

LIBRARY DAILY POSTING INDEX: REFEREEING & RULES

Year	Month	Day	<i>(features, bold)</i>	2021	July	12	Graham Waters (Canada)
2019	Nov	06	Rules 1930	2021	Aug	24	International / World Referee
2019	Nov	19	White / Pastel clothing	2021	Aug	31	Refereeing formats & positions
2019	Nov	21	Scoring & Tin height	2022	Jan	05	Referee video playback (2005)
2019	Nov	26	Aces (before being called points)	2022	Jan	17	Pakistan's first female referee
2019	Dec	01	Single serve rule	2022	Mar	09	ISRF Rules Committee 1983
2019	Dec	12	Warm-up times	2022	Mar	10	Experimental event 1938
2019	Dec	21	Time between games	2022	Mar	14	Video review introduction (2011)
2020	Feb	02	Change of Referee	2022	Oct	15	Turning & interception
2020	Feb	08	Bumper strip	2023	Jan	02	Rules in Arabic (1957)
2020	June	07	Tennis scoring, 1994	2023	Jan	06	Handicap Rules 1930
2020	June	17	Tri-Ref 2014	2023	Jan	14	RAC Sub-Committee 1912
2020	July	17	Separate injury rule	2023	Jan	31	US Hardball ball extract 1981
2020	Aug	22	Minimal Interference intro 2001	2023	Feb	17	1984 Two racket amendment.
2020	Sept	29	ISRF International Referee programme	2023	Feb	21	Scoring from 1920s
2020	Oct	12	90 secs between warmup & start rule	2023	Mar	04	Rule Changes 1960
2020	Oct	15	Service rule proposal 1935	2023	Sept	05	3-referee system (1993)
2020	Nov	06	PAR becomes 'standard'	2023	Oct	25	Tri-Ref system
2020	Nov	18	Three or five games in Rules	2023	Dec	06	Pastel clothing
2020	Nov	28	Ball bouncing before service 1974	2024	Feb	21	Referee hand signals
2021	Jan	04	'Rackets' dropped, sport name (1993)	2024	Mar	09	First tie-break 1983
2021	Feb	19	Bleeding Rule (1993)	2024	July	06	Mike Breckon
2021	Feb	25	PAR / HiHo comparison 1954	2024	Aug	13	Rules book 1930s
2021	Mar	24	PAR - from setting to 2 clear (2011)	2024	Sept	02	Rules standardising 1926
2021	Apr	08	1st International Referee Conference	2024	Sept	18	17" tin experiment 1937
2021	May	01	Chaz Evans, NZ Hall of Fame	2025	Mar	05	Points are aces 1920s
2021	July	04	White clothing rule dropped				

Updated to: 31 March 2025

Squash Library
5 March at 07:58

Who knew! Here's a snippet from <https://www.squashlibrary.info/squash-a-celebration>, one of many alongside all the milestones, champions, equipment evolution and so much more in the book. Buy your copy of squash's visual history of milestones, champions, innovations etc here: <https://www.squashlibrary.info/.../squash-then-and-now-a-...> World Squash Federation, PSA Squash Tour, European Squash Federation, Federacion Panamericana de Squash, Squash Federation of Africa SFA, Squash Australia, US SQUASHASH, Squash Canada, Egyptian Squash Federation - الاتحاد المصري للإسكواش, England Squash, Scottish Squash, Squash New Zealand Poipātū Aotearoa, Malaysia Squash Squash South Africa Squash Wales - Sboncen Cymru Irish Squash Masters

A
♥

Chase the ace

You can win a point with an ace in tennis, but in squash an ace was a point! When the squash rules were printed by the Tennis Rackets & Fives Association in 1912, a point was called an ace. These aces/points could only be won by the server: the hand-in, hand-out system. To win the match two games had to be won. Games were up to 15 points rather than up to nine which came into being only later, when the rules were further standardised.

♥
A

Squash Library
1 May at 07:32

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



Squash Library
18 September at 07:44

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 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 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 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 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 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, 9-9, 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 led 5-2, appearing to have Burnett well on the run and very tired but at that point he faltered 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 Captain Palmer-Tomkinson.


Squash Library
2 September at 08:25 · 🌐

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/squash-a-celebration> for info and to order).



