



Policy No: 23

Policy Name: Masters Criteria for International Selection
2025/2026, Seeding of Masters Events And
Other Rules

Policy Owner: Chair of the Masters Committee

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1. Masters Categories

Men and Ladies (Over 35/40/45/50/55/60/65/70/75):

The Irish rankings are based on finishing positions achieved by players at the nominated Irish Masters events and will be used as the basis for Irish team selection. This page explains how the rankings are calculated and the rules that are applied and used as the basis for selection.

2. Qualifying Events

Ranking points for the 2025/2026 season will be awarded at the following events:

2.1. [Level 1 Event](#)

Irish Masters National Closed Tournament (Nationals).

2.2. [Level 2 Events](#)

Provincial Open Tournaments.

- Leinster
- Connacht
- Munster
- Ulster

2.3. [Level 3 Event](#)

- Curragh Masters Open
- Sligo Masters Open
- Waterford Masters Open.

3. Points Awards

Points awarded as per Tournament Points Structure – see tables below.

Points scored from a Home player's best 3 events will be used to determine the panels from which the selectors will pick the teams. This is the column marked 'Qualification Points' on the rankings spreadsheet which can be found on the Squash Ireland website.

Points are used to calculate seedings and will be taken from the best 4 Masters events (of any level) in the previous 12 months. The same event can't be considered twice (e.g. any points earned from the first provincial event of the current season, replaces any points earned in the first provincial event of the previous season). This is the column marked 'Total top 4 (seedings)' on the rankings spreadsheet.

Overseas players (residing outside Ireland and UK) are advised to play a minimum of two events. Points for two events will be added together, divided by 2 and multiplied by 3 to establish their ranking position, and ultimately their qualification points.

The definition of a Home Player will include players where their primary place of residence is in United Kingdom or Ireland.

Eligibility to be selected to play for an Irish Masters Team is covered in Policy 26 Eligibility to play for Ireland, this policy is based on WSF Guidelines.

Non-Irish Team eligible players playing in masters events will receive points earned the same as other players and will appear on the ranking spreadsheet as normal.

4. Tournament Points Structure

The ranking points that will be awarded for placings are detailed below.

	Level 1	Level 2	Level 2 B Section	Level 3
Placing	Points	Points	Points	Points
1	175	140	30	50
2	125	100	15	35
3	90	70	10	25
4	65	50	10	20
5	60	45	5	20
6	45	35	5	15
7	40	30	5	15
8	35	25	5	10
9	30	30		5
10	25	15		5
11	20	10		5
12	20	10		5
13	15	5		5
14	15	5		5
15	15	5		5
16	15	5		5
17	10			
18	10			
19	10			
20	10			
21	5			
22	5			
23	5			
24	5			

5. Points and National Team Selection Criteria 2024/2025

Only players with up-to-date membership of Squash Ireland may take part in competitions.

Ranking Points are earned from qualifying events.

The Ranking Points earned by a player at his/her best 4 tournament results of the season will be used to determine the qualifying places for the National Team.

The top five Qualification Points scorers will automatically be selected for each 6 person team. The Ranking Sub Committee (RSC) may consider a wild card selection to fill the 6th position on a team – such a player will be of a standard to play at either number 1 or 2 on that team.

The top 3 Qualification Points scorers will automatically be selected for each 4-person panel. The RSC (Ranking Sub Committee) may consider a wild card selection to fill the 4th position on a team – such a player will be of a standard to play at either number 1 or 2 on that team.

The last Masters Ranking event of the season is the Irish Masters National Closed. Ranking points earned, at Masters tournaments, after this date, will be applied to the following season's points table.

In the event that players end up with equal "qualification points totals" the following will be taken into account:

- a) If both players played in the Nationals, then the highest finishing player will be selected
- b) If only one player played in the Nationals, then the total points for the season will be looked at and highest total points players will be selected.
- c) If the players are still equal after a) and b) above has been considered, then the winner of the last head-to-head at a master's event in the current ranking season will be selected.
- d) If none of the above criteria are met the RSC will have the final selection decision.

5.1. Wildcard for International selection general criteria:

- a) Current form & recent results
- b) Commitment
- c) Player coming from a younger age category with qualifying points will be considered.
- d) Consideration and opinion of the selectors

A Player may also be considered for selection when moving up from a younger age category during the season if they have enough points.

6. Age Categories

The player's age on the first day of a tournament determines the player's Age Category.

If a player has a birthday mid-season, which would move him/her into an older Age Category and the player decides to keep his/her points in the younger Age Category, the player can continue to play in the younger Age Category and earn point for that category.

Points earned after the player's birthday in the younger Age Category cannot be moved to the older Age Category, whenever the player eventually decides to make the change. (Players are normally advised to change Age Category on their birthday).

If a birthday results in an Age Category change and the player moves to the older category immediately, the player's current Ranking Points will be automatically transferred into the older Age Category points table.

A player may not keep points in a younger Age Category and try to earn points in an older Age Category with a view to qualifying for two teams.

7. Competition Format

7.1. Seeding: Event Seeding

Seeding for events will be based on the last published rankings. Exceptions may be made for players whose primary residence is not in the United Kingdom or Ireland. Under certain circumstances there will be an option for 2 tournament wildcards during the tour events which will be submitted by the tournament director and approved by the RSC.

