



COMBINED GRADING LIST: GUIDELINES FOR CLUBS AND PLAYERS

The shiny new 'Combined Grading List' is here! We spent a lot of time testing over the off-season, to ensure the implementation of the following changes would be as smooth as possible:

- Women shifted to the Combined Grading List, enabling any player on the Grading List to play against any other player, for grading points. NB: women will still have their results from the last 365 days show up on their grading page as a record.
- Changes to the J Grades and F Grade. F Grade is now 'adults only'. J Grades have been reduced from five to four, and are for 'juniors only'. Instead of progressing from J1 to F grade, juniors will now go straight from J1 to E2.
- B2 now starts at 2701 points, instead of 2801 points.

What else has changed? You can now access the grading list without logging in to iSquash – making it easier for friends, family and the media to follow results. Some aspects of the presentation and format of iSquash have also been improved. Other FAQ can be found here: http://www.squashnz.co.nz/news/index.cfm?content_id=1050.

How will Interclub work? Each District will make its own decision on whether Interclub will include mixed divisions, based on what works best in that District. This may involve:

- Mixed divisions from a certain level (eg 1800 points) up, and gender-specific divisions for players below this level,
- All mixed divisions,
- Gender-specific divisions only.

Talk to your Interclub convenor to find out what is happening in your District!

How will Club Tournaments work? Each Club will make its own decisions about how to run its own tournaments. It is **STRONGLY** recommended that clubs **advertise** their proposed format on their poster, to provide as much certainty as possible for all players entering. Examples **could** include:

- The top three divisions will be mixed, with gender-specific divisions below this,
- ALL divisions will be mixed,
- The tournament organisers reserve the right to use mixed divisions where numbers require.

Where numbers permit, it is recommended that tournament organisers create separate 'adult beginner' and 'junior beginner' divisions. One of the reasons for changing F grade to sit alongside the J grades was to provide better 'protection' for beginner adults. Beginner adults are often soundly beaten by J Graders – who have a considerable advantage in experience – in tournaments, causing loss of grading points and confidence. Where numbers do not make this convenient, mixed adult/junior beginner draws are fine.

The tournament module has been updated to cater to mixed divisions.

How will National Events work? The organisation of National Events will not change. This means that the 'big'/'prestigious' events such as Superchamps, Champion of Champions, North/South Island Age Groups (and so on) will continue be played in gender-specific divisions.

How will Club Administration change? Club administration should not change. Players will retain the same grading codes they have always had. When adding new members to the Grading List, clubs should follow the same processes as usual – several grading games to gauge ability.

Learning as we go: As we learn what works well and what doesn't, Districts and clubs around the country will no doubt adapt their competition formats to suit. The goal of the Combined Grading List is to make it easier for **ALL** players to have access to a good match-up, and a tough (but fun) game of squash.