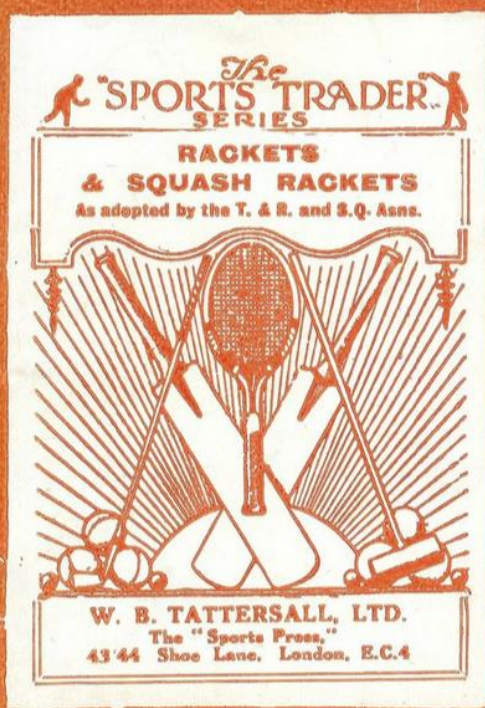
Squash Library
6 July · 🌐

Mike Breckon started refereeing in the 1960s having started his playing as an English county junior in 1950. He refereed eight men's British Open finals, along with many overseas duties, including major finals in Pakistan and elsewhere. Alongside his officiating, Breckon, now a retired estate agent, served as chairman of the British Referee Association for 15 years.



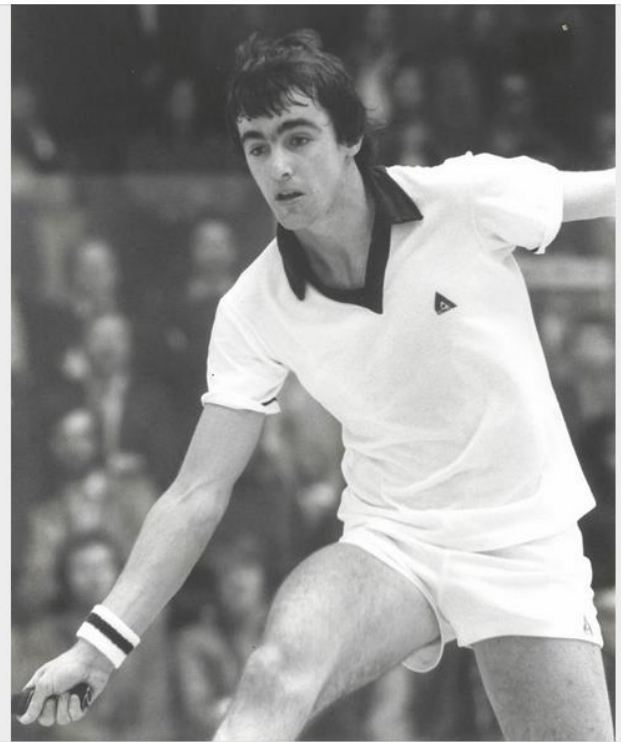
Squash Library
13 August at 08:03 · 🌐

A pocket-sized version of the rules of squash was produced around 1930 – only needing a small pocket! Measuring only 9.5cm x 7cm (3.8in x 2.8in) it was still featuring 'aces' (now called points, of course). The evolution of the rules is one feature of the Library's lavishly illustrated 'Squash Then & Now' book <https://www.squashlibrary.info/squash-a-celebration> for details and to order.



Squash Library
9 March at 08:17 · 🌐

Australian Dean Williams became the first player to win a pro match with a tie break when he beat Gawain Briars 7-11 11-10 11-3 during the PAR trial at the Pro-Kennex event in England in 1983. The full event details are at www.squashlibrary.info/post/par-at-great-yarmouth.
Squash - PSA World Tour



Squash Library
21 February at 08:26


After an experiment at the preceding National Championships, at the British Open 1994 a three-referee system was used, complete with hand-signals for 'appeal judges' to convey decisions, (before decision cards were produced later). The central official was the referee, with the side ones being appeal judges. The intention was that the pressure would be lessened on the referee, the players would argue less, and the appeal option would help ensure more correct decisions.



The image shows two hand signals: a thumbs up and a thumbs down. To the right are four decision cards: a yellow card with 'L', a blue card with 'S', a red card with 'N', and a green card with 'G'. Each card has the 'WORLD SQUASH' logo and 'WSF' text.