Updated ranking lists will be made available after each tournament and those rankings must be used for seeding the next tournament. (Seedings based on Total Top 4 Points) Where a 'new' player enters or a player moves up an age category and there is doubt as to where to seed him/her, the Tournament Director ('TD') should contact the Chair of the Masters Committee for guidance prior to the making of the draw. **The Chair of the Masters Committee must be consulted prior to the publication of draws for all tournaments.** Failure to adhere to the current rankings may result in no ranking points being awarded to the section concerned.

7.2. Tournament Wildcards

The wild card will normally be placed at 6th seed in 8 draw and at 11th in a 16 Draw (and 11 and 12 if two wild cards are used in a 16 draw).

7.3. Availability

For 16 person draws players should be prepared to play 4 times during the event and be available at 3pm on Friday. For the Irish National Masters, 16 person draws, players must be available to start as early as 10am on Friday.

7.4. Match Intervals

Interval between matches: It is now mandatory for all Masters Tournaments – players must have at least 3 hours between starting matches. Tournament Directors need to schedule a minimum of 180 minutes on SportyHQ when setting scheduling.

7.5. Tournament Withdrawals

Withdrawal from the event: If a player fails to play all their scheduled matches, due to injury during play they may be requested to provide a valid medical certificate afterwards as requested by the TD or not be awarded points for the event. If a player withdraws after the draw is published, then they will need to provide valid proof to the TD for the reason of withdrawal. In limited cases the Chair of the Masters Committee may take withdrawal circumstances into consideration and waive the Medical Certificate requirement (e.g. injury during a match).

7.6. Redraws

Where possible and if time permits a re-draw may be done for withdrawal at least 24 hours before event start and generally only if the number 1 or number 2 seed withdraws. However, this will ultimately be at the discretion of the TD.

8. Complaints / Appeals / Suggestions

The ranking sub-committee will take suggestions, appeals, corrections etc. that are received in writing and will reply in writing. Complaints should be brought to the Tournament Director in the first instance, then to the Chair of Masters Committee. Thereafter such complaints must follow the Squash Ireland Grievance and Complaints procedure.

9. Explanations / Considerations

(The idea behind this section is to give further information/examples so players have an idea of why we make the decisions we do.)

There are many circumstances which the RSC have to take into consideration:

- 9.1. Players who enter a tournament having not previously played a Masters event.
- 9.2. Players who will only reach the older age category at the end of the season.
- 9.3. Players who choose not to enter early tournaments and then later seek a wild card.
- 9.4. Players who may have a very good reason for not playing a Masters event. [A doctor's certificate, submitted promptly, would normally suffice as an explanatory note.]

The RSC attempts to be fair and exercises judgement with fairness as the core of that judgement.

10. Ranking Guidelines

The Guidelines used by the RSC after each tournament are as follows:

- 10.1. Ranking is done from 1-16.
- 10.2. The B section winner in a Level 2 event, will be marked with an * granting them a wild card in the following Level 2 tournament at position 5 in the A section, except in unusual circumstances. However, if the TD director offers a player a slot to play in a mixed age category and he/she refuses to play then that player is not deemed the winner of the 'B' section for the next event (i.e. you need to play not just enter to be deemed the 'B' winner). An A section winner in a level 2 event may be granted a tournament wildcard into the A section of any other level 2 or level 1 event for the remainder of the season. The player may be seeded as the RSC sees fit.
- 10.3. During a season where a player chooses not to move up in age group when they reach that age group any points earned in the younger age group from that point forward will not carry forward when they move up in the following season.

The tournament wildcard shall only apply for the first tournament for which the players are eligible.

- 10.3.1. The RSC will be mindful where a "new player" arrives on the scene, such as from the UK. This new player may get a hearing on appeal re his/her future ranking.
- 10.3.2. Single or multiple players moving from a younger age category to an older age category must have their rankings in the younger age category respected.

- 10.4. Local matches, league results, cumulative points, will have no bearing on the rankings at each tournament.
- 10.5. Tournament wildcards will normally be seeded 6 in 8 person draw and at 11th in a 16 Draw (and 11 and 12 if two wild cards are used in a 16 draw).

11. Tour Events Formats

All tour events must have entry up 4 weeks prior to closing date where possible, and the draw will be published by 8pm on the Tuesday of the week of the event.

Suggested Playing formats level 2 and 3 events

- 8 Players Monrad/Swiss System
- 7 Players Monrad/Swiss System
- 6 Players 2 box round robin with playoff (seeding 1,4,5 & 2,3,6)
- 5 Players 2 Box round robin with playoff (seeding 1,4,5 & 2,3)
- 4 Players 1 Box round robin no playoff
- 3 Players 1 Box round robin no playoff

Suggested Playing formats Level 1 event

- 16 Players Monrad/Swiss System
- 15 Players Monrad/Swiss System
- 14 Players Monrad/Swiss System
- 13 Players Monrad/Swiss System
- 9 Players 3 Box Round with playoff
- 8 Players Monrad/Swiss System
- 7 Players Monrad/Swiss System
- 6 Players 2 box round robin with playoff (seeding 1,4,5 & 2,3,6)
- 5 Players 1 Box round robin no playoff
- 4 Players 1 Box round robin no playoff
- 3 Players 1 Box round robin no playoff