 2 |
| 6 v 11 | |
|] 3 v 6 | |
| 3 v 14 | |
| |] 2 v 3 |
| 7 v 10 | |
|] 2 v 7 | |
| 2 v 15 | |

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2020



Squash Library 3 December at 10:27 · 🚱

During 1998 the standard age groupings for juniors moved from Under 12, 14, 16 & 19 to become primarily Under 13, 15, 17 and 19. This reduced the possible nearly three year gap that had banded players who had just turned 16 with those close to their 19th birthday.

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Squash Library 20 November at 08:51 - 🕥

The great setting of Shanghai's famous Bund for the September 2015 China Open saw the first women's Tour event experimenting using the lower 17" (43cm) tin, the same height as for the Men. The test events led to formal introduction of 17" tins for Women's PSA Tour events at the beginning of 2016. Squash - PSA World Tour







From 1 January 1989 the ISPA (now PSA) minimum commitment level for male players for ranking points division was raised to 14 events - it had generally been eight before.

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Due to an increased number of available events ISPA reported '.... The Board recognises the need for leading players to support sponsors and promoters on the circuit'. Squash - PSA World Tour



Squash Library 2

21 October at 08:36 · 🕲

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In 2008, WISPA (the WISPA Women's Tour, since merged with PSA), introduced a rule insisting that players had their names on the back of their playing top to help spectators and broadcast viewers identify them when on court.





September 2015 saw the China Open start a four month PSA trial into the suitability of dropping the tin height tin for women from 19" (48cm) to 17" (43cm) – the height for the men. The outcome was tin height for women Tour events going down to 17" in Jan 2016. [General play continues at 19" for all].

PSA Chief Operations Officer Lee Beachill commented: 'We feel that aligning the tin height is an important step to take in order to achieve our goals of increasing parity and offering both men and women the same playing opportunities'. Squash - PSA World Tour





Squash Library 27 August · 🕲

World rankings were published every two months until the separate player associations (PSA, men; WISPA women) decided that the number of events on the calendar were enough to merit monthly rankings. That point came after January 1998 for the men, and women Jan 2001. Here are the first month gap top tens, (coincidentally, Peter Nicol's debut at number one): Squash - PSA World Tour

| WISPA WOMEN'S | | PSA MEN'S | |
|---------------------|-----|-------------------|-----|
| Feb-01 | | Feb-98 | |
| 1 Leilani Joyce | NZL | 1 Peter Nicol | SCO |
| 2 Carol Owens | AUS | 2 Jansher Khan | PAR |
| 3 Sarah Fitz-Gerald | AUS | 3 Jonathon Power | CAN |
| 4 Linda Charman | ENG | 4 Rodney Eyles | AUS |
| 5 Natalie Grainger | ENG | 5 Ahmed Barada | EGY |
| 6 Tania Bailey | ENG | 6 Simon Parke | ENG |
| 7 Suzanne Horner | ENG | 7 Alex Gough | WAI |
| 8 Fiona Geaves | ENG | 8 Anthony Hill | AUS |
| 9 Stephanie Brind | ENG | 9 Del Harris | ENG |
| 10 Rachael Grinham | AUS | 10 Dan Jenson | AUS |
| 11 Vanessa Atkinson | NED | 11 Mark Chaloner | ENG |
| 12 Cassie Campion | ENG | 12 Peter Marshall | ENG |
| 13 Rebecca Macree | ENG | 13 Chris Walker | ENG |
| 14 Sabine Schoene | GER | 14 Paul Johnson | ENG |
| 15 Sue Wright | ENG | 15 Mark Cairns | ENG |
| 16 Jenny Tranfield | ENG | 16 Byron Davis | AUS |
| 17 Pamela Nimmo | SCO | 17 Martin Heath | SCO |
| 18 Vicky Botwright | ENG | 18 Derek Ryan | IRL |
| 19 Maha Zein | EGY | 19 Amir Wagih | EGY |
| 20 Natalie Grinham | AUS | 20 Julien Bonetat | FR/ |







Squash Library 6 August · 🕲

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In 1978 the ISRF (now WSF) set down standardisation of age groupings. Unlike now where juniors must still be under the age on the final day of an event, (or having reached the age on the first day for masters), eligibility was determined by a player's age on 1st May of the year of the event.

So, for an Under 19 event players could be 19 years old if they were still 18 on 1st May in the year. But for Masters players, they could have reached the required age but still not be eligible if their birthday was after 1 May. This was changed to Last day (juniors) and first day (masters) in 1988.



Squash Library 19 November 2019 - 3

White clothing on a squash court was the rule until the late 1970s when it was loosened it to allow 'light pastel' as worn here by Geoff Hunt. This only lasted until 1983 when the World Federation dropped colour restrictions entirely (leaving national Feds / clubs to set their own if they wished).





Squash Library 25 March · 🕲

After its 1973 formation, in 1980 PSA (then called ISPA) began grading men's tournaments. Top grade events were GB£20,000+ prize funds, down to the lowest (6th) GB£2,000 - £4,999 band (the move to US\$ for the Tour came later). At the same time a computer points breakdown was introduced. The divisor used was six events. Squash - PSA World Tour

| Place | Grade 1 | Grade 2 | Grade 3 | Grade 4 | Grade 5 | Grade 6 |
|-------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|
| ist | 140 | 120 | 100 | 90 | 80 | -40 |
| bed | 105 | 90 | 75 | 67 | 60 | 30 |
| led | 75 | 64 | 54 | 48 | 43 | 22 |
| 2ch | 65 | 56 | 46 | 42 | 37 | 18 |
| 5/8 | 45 | 38 | 32 | 28 | 26 | 13 |
| /16 | 27 | 23 | 19 | 17 | 16 | 8 |
| 7/32 | 10 | 8 | 7 | 6 | 6 | 3 |
| 3/64 | 3 | 2 | 2 | 1 | 1 | - |

Squash Library

12 March · 🕲

Historically, junior age bands were Under 19, 16, 14 & 12 until the mid-1980s when it was felt that a three year 16 – 19 gap was too large. It was decided to move to U18, 16, 14, 12 in 1985, but lowering the end of Juniors to U18 was rescinded almost immediately. Two year gaps introducing 17, 15, 13 to U19 became the standard in 1988.

2019



Squash Library 21 November 2019 - 🕲

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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

Tin:

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- 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



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