Squash Library
5 September at 08:12

As a forerunner to the current major event player decision review system and a three-referee system, in 1993 a two-judge refereeing system was trialled, with one referee and an appeal judge sitting alongside.



The image is a black and white line drawing of a hand holding a gavel over a pair of scales, symbolizing justice or a referee's decision.

2023

Squash Library
6 December 2023 at 08:05

The 1968 British SRA AGM discussed the white clothing rule that was in place then and agreed that white clothing going grey would be okay. (Later 'light' pastel clothing was permitted briefly before all colour restrictions were dropped by the World Federation in 1983).



The image shows a plain white t-shirt, representing the clothing rule discussed in the text.

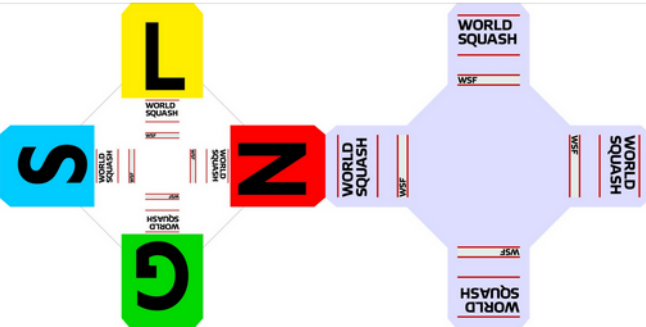
Squash Library
4 March at 08:24

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.

Squash Library
25 October at 07:31


15 years ago in 2008 the Canary Wharf Classic saw the first trial of TRI-REF, the wireless electronic system to deal with the three-referee format that was being used at the time, previously featured hand signals or decision cards (pic).



The diagram shows a central referee position connected to three appeal judge positions (L, S, G) via a network of lines. Each position has a 'WORLD SQUASH' logo and 'WSF' text.

Squash Library
21 February at 08:40

From the Library did you know department: Before 1926 squash scoring was to 15 points-a-rally (PAR). Then it became nine points with serve (Hand in-Hand out), which lasted until 2009 when PAR became the standard again. The Men's Tour had already moved to PAR in 1989.



The image is a large, bold, black and white title card that reads 'THE RULES OF SQUASH'.

Squash Library
17 February at 08:41 · 🌐

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

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

Prior to this the wording was:

- 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](#)



Squash Library
6 January at 08:43 · 🌐

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 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.

Squash Library
31 January at 07:50 · 🌐

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](#)

(a) 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.
(b) 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.
(c) A ball shall be determined broken when it has a crack which extends through both its inner 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.
(d) Upon determination of a cracked (but not broken) ball, the ball shall be replaced and the preceding point shall stand.

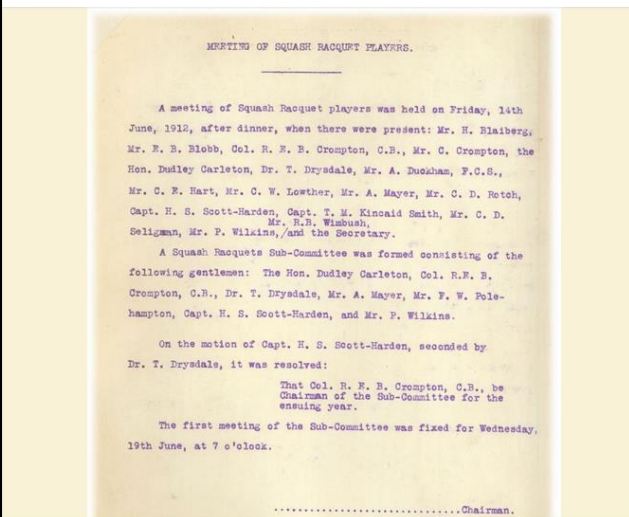
Squash Library
2 January at 08:20 · 🌐

In 1957, Ibrahim Safwat produced a booklet of the Rules of Squash, including a translation into Arabic. Talking of the popularity of squash in Egypt, in his foreword Safwat commented on his intention, 'to explain the intricacies for the benefit of the Arabic world'. [Egyptian Squash Federation](#) - الاتحاد المصري للإسكواش



Squash Library
14 January at 08:19 · 🌐

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).



2022

Squash Library
15 October at 08:40 · 🌐

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'.

