

January 2023

Newsletter #1 : January 2023

Dear Clubs and Players

Welcome to 2023, our second full year of activity after the dreaded COVID pandemic. I am fairly sure it will be busier as more players grow confident to get back onto court.

As my first year at the helm, I thank the 2022 Committee for their contribution and getting the association through the turbulent COVID years. New exciting times lie ahead of us with the continued support of the existing committee.

The calendar (attached) provides a great summary of events for the year with 2 PSA events scheduled for April and May as well as our NSA Closed.

Key NSA dates for January to April:

- January
 - Fri 27th: Closing date for Club Transfer requests. An updated form is attached and must be submitted with all 3 signatures appended or it will not be considered.
 - Mon 30th: Submission of desired League Side Entries. Please submit to admin@northerns.co.za
- February
 - Mon 20th: Blitz League commences
 - Tue 21st: 2022 NSA Awards at CBC Old Boys Club
- March
 - Mon 13th: Blitz League Finals
 - Fri 31st: SSA Registration deadline (SportyHQ). R210 per player
- April
 - Wed 19th: Winter League commences
 - Thu 20th: Harlequins 50th Anniversary PSA

Communication:

Please update your Club Committee details on the Website. Communication will be directed to the Club Chairperson and a nominated administrator – Total 2 per club. Clubs will then be responsible for distribution thereafter.

Two What's App Groups will be updated.

- One for general communication – any player may join the group.
- One for Club Chairpersons and the nominated administrator for province and club related matters.

By-Laws

The 2023 amended version is attached. The only notable change from 2022 is the Request to play outside of the allocated league date. If a request is approved, matches must be played before the actual league fixture date.

NSA 2022 Awards

A semi formal affair to celebrate 2022, the awards will be hosted at CBC Old Boys Sports Club on Tuesday 21 February commencing at 18h30. Final costs to be confirmed.

Recognising our provincial performance is critical and this will still be done in the manner experienced in the past. Finger snacks will be served and after the formalities our DJ will be playing some tunes to get the dance floor going. There will be a cash bar available

Cost of printing and material as well as wastage experienced will mean 1 certificate per Team / Award will be awarded. A digital link, provided to the Clubs, will allow you to then download and print as many copies as desired.

Blitz League

Kicking off on Monday 20 February, this will again incorporate Men 1st and Reserve and Ladies 1st leagues.

Centralised venues will be used and is compulsory that matches must be played at the provided venue. With the current load shedding still hampering the country, clubs who have the ability to ensure play will be favoured.

Clubs are urged to use this occasion to entice members to come and watch some excellent squash and make an exciting evening of the event.

Finals, scheduled for Monday 13 March; includes the prize giving and an announcement.

Winter League

The later start on Wednesday 19 April is due to school holidays and varsity recess. Holding Round 1 mid-March to then have a 4-week gap did not make logistical sense.

A representative meeting will be held prior to commencement to ensure the by-laws are understood.

Ensure the by-laws are studied carefully as the rules will be strictly applied to ensure fairness across all clubs. These include but not limited to aspects such as

- Playing outside the scheduled date
- League fee's
- Player transfer
- Raising of any disputes

Some key administrative requirements

- League Score Loaders must be updated every season. Scorers default back to zero after each season – so please reload your scorers once the league is loaded.
- Scores must be loaded within 2 working days. The onus is on both teams to ensure compliance.
- Score loading errors picked up by the NSA Administration team will be forwarded to the Club Chairperson for resolution. Responses must be reported back within 2 working days.
- Disputes must be lodged to admin@northerns.co.za within 2 rounds of the alleged dispute (e.g., an alleged dispute in Round 3 must be lodged on or before Round 5). Any dispute raised after the deadline will not be considered.
- Teams informing opponents of a No Show (in time) must ensure the NSA and opponent club is emailed within 2 working days of the scheduled match to avoid penalties being applied.

Doubles League

A first for Northern Squash and thanks to some clubs for their interest to get this activity off the ground. Planned over 5 / 6 Saturdays spanning 5 months, the league is open to all NSA and SportyHQ registered players of all ages.

We will experiment with the concept to refine for 2024 based on feedback and commitment. It will not be club member specific (i.e. players can partner from different clubs).

Centralised venues will be used each round with clubs volunteering their facilities, who will hopefully ensure the players are well nourished and thirst is quenched will be for the clubs' benefit.

Final logistics, fees and formats will follow.

Growthpoint Senior IPT (10 – 14 July 2023):

An exciting opportunity lies ahead of us we host the Growthpoint Senior IPT in July – usually once a decade! As it is a home event, we expect a strong turnout for teams and an excellent opportunity to bring some medals home.

Clubs involved are asked to please assist and make this one of the momentous events on the squash calendar. The cream of South Africa's players will be strutting their stuff and it will be great if they can leave experiencing the best IPT ever.

Two sub-committee's will be formed

- Organising: Assist with IPT planning and organisation
- Selection & Player: Squad selection and training and team selection

Closing

My intention is not to sweep clean and make wholesale changes but solidify what is already working and in place and instil the by-law discipline as we get back to normality.

Communication is key, Club engagement even more so. I seek your support as we focus on 2023 and beyond.

Regards

Brett Cousins – NSA Chairperson

Cell: 084 777 5625

eMail: bcousins@cellc.co.za (please cc admin@northerns.co.za)