

NJSA LADDER & CHALLENGE RULES

The purpose of the ladder is to reflect the most current position of a player affiliated to NJSA. The ladder and subsequent updates will be published on the Northerns website and also forwarded to age-group representatives.

1. To start the season, a new NJSA ladder will be available prior to the Start of Season Tournament each year or as soon as possible thereafter.
2. For players who are moving to a new age-group - U/11; U/13; U/16 and U19, a reasonable effort will be made to objectively rank all players in their new age group.
3. Chairman's challenges may be enforced where needed to ensure the ladder fairly reflects the players' positions at any time during the season, especially where a player didn't play in the Start of Season Tournament or where tournament draws didn't allow for sufficient head to head results.
4. Thereafter, the ladder will regularly be updated with **results against other NJSA ranked players**, which is received by the Ladder Convener.
5. The following results will be used to update the ladder: -
 - 5.1 Official challenge matches.
 - 5.2 Listed squash tournaments on the relevant SA Schools Calendar. This calendar is available on the NJSA website.
 - 5.3 Other Northerns matches/results; marked by a marker and referee and played the best of five games. In this regard, the following will be considered: -
 - 5.3.1 Results from NSA leagues and all tournaments matches.
 - 5.3.2 Results from official interschool matches such as schools leagues and the Northerns Top Schools Tournament.
 - 5.4 School championships, club championships and other official Matches only if registered in advance and approved by the NJSA committee.
6. **Official Challenges**
 - 6.1 NJSA must be informed in writing of all arrangements.
 - 6.2 In order to be ranked, an **unranked** player has **One Free Challenge** against any ranked player in his/her age group. If the challenger wins, the challenger takes the place of the challengee and everybody else moves one place down. If s/he loses, then the challenger moves to the bottom of the ladder and everybody else retains their position.
 - 6.3 A **ranked player** may challenge a maximum of **TWO positions** above their own position on the latest published ladder.
 - 6.4 A challenge becomes official when a challenger notifies both the NJSA Ladder Convener and the challengee of the challenge on the website by completing the form provided. The challenger is responsible for organising a court, pay for lights and each player is responsible to bring one marker / referee for the challenge match.
 - 6.5 The players must agree on a mutually suitable venue and time to play the match. The venue must as far as possible be neutral to avoid any bias towards either player and the marker and referee must be neutral as well. If this cannot be reached, the convener will

select the venue and time for the match to take place.

- 6.6 The match shall take place on or before the fifteenth day (two weeks) following the official challenge being confirmed by the ladder convenor. Any party, who cannot play the match within the allocated time frame, shall forfeit the match.
- 6.7 Once the challenge details have been finalised, a final e-mail will be sent from NJSA to both players with the time, date and all details.
- 6.8 If any player does not play the scheduled challenge match, then s/he will forfeit the match as a walkover.
- 6.9 A player can only be challenged twice a month and play one challenge match in a week unless mutually agreed otherwise between players (challenger and challengee).
- 6.10 Challenges can only take place during official public school terms, but also during holidays if both players agree on the date.
- 6.11 Any challenge results submitted within 5 days of a NJSA Tournament will not be taken into account for the draw due to logistics changes required. The ladder will still be altered accordingly.
- 6.12 All official challenge requests will cease 21 days before the start of the NJSA Closed tournament each year.
7. Results of matches / challenges as referred to earlier in this document will change the rankings as follows:
 - 7.1 If a lower-ranked player/challenger records a win over a higher-seeded, player, s/he will take the position of the higher-ranked player and every player ranked under the higher-ranked player, including the Challengee, moves down one position.
 - 7.2 If a higher seeded player beats a lower-ranked player/challenger, the ladder will remain unchanged. As far as an unranked player is concerned 4.1 will apply.
8. The Chairman retains the prerogative to require a Chairman's Challenge at his discretion without complying with the two positions' principle. If a player refuses to play a Chairman's Challenge then the player will forfeit the match and a walkover is recorded.
9. Coaches are encouraged to assist in organising and administering official challenge matches.
10. Each player is **personally responsible** for submitting **ALL** their **results** on the **NJSA Player Results Form**, attached hereto and on our website and e-mail to njsa@northerns.co.za.
11. Ladder rankings will be considered for **seeding** purposes in all NJSA tournaments, playing positions in **IPT teams** and for nomination to other tournaments when required. The Chairman's discretion might apply and his decision will in all cases be final.
12. If a player is inactive for 60 days from official squash activity, the player may be removed from the ladder. If inactive due to injury, the player must challenge back on with a free challenge.
13. If a challenged player is injured or ill and not expected to recover to lay in the prescribed time frame, the challenger may challenge one more place up.

Although everything possible will be done to maintain a fair and accurate ranking system/ladder, mistakes might sneak in. Therefore, if a player has any question regarding their own specific ranking or some other related question please feel free to e-mail NJSA on njsa@northerns.co.za. It is important that any query regarding a player's ranking must be accompanied by facts.

In conclusion, we would like to suggest that emphasis should be put on sportsmanship, good marking and refereeing and last (but definitely not least) the players should enjoy themselves!



NJSA PLAYER RESULTS FORM: 2020

NAME OF PLAYER : _____ AGE GROUP : U/ _____ B / G

Ladder rules and results form