

GRADING REVIEW 2021

The Grading Review committee spent 2020 working to address issues that had been raised by the Squash Community with the current grading system.

The aim of the review was to ensure we can maintain a grading system that accurately reflects a player's level.



The Process:

1. Feedback gathered over 2017/2018 that formed the base of our stakeholder survey
2. Stakeholder survey sent out to the public
3. Survey results collated
4. Grading Review Group formed
5. Survey results analysed
6. Data gathered from iSquash to test the survey responses
7. Ideas tested through the group from the various data
8. Recommendations put in place
9. Final decision on the recommended adjustments decided in conjunction with District Stakeholders at Annual Forum (December 2020)

The Survey:

Do you have any issues with the Masters/Seniors and Juniors grades being align?

Do you see any issues in the 5-point Rule?

Do you see any issues with the Mixed Grading list?

Do you see any issues with the inactivity grading points system?

The Grading Review committee:

Deanna Forsyth: Squash New Zealand Events Manager

John Fletcher: Competitions Advisory Group, Squash Auckland General Manager

Aileen Buscke: Competitions Advisory Group, Life Member

Jonathan Zouch: Squash New Zealand Communications and Support Coordinator

Gareth van Coller: Club Representative – Pirates Squash Club (Otago)

Paul Cornish: Member of the 2015 Review Group

GRADING REVIEW 2021

Summary of Decisions

1. The Grading list will be re-aligned, and women will sit exactly one grade higher than men. Men will be given 100 points from F grade (600 points) to the middle of C2 (2200 points).
2. Male players between 2201–2299, will be given points to raise them to 2300 points, so that no player is higher than a player they were originally below.
3. Equal Points for win/loss for Women C1 and above
4. B1 and above players will no longer be able to gain 5 points from beating a player 300+ points below them.
5. B2 and below players will still gain 5 points for beating a player 300+ points below them up until 599 points difference.
6. Inactivity points to be removed

All changes will be reviewed annually, and we will investigate further feedback in our next review.

The decisions that will be in place for the 2021 season are explained in further detail in the pages to follow.

If you have any queries regarding the changes, please contact: admin@squashnz.co.nz

These changes will come into action: Tuesday 9th March*

(This date is subject to change if any unexpected issues arise)

Thank you in advance for your cooperation as we navigate our way through these changes to ensure that Squash in New Zealand continues to have a highly regarded and accurate grading system.



Good Luck for your 2021 Season

GRADING BANDS ALIGNMENT

Why change the grading bands?

- Women were moving too quickly through the grades after the last rule change as they were still receiving more points for a win than a loss. Whereas men start at equal points at C1. This caused misalignment in the mixed grading list.
- Misalignment in the grading list caused issues with intergender contests
- This is a more functional set-up, making it easier to translate into tournaments

	Men's	New Womens	Current Womens
4100+	A1	A1	A1
4000			
3900	A2		
3800			
3700			
3600			
3500	B1		
3400			
3300			
3200			
3100	B2		
3000			
2900			
2800			
2700	C1		
2600			
2500			
2400			
2300	C2		
2200			
2100			
2000	D1		
1900			
1800			
1700	D2		
1600			
1500			
1400	E1		
1300			
1200			
1100	E2		
1000			
900			
800	F / J		
700			
600			
500	F / J		
400			
300			
200	J		
100			
0			



Decisions

- Men's Grading Bands will remain the same
- The new grading bands will see Women's grades sit exactly one grade higher than Men's
- This results in E1/E2 combining to 'E Grade' for women
- Women's points will remain the same; however, it may result in some women's grades changing
- Women's points will remain at 3200+ for A1 to ensure we are not pushing players into the top grade

