



Line-up Rules For 2024-2025 Season

November 8, 2024

BACKGROUND

Last season, CSA issued guidelines regarding team line-ups, but indicated that it would revisit those guidelines during the off-season. The CSA Rules & Regulations Committee has reviewed the rules and guidelines relating to team line-ups, including reviewing the results of a survey of coaches regarding their opinions and preferences for line-up management, disclosure, and reporting in order to develop rules for the upcoming season. These Rules are intended to provide clarity and to assist coaches in addressing line-up issues proactively such that potentially contentious line-up issues can be avoided or resolved in advance of competition.

CURRENT PUBLISHED RULES

As a reminder, the currently published rules on team line-ups for dual matches are found under the “Match Play Rules” and “Ethics Procedures” on the CSA website.

Team Line-Ups

Team line-ups must be based on order of merit, with the best player at number one, the second-best player at number two, and so on. The most accepted and traditional method of establishing an order of merit is the challenge ladder system. If a player wins a challenge match, they move up the ladder; if they lose, they move down. Coaches must be sure that whatever systems they use are logical and consistent throughout the season and throughout the ladder, and acceptable to their teams and to other coaches.

Ethics

In the case of dual match line-ups, opposing coaches should have an opportunity to question a line-up change until a satisfactory explanation is offered. If a coach is not forthcoming or their explanation is not satisfactory, the disputing coach must verbally notify the opposing coach that they are protesting the line-up and the match. This should be done prior to the beginning of the match, and then the protesting coach must email the protest, with all the particulars, to admin@csasquash.com within 24 hours of the time of the match. The opposing coach will be given the opportunity to provide supporting evidence for the line-up order, and the CSA adjudication committee will evaluate the appeal.



NEW RULES FOR TEAM LINE-UPS [*modifying CSA's Match Play Rules*]

Team Line-Ups Generally: Team line-ups must be based on order of merit, with the best player at number one, the second-best player at number two, and so on. The most accepted and traditional method of establishing an order of merit is the challenge ladder system (If a player wins a challenge match, they move up the ladder; if they lose, they move down). Coaches must be sure that whatever systems they use are logical and consistent throughout the season and throughout the ladder, and acceptable to their teams and to other coaches. The CSA is not mandating a particular minimum number of challenge matches each season, recognizing that coach discretion is often important in setting line-ups, but CSA strongly recommends that challenge matches be completed regularly to justify any line-up changes during the course of the season. CSA recommends that coaches rely primarily on challenge matches and player ratings, among other factors, in determining the appropriate order of their line-ups. Any time a new player is added to the roster for the first time in a season, the coach should provide notice to the League Commissioner of the addition.

Pre-Season Line-Ups: Preliminary, pre-season line-ups must be posted on Club Locker at least 48 hours before a team's first competition.

January Enrollment Disclosure: If a new player is added to a team's roster based on a January enrollment date at the institution, the addition of the new player to the roster must be reported to CSA promptly, and no later than December 31st.

Return from Extended Injury, Illness or Study Abroad: A player should not lose their place on a team ladder simply because they have been ill or injured for any length of time. However, the longer a player is unable to practice and play matches with their team, the more likely it is that their capabilities would diminish while the capabilities of their peers would improve. Therefore, a player returning to the line-up after an extended absence (2 weeks or more) should either be re-inserted at their old position or offered a challenge against the player who was in the position immediately below them when the absence began. Should the returning player lose this challenge, they should be allowed to play at least one more challenge down prior to their participation in their first team match. Alternatively, if a coach feels that a further adjustment to the line-up is appropriate, the coach should obtain approval in advance from the League Commissioner. When in doubt about the appropriate placement in the line-up of a returning player, coaches should consult with the League Commissioner.

There must be a competition-based rationale for a returning player's spot in the line-up. The longer a player has been out, the more compelling the need for downward challenges to re-establish the order of merit. Athlete health and safety must always be a primary consideration in athlete return-to-play decisions, therefore if a coach believes an athlete is not ready to return to the same competitive level in the line-up as he/she held prior to their



injury or illness, the coach must give serious consideration to whether the athlete is in fact ready to return to competition.

Team Roster Exchange: Teams must publish their team rosters on Club Locker at least 24 hours in advance of a match. Submissions will be blind, subject to Club Locker technological limitations, such that rosters will only be shared with the opposing team once both teams' rosters have been posted. If a team decides to make a change to the roster after its initial roster submission, the change must be posted promptly to Club Locker and communicated via email to the opposing team's coach and the League Commissioner with a description of the change(s) made and the reasons for such change(s), including any challenge match results supporting the decision. Again, coaches may exercise their discretion to make changes to their line-ups after the 24-hour deadline, but athlete health and safety considerations should be primary considerations. If an athlete is not ready to play 24 hours ahead of a match, strongly consider whether the athlete actually becomes ready in advance of competition, and be ready to defend the decision to add such an individual to the line-up. If a coach fails to timely submit their line-ups, then the team will be required to use the line-up from the last match played, however if a player on the line-up is ill or injured at the time of the upcoming match, the line-up shall be adjusted based on the order of merit.

Changes to Line-ups: A line-up cannot change in terms of order of merit on consecutive days of competition. A line-up can, however, be adjusted when a player or players are added or removed from it. When a player is added to or removed from a line-up, all other players are moved accordingly in the established order of merit. For example, if the number 4 player on a team is ill or injured and has to be removed from the line-up, the number 5 player would move up to the number 4 position, the original number 6 player would move up to the number 5 position, and so on. If a line-up change of more than one spot is to be made between dual matches *not* on consecutive days, then the change should be supportable by challenge matches or other justifications that coaches should be prepared to disclose and defend in the event of a challenge to the line-up.

Challenges to Line-ups: An opposing coach can challenge a player's ladder position based on their match and challenge record that season. Any challenge to an opposing team's line-up should be submitted to CSA by email notification to the League Commissioner (admin@csasquash.com) as soon as practicable after receipt of the opposing team's line-up, but no later than 12 hours before the match for which the line-up was disclosed. Each coach must have available upon request a list of challenge results available for the opposing coach to inspect before each match, and the results of earlier season matches are available online.¹ If a challenge is submitted, the opposing coach will be given the opportunity to provide

¹ The language in the CSA Ethics Policy Procedures will be changed to be consistent with this language.



supporting evidence for the line-up order. The CSA's Adjudication Committee will evaluate and rule on line-up challenges on a case-by-case basis.

THE RULES AND REGULATIONS COMMITTEE

All five current members approved the above rules.

Richard Chin
Stephen Gregg
Sarah Hartley (Chair)
Mark Lewis
Erin Robson