Current:
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.



Squash Library

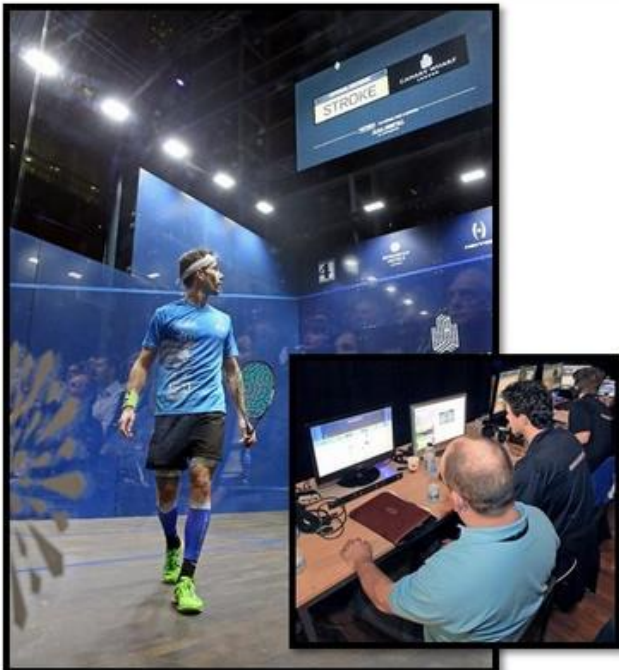
14 March at 08:36 · 🌐

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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



Squash Library

10 March at 08:15 · 🌐

...

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...>).

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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 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.

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Squash Library

9 March at 08:53 · 🌐



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](#)



Squash Library

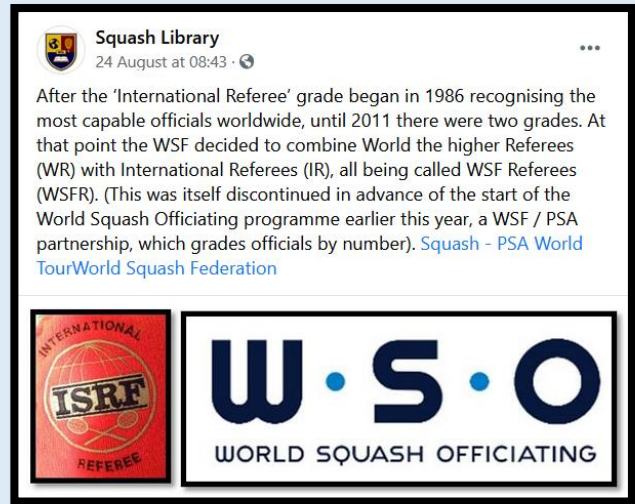
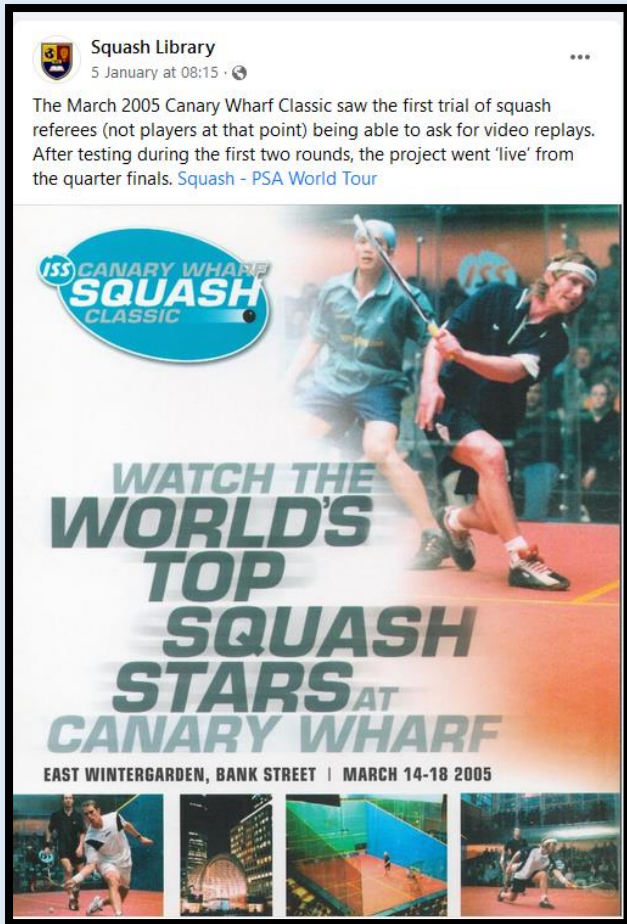
17 January at 08:39 · 🌐



