

Ranking Rules

Ranking teams and individual players is one of the most challenging tasks of the College Squash Association. To fairly and accurately rank teams and individual players, the College Squash Association utilizes a computer-based ranking system to determine seedings for its Team and Individual Championships.

TEAM RANKINGS

For team rankings, the College Squash Association utilizes a combination of manual and computerized ranking systems.

- Preseason: CSA varsity coaches will vote on the top-25 varsity teams for the preseason ranking. The Ranking Chair and the Executive Administrator will determine the remaining varsity ranking positions.
- Manual Rankings (November – January 24th): The Executive Administrator and the Ranking Chair will rank all varsity teams manually.
- Computerized Rankings (January 25th – Team Championships): The College Squash Association will rank teams that have played at least five matches utilizing the Elo ranking methodology. If needed, the Ranking Chair may adjust a non-varsity team's ranking position.

For Team Championships, the Elo rankings will seed the tournament.

The Elo ranking methodology is a method for calculating the relative skill levels of teams in competitor-versus-competitor situations. A team with the most points is ranked highest.

If two or more teams tie in the Elo ranking, the first tie-breaker is

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head-to-head results. For example, if Team A and Team B both have 1000 points, but Team B defeated Team A in their most recent meeting in the current season, Team B will be ranked ahead of Team A.

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If head-to-head competition cannot be used, the team with a victory over the highest ranked opponent not involved in the Elo ranking tie will be used to break the tie. For example, Team A and Team B both have 1000 points, and a head-to-head tiebreaker could not break the tie. Team A's best victory came against 15th-ranked team, while Team B's best victory came against the 17th-ranked team. Team A wins the tie-breaker.

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If both Team A's and Team B's best victory came against the 15th-ranked team, their next best victory will be used to break the tie. This scenario will repeat until the tie is broken.

In rare circumstances with three or more teams tying in the Elo ranking, head-to-head competition may not indicate a winner for three or more tied teams that have played. For example, if Team A defeated Team B, Team B defeated Team C, and Team C defeated Team A, no clear winner can be determined. In this situation, the secondary tie-breaker will be examined.

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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 at the end of the season 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

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**.

For any match involving a varsity team, the match score will be best of nine matches. For example, if varsity Team A has nine players and club Team B has 8 players, Team A automatically wins one match. For reporting purposes in US Squash's Scoring System, the defaulted match is recorded as a "Double Default" since it was not played.

TEAM RANKING PUBLICATION SCHEDULE

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

- From November through December, varsity team rankings will be published every other week.
- From January through the commencement of team championships, varsity team rankings will be published every week.

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

SEASON ENDING TEAM 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.

COACHES' OBLIGATIONS

The home team is responsible for submitting the results of matches to US Squash's Scoring 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 Scoring 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 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.

INDIVIDUAL RANKINGS

Individual rankings are generally based on an Elo ranking model. This model is based on a player's individual results from their team's matches.

Men's and women's individual rankings will be published on a periodic basis.

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The results for the Individual Championships will determine the season ending individual rankings. Unless a waiver is granted by the Executive Committee, a player must compete in the Individual Championships to receive an end of the season ranking.

RANKING APPEALS

With the exception of pre-championship team and individual rankings, coaches may not appeal rankings.

Coaches may only appeal prior to Team and Individual Championships for **extraordinary circumstances**, such as an error in a match result that prevented the Elo formula from evaluating the team or player properly. Opinion-based appeals will not be considered.

The respective Executive Committee will rule on the appeal. If one or more members of the Executive Committee are involved in the appeal, they will not be part of evaluation and/or decision process.

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To assist with individual rankings, coaches are encouraged to log challenge match results into US Squash's Scoring System. These challenge match results assist in making the overall individual rankings more accurate.