



2015

NATIONAL EVENTS

OVERVIEW

C Grades should be decided by the meeting – the Waikato board is voting between Cambridge and Taumarunui overnight.

All Districts have indicated they plan to ‘keep’ their events. Most have finalised hosts. MOU process started – this will be ongoing as dates/formats etc are decided.

A couple of interesting/potentially relevant factoids:

- ❖ Every National Event so far this season (Doubles, NZJO, Masters Club Teams, Cousins/Mitchell, North Islands, South Islands, South Island Juniors) has had increased participation compared to last year.
- ❖ Next year’s proposed calendar returns Superchamps to its ‘traditional’ dates There is no correlation between participation and dates for Superchamps.
- ❖ For the last four years we’ve seen steady 5% per annum drops in team numbers at District Eliminations, regardless of its position in the calendar. More than 90% of survey respondents last year said they would play Superchamps regardless of its calendar position.

THE CALENDAR

Draft calendar for 2015 has been distributed. Obviously very draft at this stage, waiting on confirmation of several international dates, as well as hosts/dates for national events (delayed by some Districts).

- ❖ As usual, a balancing act between many different constraints and often mutually exclusive feedback
- ❖ Broadly similar to 2014. A few changes (based on feedback):
 - Masters and Superchamps National Finals swap dates
 - Slightly smaller gaps between District and National Finals for Superchamps and Champion of Champions
 - NZ hosting Oceania Junior Champs and Trans-Tasman Masters Test Series
- ❖ Hopefully a bit more flexibility with no Commonwealth Games to plan around
- ❖ Event rotation and hosting fees/payments begin
- ❖ Event rotation looking likely to result in additional travel/more remote locations for many events (relative to the recent past) – expect comments from players/parents

ALLOCATIONS 2015

Event	District	Club
Senior Nationals	Canterbury	Chch Football
North Island Champs	BOP	Devoy (Tauranga)
South Island Champs	Midlands	TBC
Junior Nationals	Southland	Squash City Invercargill
North Island Age Groups	Wellington	Mitchell Park
South Island Age Groups	Canterbury	Marlborough
NZ Junior Open	Midlands	Timaru
Masters Nationals	Eastern	Hawkes Bay
Masters Club Teams	BOP	Mt Maunganui
Doubles Nationals	Central	SquashGym P/N
Under 23 Nationals	BOP	TBC
Cousins Shield/Mitchell Cup	Northland	Whangarei
B Grade Superchamps	Auckland	Eden Epsom
C Grade Superchamps	Waikato	TBC
D Grade Superchamps	Otago	TBC
E Grade Superchamps	Wellington	Thorndon
F Grade Superchamps	Canterbury	MCOB
Champion of Champions	Central	SquashGym P/N

THINGS TO NOTE

- ❖ With at least 3 PSAs now in June, a big chunk of the season is taken up.
- ❖ The Districts that host North and South Island Champs by rotation should ideally be combining these with their District Opens to create bigger, better events and maximise bang for buck.
- ❖ There are only so many weekends in the season, and not every event will be able to attract the top players.
- ❖ Fewer, bigger/better events is probably desirable

- ❖ Introduced based on discussion and approval at 2013 Presidents' meeting
- ❖ Aimed at lowering barriers to involvement and participation for women by enabling them to access whatever level of competition they desire
- ❖ Doesn't force women to play men, unless clubs in a Districts ALL run mixed tournament grades
- ❖ Feedback so far mostly positive – aside from some negative experiences early on when tournaments used ONLY mixed draws

To get the best results:

- ❖ It is important that clubs advertise their proposed tournament format prior to the event, so players can enter in good faith with full information
- ❖ In Districts that do not have a history/tradition of playing much mixed squash, start slowly
- ❖ NEVER have mixed draws in lower divisions (E/F grade women)
- ❖ Listen to feedback from players and react accordingly

It is important to remember that:

- ❖ We won't really start to see the benefits/results of the Combined Grading List for another couple of years yet
- ❖ From Jan 2014 onwards, all juniors will have been able to play against either/both boys and girls. In five years, all juniors graduating to senior squash will be used to the idea of playing 'mixed' squash
- ❖ As players of ALL ages get used to the idea, we should see fewer women leaving the game due to inability to access sufficiently close/competitive matches
- ❖ If your club/District doesn't like playing 'mixed' squash – don't!