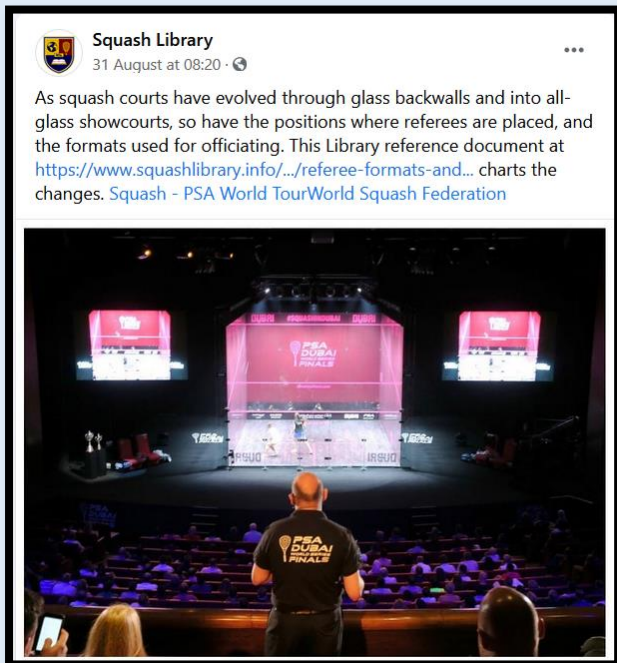
In 2005 Nadia Aziz became the first female Pakistani to referee a top level squash match, which she did at the National Women's Championship that year. She has since been followed by others, including one, Saima Shoukat who is moving towards WSO (World Squash Officiating) Level 3.

[Pakistan Squash Federation](#)





2021



Squash Library
12 July at 08:46 · 🌐

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 Canada](#) [World Squash Federation](#)



Squash Library
8 April at 08:43 · 🌐

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 general officiating matters. [World Squash Federation](#)



Squash Library
4 January at 08:55 · 🌐

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](#)

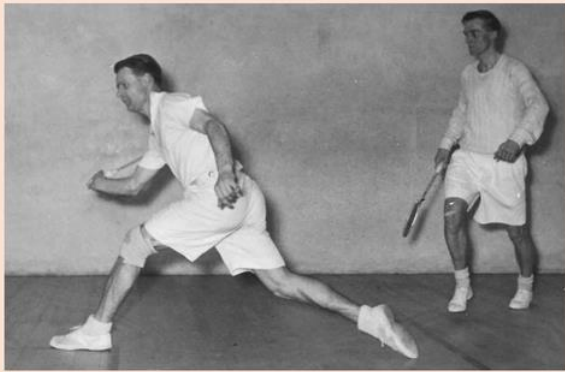



Squash Library
25 February at 08:51 · 🌐

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.



Squash Library
24 March at 08:36 · 🌐

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).

 Squash Library
28 November at 09:14 · 🌐

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!

 Squash Library
18 November at 08:47 · 🌐

Until the regular four year Squash Rules review in 2001 removed the provision for best of three, the rules stated 'A match shall consist of the best of three or five games

In 1936 Central London Bath Club contentiously decided that the Bath Club Cup would be played to the best of three format. They felt that 'the best of five games was too strenuous for the average businessman who played in the Bath Club Cup'. In 1938 the rule-makers enabled this as a stated option, and it lasted for the next sixty years!



 Squash Library
19 February at 08:56 · 🌐

The updated rules of squash in 1993 saw the 'bleeding' regulation being introduced. It stipulated that irrespective of the cause of injury no player could continue or resume with an injury that was bleeding openly. For the 2001 updated version a stipulation was added that if a dressed blood wound was ineffective and needed re-dressing, the game in progress would be conceded and the following 90 second interval would be used to re-dress (if the match had not been lost due to the penalty).