GENDER GRADE ALIGNMENT

Grading History – Research

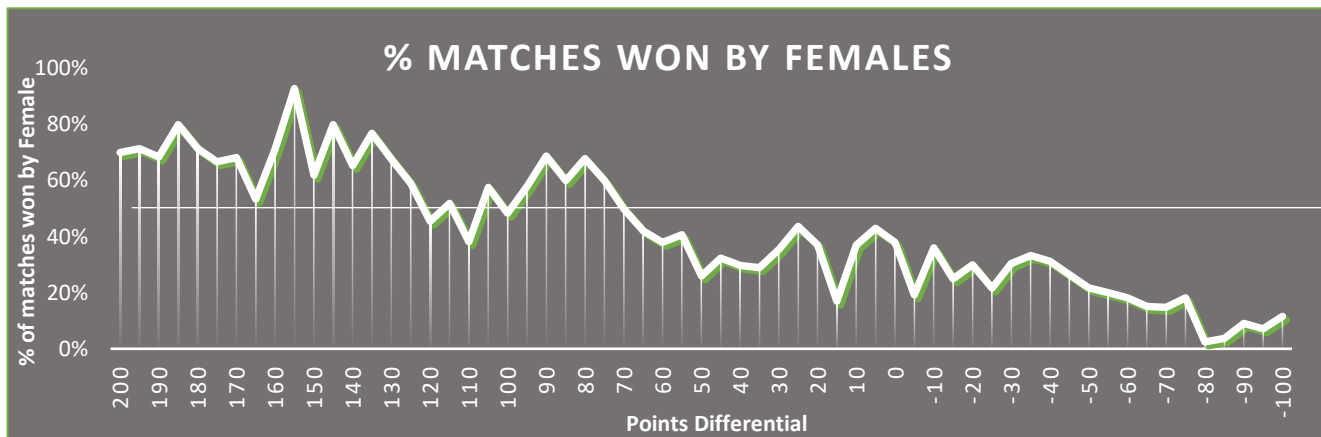
- In one Calendar year there were 6479 inter-gender matches played.
- Men won 65% of these matches



This became clear that there is a misalignment between Women's and Men's points. We researched into this more to find out exactly at what point do Women and Men start to have equal win/loss ratios

Through the research it became clear that Men and Women are approximately 100 points out of alignment.

Please Note: This does not include Juniors to help increase the validity of our findings.



Decisions

- Men will be given 100 points from F grade (600 points) to the middle of C2 (2200 points).
- Male players between 2201–2299, will be given points to raise them to 2300 points, so that no player is higher than a player they were originally lower than.
- Women will also move to an equal points win/loss ratio from C1 and above to align them with the male point system.

WOMEN		0-99	100-199	200-299	300-599
Winner has higher points and 2400 & above	Winner	+20	+15	+5	0
	Loser	-20	-15	-5	0
Winner has lower points and 2400 & above	Winner	+20	+25	+30	+40
	Loser	-20	-25	-30	-40
Winner has higher points between 1800-2399	Winner	+20	+15	+5	+5
	Loser	-20	-15	-5	0
Winner has lower points between 1800-2399	Winner	+20	+25	+30	+40
	Loser	-20	-25	-30	-40
Winner has higher points between 1-1799	Winner	+30	+20	+10	+5
	Loser	-20	-10	-5	0
Winner has lower points between 1-1799	Winner	+30	+50	+70	+100
	Loser	-20	-25	-30	-40

What is the 5 point rule?

Currently all games played where the winner is more than 300 points above their opponent they will receive 5 points for playing the match.

Why was the rule introduced?

The rule was introduced to increase participation and encourage players to enter tournaments.

Survey Results: Do you see an issue with the 5 Point rule?

	YES	NO
A GRADE	17	4
B GRADE	49	38
C GRADE	27	51
D GRADE	9	30
E/F GRADE	4	27

Why Change the 5 point rule?

The feedback we have had from B1 and above players are that they are no longer accurately graded. They continue to receive 5-point wins that put them at a higher level than they are. They then go to play other District tournaments and are ranked higher than they should be.

They will still receive 5 points for beating someone 200-299 below them but it will be removed for when they face an opponent 300+ points below them.

Due to this feedback as well as a growing increase of players now in A1 grade, we will be implementing the below changes

Decisions

- When a B1 or higher player, plays an opponent more than 300 points below them they will no longer receive 5 points for the win.
- B1-A1 players will still receive 5 points for beating an opponent 200-299 points below them.
- B2 and below players will still receive 5 points up to the maximum of 599 points difference.

INACTIVITY POINTS



Why was this rule introduced?

- Provide players an incentive to play and therefore increase participation.
- A way to maintain the integrity of the grading list by removing players who weren't active or sitting on points even though it was not reflective of their true current ability.

Over the last 2 years this rule has caused a lot of issues including:

- Players were not always removed off their grading list by their club, resulting in the player losing points and being unaware
- Players being dropped points who were still actively playing but not competing, therefore becoming under-graded making it unfair on their opponents

Decision

- Inactivity points will be removed.
- If a player has stopped playing and their grade is no longer an accurate representation of their playing ability a club can request that they be re-graded by their District statistician and approved by Squash New Zealand.
- There must be evidence that they are no longer at their current ability which can be shown through match play.
- We still recommend players are removed off the grading list when they are not playing to ensure the club can maintain an accurate record of their current grading list.

AGE GROUP GRADING ALIGNMENT

The last area that we looked at in the survey due to being raised with us was the possible issue between Masters/Seniors/Juniors grades not being aligned.

Our stakeholders:

235 players do not have an issue with the grading list alignment between age groups

46 Stakeholders believed there could a problem with the alignment of grading lists

Decision

- There will be no changes made in this review in regarding the alignment of age group grades