

14 January 2020

Provincial Participation and Selection Criteria – 2020

There are three official tournaments during the squash season where a player may be elected to represent the Province in an official team:

1. Margery Taylor South African Country Schools Squash Festival (SACF)

These tournaments are scheduled for 24 – 27 April 2020 and is aimed at selecting combined teams from the smaller provinces to participate in the Inter-Provincial tournaments in June.

The SACF tournament serves as a development opportunity for C and/or D teams from major provinces where these players can get the exposure to inter-provincial squash. This exposure may lead to higher achievements later on.

The teams range from u13 to u19 and consist of four players each. Players selected for these teams are still eligible for selection to represent Northerns in the Inter-Provincial teams. The NJSA committee encourages participation in this tournament from a development point of view.

In order to be eligible for selection to these teams, players need to be a paid-up registered player with NJSA, active on the ladder and meet the further selection criteria set out below. Players need to play in official SACF clothing and qualify for half provincial colours.

2. U11 Angela Difford Festival

This tournament is scheduled for the same time period as the Inter-Provincial Tournaments, 13 – 16 June 2020.

The teams consist of four players each and are aimed at developing the under 11 players in order to prepare them for participation in the future. As this is a festival there are no final team positions declared at the conclusion of the tournament.

In order to be eligible for selection to these teams, players need to be a paid-up registered player with NJSA and meet the further selection criteria set out below.

Players need to play in official clothing (no tracksuits). However, due to the nature of the festival, players qualify for provincial half colours.

3. SA Schools Inter-Provincial Tournaments (IPT)

These tournaments are scheduled for from 13 – 17 June 2020; u14a until 16 June and are deemed to be the pinnacle of the squash season. Northern teams in the different age groups play against all the other provinces, some foreign teams on invitation and the combined teams from the smaller provinces.

IPT's take place for u13, u14, u16 and u19 boys and girls. The teams consist of five players each, except for the Boys u16 & u19 B teams which have six players.

At the conclusion of the IPT's medals are awarded for 1st, 2nd and 3rd place and the South African Schools Squash Top 10 is announced for u14 to u19.

Players may only play in official clothing as stipulated by NJSA and will receive provincial colours.

4. SA Schools u14 b Inter-Provincial Tournament (IPT)

The u14b section IPT will take place from 24 – 27 April 2020. This IPT has been separated from the main IPT due to the number of entries and cost viability.

Should the province consider the u14b teams to be strong enough, they may be entered into the u14a IPT as per 3 above.

Players may only play in official clothing as stipulated by NJSA and will receive provincial colours.

Selection Criteria

To be eligible to represent Northern teams at any official competition and/or tournaments, players must be a **paid-up registered** player with NJSA and placed on the NJSA Ladder, as well as prove paid-up membership of Squash SA as applicable.

To be eligible for selection to an **IPT team**, players must play in and complete **at least 4 tournaments** during the season, made up as follows:

1. Compulsory tournaments:

1. **NJSA Closed** tournament in May and;
2. One other NJSA tournament selected from the remaining 3 listed below and;
3. One outside tournament listed on the SA Schools calendar and endorsed by NJSA.
4. One non-compulsory tournament

2. Non-compulsory tournaments:

1. Either one other NJSA tournament or another outside tournament as listed on the SA Schools calendar and endorsed by NJSA.

3. NJSA tournaments are listed on the SA Schools Calendar and are:

1. NJSA Start of Season tournament 13 – 15 September 2019;
2. NJSA Open Round Robin tournament 31 January – 2 February 2020;
3. NJSA Open Graded 17 – 19 April 2020;
4. NJSA Closed 8 – 10 May 2020.

4. Outside tournaments

These are selected non-NJSA organised tournament listed on the official SA Schools Calendar and sanctioned by NJSA. Sanctioned outside tournaments for 2020:

1. January
 - i. Easterns Wilson Junior Open
 - ii. KZN Junior Open
2. February
 - i. Central Gauteng Open
 - ii. North West Junior Open
 - iii. Boland Junior Open
 - iv. Bloemfontein Junior Open
3. March
 - i. Central Gauteng Graded Open
 - ii. SA Schools Closed (Invitation only)
4. April
 - i. SA Country Festival
 - ii. Easterns Dunlop Junior Open
 - iii. Western Province Youth Open
5. September
 - i. Paarl Junior Open

The NJSA committee may require challenge matches to be played in cases where players could not meet the criteria due to circumstances adjudged acceptable by the committee.

The NJSA Committee may take a player's conduct into account and choose not to elect a player based on bad conduct, non-compliance with tournament rules, etc. regardless of individual results.

Selections for SA Schools Teams require three compulsory tournaments independent of the NJSA requirements

- ii. SA Bloemfontein Open 28 February – 1 March (Bloemfontein)
- iii. SA Schools Closed 19 – 22 March (Parkview, Johannesburg)
- iv. Inter-Provincial Tournament at various venues 13 – 17 June

To be eligible for selection to a **SACF or u14b IPT team**, players must play in at least 3 tournaments which may consist of at least one NJSA tournament and 2 more tournaments which can be either NJSA tournaments or NJSA sanctioned outside tournaments.

To be eligible for selection to an **Angela Difford Festival team**, players must adhere to the same criteria as for selection to a SACF team as set out above.

Selectors' decision final

A player or parent may query any selection within 48 hours after the selection was announced by sending a mail to njsa@northerns.co.za with a motivation on why the selection is queried. If no query is received within this time there will be no obligation on the NJSA to change the selection, regardless of whether it's later proven to have been an incorrect selection.

The decisions of the selectors will be final and no explanation needs to be given for any selection decision.

Age Groups

A player plays in the age group that he or she is on 1 January of that year, e.g. if you're 13 on 1 January you play u14 for the year even if you turn 14 on 2 January.

Players must play according to their age group in the NJSA Closed and in the IPT's. Players must request written permission from NJSA to play in another age group if that tournament is to be taken into account as part of the player's meeting the qualifying criteria.

It is compulsory to play in your age group for all SA Selection tournaments.

A player may apply with the committee before 24 January to play in a higher age group for the year. An application will only be considered if the player has been ranked SA number 1 the season prior. Other criteria will also be considered and if supported by the province the application will be forwarded to SA Schools Squash whose decision will be final.

Representing NJSA at IPT's

Tournaments are a team sport and as such teams are compelled to travel to, during and stay together at the IPT.

The tournament and accommodation costs are determined by SA Schools Squash and NJSA arranges the travel and logistics. The team manager's cost is added to the tournament and accommodation cost. All endeavours are made to ensure that the cost is kept as low as possible.

Clothing is compulsory for IPT's and is advised prior to every IPT.

1. NJSA playing shirt with the Daisy.
2. NJSA boys shorts with the Daisy.
3. NJSA girls skort/dress with the Daisy. No shorts are permitted.
4. NJSA tracksuit with the Daisy.

Players are required to wear the NJSA tracksuit or clothing as prescribed by NJSA when travelling, for official functions and team photographs.

Players selected for NJSA IPT teams are required to attend a minimum of 2 out of 3 squad training sessions that will take place over the weekends prior to the IPT. These sessions are 90 minutes each.