Squash Library
6 November at 08:51 · 🌐

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The PSA (Men's) Tour switched to Point-A-Rally scoring in 1989, initially to 15 point games. In 2001 the WSF added PAR as an accepted alternative to what was termed Standard Scoring ('Hand in - Hand out'). In 2009 the Rules switched PAR to Standard, with Hand in - Hand out becoming an alternative. [World Squash Federation](#) [Squash - PSA World Tour](#)

SQUASH

RULES OF THE WORLD SINGLES GAME

(INCLUDING APPENDICES 1-8)

APPROVED BY
THE WORLD SQUASH
FEDERATION

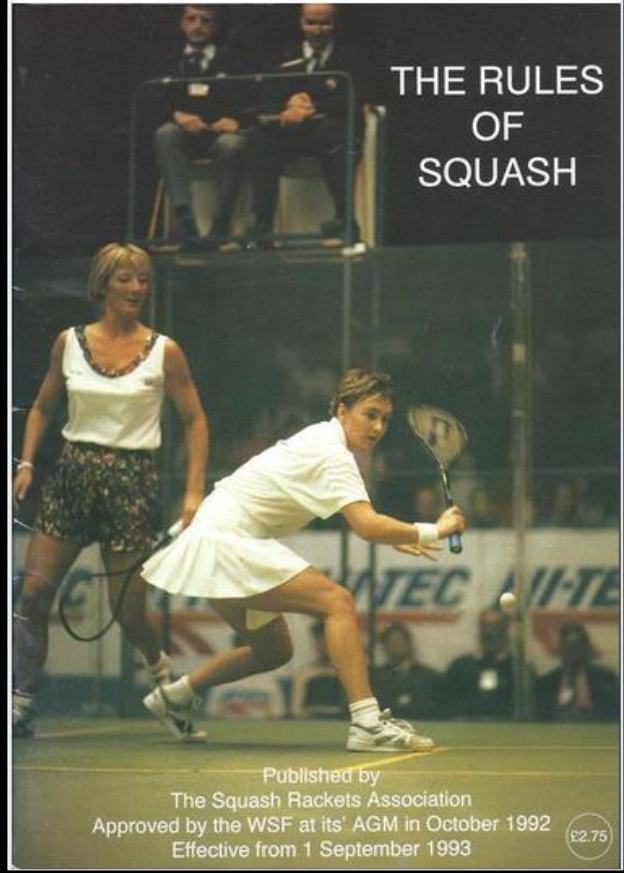
EFFECTIVE 1 MAY 2001



Squash Library
12 October at 09:13 · 🌐

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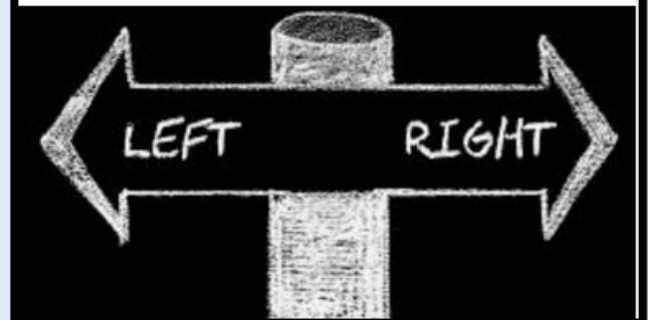
The Squash Rules revisions beginning from 1 September 1993 imposed a 90 second maximum time between the end of the warm-up and the start of the first game, which previously had no time-frame; at the same time adding 90 second limit for change of defective equipment.



Squash Library
15 October at 07:43 · 🌐

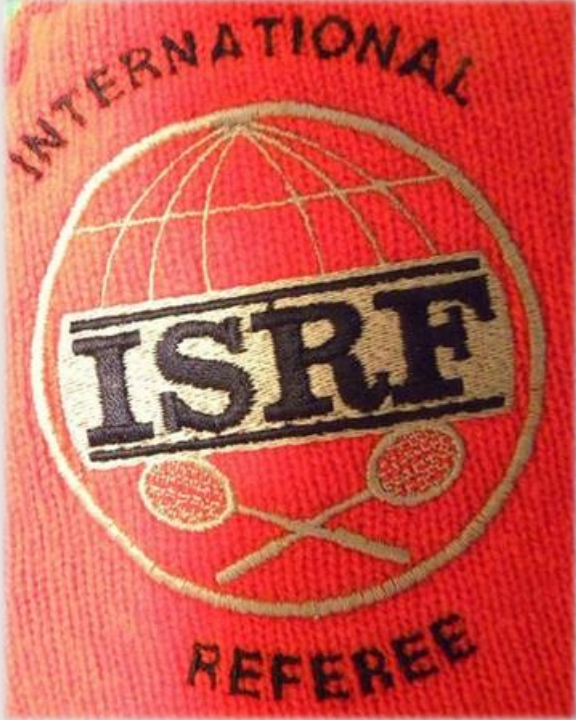
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Herbert Watson, Patron of the New Zealand Squash Rackets Association, proposed a service rule change in 1935. To avoid confusion about from which box a player would serve from he suggested the Rules stipulate that where the serving player's score was an odd number they should serve from the right, and even ones from the left. The idea was not taken up.




