

Ranking Rules

Ranking teams and individual players is one of the most challenging tasks of the College Squash Association (CSA). While the CSA makes every attempt to rank teams and players fairly and accurately, unique situations like ties inevitably arise that complicate the ranking process.

In recent years, the CSA has relied on computer software to assist in ranking players, but it has ranked teams manually. The CSA uses the following criteria when evaluating teams and players:

- Head-to-head competition
 - In situations where teams or players split two or more matches, the most recent winner should receive the higher rank. For example, if “A” and “B” play three times during the season, and “A” wins the first two matches but “B” wins the third, most recent match, “B” should receive the higher rank.
- Results of competition against common opponents
- Strength of schedule
- Number of appearances
 - If teams or individuals are of similar rank, the team or individual that has played the most matches should be ranked higher. For example, “A” and “B” are considered of similar rank; however, “A” has played 10 matches and “B” has played 20 matches. “B” should receive the higher rank.
 - Teams must compete against a variety of opponents to be ranked at the end of the regular season.

Occasionally, there are three or more teams or players that tie in the rankings. Below is an example of a CSA tie-breaking scenario:

- “A” defeated “B” 6-3
- “B” defeated “C” 5-4

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- “C” defeated “A” 5-4

In the situation above, the individual matches won are used to break the tie: 1. “A” ($6+4 = 10$); 2. “C” ($4+5=9$); and 3. “B” ($5+3=8$).

Below is another example of a tiebreaking scenario:

- “A” defeated “B” 5-4
- “B” defeated “C” 5-4
- “C” defeated “A” 5-4

In this situation, all three teams remain tied with 9 wins. The CSA will examine the records of common opponents in an attempt to break the tie. It may also examine the rankings throughout the season to assist in breaking the tie. In tiebreaking situations, if requested, the Ranking Committee must provide to coaches the rationale used.

If two teams are tied entering team championships, the two teams should be placed in brackets where they will face each other in a particular round of the event. On some occasions, however, it is not possible to place teams in brackets where they will face each other, as in situations where one team would enter a higher draw and the other team would enter a lower draw when the tie is broken. In this scenario, all of the criteria and tiebreaking scenarios mentioned above will be scrutinized and additional factors, such as points won against common opponents, will be reviewed to determine the higher seed.

VARSITY PROXIMITY MATCHES

Each season, a varsity team **should** play the two varsity teams above them and the two varsity teams below them in final team rankings of the prior season (referred to as “Proximity Matches”). Proximity Matches should be played during the regular season and should not be played during conference championships or post-season play.

For example, if a varsity team is ranked 10th in the final ranking of

the season, the closest varsity teams ahead of them were ranked 7th and 9th, and the closest varsity teams below them were ranked 11th and 12th, the next season they should play those four teams.

If a varsity team does not have two opponents on either side of the rankings, they should play four varsity opponents in immediate proximity in the final team rankings of the prior season. For example, the top-ranked varsity team should play the 2nd, 3rd, 4th, and 5th ranked teams, while the 2nd ranked team should play the 1st, 3rd, 4th, and 5th ranked teams.

If matches are cancelled due to unforeseen circumstances (weather, national emergency, etc.) every effort needs to be made reschedule the match. The affected teams should contact the Executive Administrator with the date of the rescheduled match within 48 hours of the cancellation.

A varsity team that is unable to play its Proximity Matches may be unable to justify appeals of their ranking position due to insufficient match data.

Club teams should strive to abide by this rule.

ELIGIBLE/RECOGNIZED TEAMS

One team per school is eligible for CSA membership and ranking. If a school has both a varsity and a club team, only the varsity squad is the officially recognized team and may represent the school in CSA sanctioned events. The club team may play exhibition matches against CSA member teams; however, the results will not count as a CSA recognized match and the match will not count towards the CSA member schools' match minimum for entry into the Men's National Team Championships or the Women's National Team Championships. The match will not count for rankings.

In addition, teams may only be composed of players from the same school. A team composed of players from multiple schools is ineligible to compete in official CSA matches.