Squash Library
29 September at 09:25 · 🌐

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 Donnelly (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
17 July · 🌐

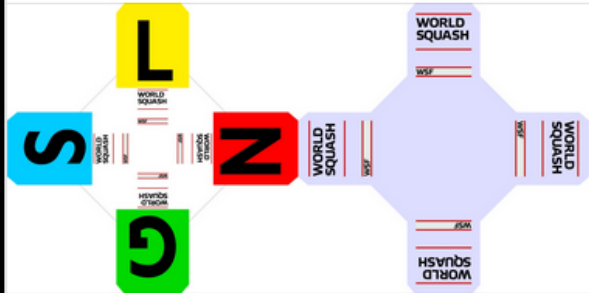
Until 1997, injury situations were covered under the Continuity of Play Rule. At that point the Rules of Squash were updated with a new separate clause (16. Injury). The three categories (i) self-inflicted, (ii) opponent accidentally contributed to and (iii) caused by the opponent's deliberate or dangerous play / action remained, though the third was renamed 'opponent-inflicted'.



Squash Library
17 June · 🌐

PSA's TriRef System came on stream in 2014 – a wireless electronic refereeing programme that allowed all three match referees to make independent judgements about match incidents, without the knowledge of their fellow match officials, providing group decisions. This followed a period when cards were used, so that the central referee (but not the players), could see the suggested decision of the side referees.

(TriRef was superseded by adoption of a single referee, and video... See more



Squash Library
22 August · 🌐

The term 'minimal interference' entered squash rules for the first time in May 2001. It was added to cover situations where the referee decides that the interference had no effect on the player sighting of the ball and to reach and play to it – and so refuse a let.

minimal
/ˈmɪnɪm(ə)l/

See definitions in:


All Art Music Linguistics

adjective

1. of a minimum amount, quantity, or degree; negligible.

Squash Library
7 June · 🌐

In 1994 the Grasshopper Cup PSA Men's event in Switzerland used tennis scoring to test it as an option for squash. While it increased the proportion of critical points overall, the overall case was not compelling, and squash preferred to stick with its' own scoring format.



The logo is a blue shield with a white border. At the top is a stylized 'ZG' inside a circle. Below that, the text 'GRASSHOPPER CUP' is written in large, bold, white capital letters. Underneath, 'SQUASH SINCE 1979' is written in smaller white capital letters. At the bottom of the shield is a white silhouette of a squash racket.

Squash Library
21 December 2019 · 🌐

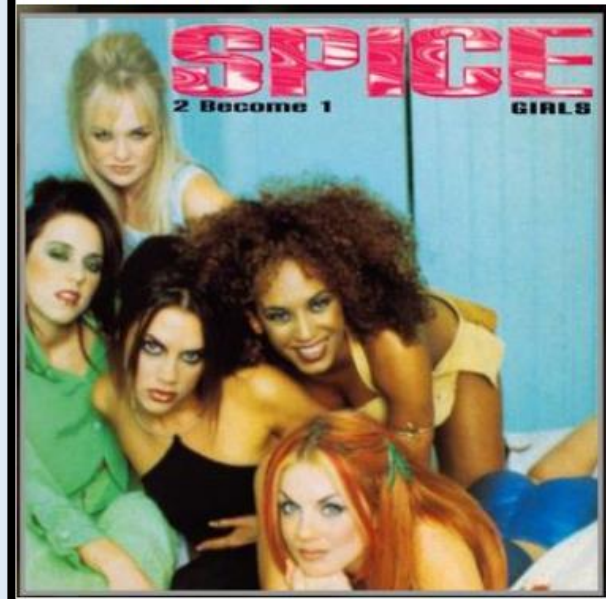
Another note from the Did You Know department:
Before the 90 second maximum period between games was introduced for general play in 1989, the designated gap was 1 minute between all games except between the fourth and fifth, for which 2 minutes was allowed.
(The gap is now 2 minutes for PSA & WSF Championship events, rather than general play 90 seconds) [Squash Library](#)