MINIMUM NUMBER OF PLAYERS PER TEAM

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For a regular season match to officially count for ranking purposes, each team must have at least seven players. Except for Emerging Teams, matches with less than seven players per team will not count towards the required number of matches for [entry into the National Team Championships](#).

PUBLICATION SCHEDULE

The CSA will publish rankings throughout the season ([Mid-November](#) through March):

- Women’s team rankings will be published every [week](#) during the [season](#);
- Men’s team rankings will be published every [week](#) during the [season](#); and
- Men’s and Women’s individual rankings will be published on a periodic basis.

The publication schedule may be adjusted, if needed, throughout the season.

SEASON ENDING RANKINGS

The results of the National Team Championships will determine the final team rankings of the season. Failure to compete in the National Team Championships will result in a team’s removal from the final team rankings of the season.

TEAM RANKING BY DIVISION

The CSA is made up of varsity teams from schools belonging to different NCAA divisions. Several times per season, the CSA will publish a subset of rankings based on NCAA divisions.

APPEALS

[Each week during the season, the Ranking Chair and the Executive Administrator will draft the preliminary rankings. These preliminary](#)

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rankings will be distributed to coaches for review and possible appeal. Appeals are typically due the day after distribution. If a coach wishes to appeal their team's ranking, he or she will submit an appeal to the Executive Administrator. In the appeal, a coach must include match results to justify modification to the proposed ranking.

The MCSA and WCSA each have a three-person Ranking Appeal Committee. The Ranking Appeal Committees do not include the Ranking Chair and the Executive Administrator.

The Executive Administrator collects the weekly appeals.

For invalid appeals ("No Contest" appeals), the Executive Administrator may dismiss such appeals after notifying the Ranking Chair and the Ranking Appeal Committee. Invalid appeals do not require review by the Ranking Appeal Committee. Examples of invalid appeals include appeals related to the following circumstances:

- Unreported match results
- Match results that were reported late
- [OpA](#) Appeals that do not include match results
- Teams that did not submit the preseason questionnaire (preseason rankings only)
- Teams that did not participate in the previous season's team championships and have not played a match in the current season

For valid appeals, the Executive Administrator will pass the appeal to the respective Ranking Appeal Committee. If warranted, the Executive Administrator will notify other teams (not the appealing team) that are potentially affected by the appeal to see if they would like to submit information to the Ranking Appeal Committee.

The Ranking Appeal Committee will discuss by phone call or e-mail the appeal and the resulting decision will stand.

In the event that a member of the Ranking Appeal Committee's team is involved in the appeal, he or she will not be permitted to

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participate in the meeting or vote on the outcome of the appeal. In this circumstance, there is the potential for a tie in the Ranking Appeal Committee vote. If there is a tie vote, the original ranking order will be upheld.

Prior to publication of the team rankings, the Executive Administrator will notify the affected parties of the Ranking Appeal Committee's decision and provide a brief rationale from the Ranking Appeal Committee. This notification is informational and does not open the matter to further appeal.

Standard team ranking timeline:

- Monday: Team Rankings are drafted and sent out to coaches for appeal
- Tuesday: Appeals are due to the Executive Administrator. The Executive Administrator filters invalid appeals and sends all other appeals to the Ranking Appeal Committee. The Executive Administrator also notifies affected teams and asks that they submit information for consideration to the Ranking Appeal Committee.
- Wednesday: If warranted, the Ranking Appeal Committee meets to discuss and rule on appeals.
- Thursday - Friday: In the event of an adjustment of the ranking order, revised team rankings are published

At times during the season, the timeline of the weekly process may vary.

COACHES' OBLIGATIONS

The home team is responsible for submitting the results of matches to US Squash's Ranking System no later than 24 hours after the match. For matches or tournament/round robin events at a neutral site, the winning team is responsible for submitting the scores to US Squash's Ranking System within 48 hours of the conclusion of the match. Tournament/round robin organizers are strongly encouraged to have a computer available for CSA coaches to enter results at

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their events.

Failure to submit scores within the allotted time period will result in penalties.

Coaches are strongly encouraged to have their teams play as competitive a schedule as possible to help improve the accuracy of the rankings.