Squash Library
12 December 2019 · 🌐

From the 'did you know' department:
In 2018 the warm-up period was reduced from 5 minutes to 4 minutes.
But there had been an earlier change. Before 1 May 1989 the Rules allowed players to knock up separately for 2.5 mins each if either or both players wished to do so.
The first player was allowed an extra minute to warm up the ball, so it could have been a 6 minute warm-up period in total!

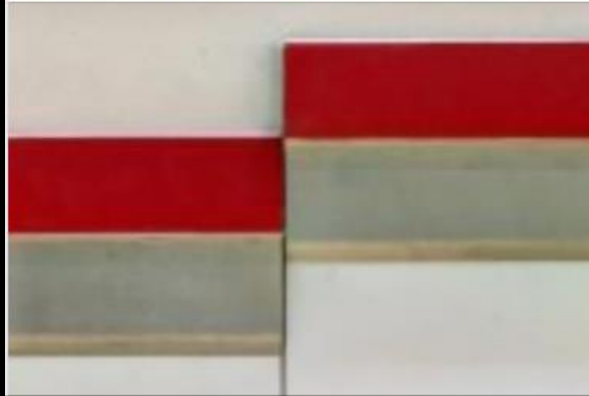
Squash Library
1 December 2019 · 🌐

30 years ago, 1 May 1989 to be precise, the Rules of Squash changed so that if the first serve was a fault a squash player would not have a second serve.
(The change was almost certainly the inspiration behind the Spice Girls later hit, 2 becomes 1!).



Squash Library
8 April · 🌐

An attempt to 'alter the game' for general play by lowering the tin from 19 inches to 17 inches and introducing a faster ball received strong opposition. A counter-motion that it should be postponed until a later period was carried by a large majority'.
Recent? No, this was the English SRA AGM report in 1938, at the time when SRA led the sport (The World Federation was formed in 1967). World War Two followed, more and more courts built and the 19in/48cm tin height has remained for general play.



The image shows a close-up of a squash court's tin, which is the top edge of the court wall. It is divided into alternating horizontal bands of red and white.



Squash Library

2 February · 🌐

...

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!).



Squash Library

26 November 2019 · 🌐

...

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 hand-in. 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.



Squash Library

21 November 2019 · 🌐

...

Regarding tin heights, in 1939, the English Association proposed a 17 inch tin (and a faster ball too). World War 2 intervened two months later and there was no follow up. [World Squash Federation](#) [Squash - PSA World Tour](#) [England Squash](#) [Squash Info](#)



AN

Extraordinary General Meeting OF The Squash Rackets Association

WILL BE HELD ON

WEDNESDAY, 12th JULY, 1939, at 5 p.m.,

AT

THE ROYAL AUTOMOBILE CLUB, Pall Mall, London, S.W.1.

AGENDA.

(Recommendations unanimously passed by the Executive Committee at their Meeting on Wednesday, 31st May, 1939.)

1. DIMENSIONS OF A STANDARD SINGLES COURT.—To consider and, if approved, to adopt the following alteration: Height of upper edge of board from ground 17 inches (instead of 19 inches).



Squash Library

21 November 2019 · 🌐

...

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:

- 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](#)



Squash Library

6 November 2019 · 🌐

...

Back in 1930, the Rules of Squash fitted into three small pages – including 'Four Handed' (Doubles)!



RULES

of
SQUASH RACKETS

THE RULES OF SQUASH RACKETS.

1. The game is 15 up. (9 in match and championship play.)
 - (a) In case of 15-all hand-out may set the game to 5 or to 3.
 - (b) Similarly at 14-all, but the game must be set to 3.
- N.B.—Hand-out denotes the player who is not serving. "Game Ball" is called when hand-in requires one more point to game.
2. Failing to serve or return the ball as set out in the Rules loses stroke. A stroke won by hand-in scores a point. A stroke won by hand-out makes him hand-in.
3. Right to serve first to be decided by a spin of a racket.
4. The server may serve from either court