



MITTAL SQUASH CLUB LADDER: RULES & FAQs

WHAT IS IT?

The Mittal Squash Club Ladder is provided as a service to our club's entire squash playing community. It is intended to encourage flexible and friendly competition and aid players in finding partners at their approximate level of skill.

The ladder is separate from the other internal and external club leagues and is contested continuously throughout the year on a week-by-week basis.

HOW DOES IT WORK?

The ladder's intent is to list all eligible members in ability order (*) and players can move up the ladder, improving their club ranking, by challenging and defeating players who are listed above them.

WINNING A CHALLENGE

- If you successfully challenge another club member (i.e. you win the match), then **you move up to your opponents' position in the ladder, and your opponent will fall below you by one place.**
- If you or your opponent has reached a total of **five participation points** (see the related section, below), this will result in you, and/or your opponent, moving up the ladder rankings by an additional place, irrespective of the result (win/lose).

LOSING A CHALLENGE

- If you are unsuccessful (i.e. you lose the match), then **both players stay in exactly the same positions in the ladder as before.**
- If you or your opponent has reached a total of **five participation points** (see the related section, below), this will result in you, and/or your opponent, moving up the ladder rankings by an additional place, irrespective of the result (win/lose).

PARTICIPATION POINTS

- Each time you contest a ladder match, you and your opponent will be awarded with a 'participation point' irrespective of the match result (win/lose).
- **After playing five ladder matches** (i.e. accumulating a total of five participation points), **you will automatically move up the ladder rankings by one place**. This system is designed to reward active squash players at the club and allows players to progress up the ladder rankings irrespective of their results, i.e. a player may have lost a series of challenges on consecutive occasions, but can still climb the ladder by virtue of their regular participation.
- When a player has reached a total of five participation points and has been rewarded by moving up the ladder rankings by one place, their participation points will then be **reset back to zero** and the process begins again, i.e. after ten matches you will have moved up two places in the ladder and after fifteen matches – three places and so on.
- The accumulative total of ladder games a player has contested, e.g. 22 matches, will also be displayed on their ranking record and updated after each ladder match played.

WHO CAN I CHALLENGE?

Ladder members **can challenge up to two positions above their current position**. For example, if member is at position 26 on the ladder, member may challenge for position 25 or 24.

HOW MANY CHALLENGES CAN I ACCEPT AT ONCE?

Please only accept **one challenge at a time** on a first come first serve basis.

Apply common sense when responding to multiple challenges.

Remember, after each ladder match you play, the rankings can change depending on the result of your game. Therefore, it is strongly recommended that you don't organise multiple ladder matches at the same time and you wait until your latest

match result has been processed (which typically takes a week) before accepting or issuing a new challenge.

WHEN DOES A MATCH NEED TO BE PLAYED BY?

The ladder is designed to allow flexible competitive play throughout the year. However, once a player has initiated a challenge to another ladder member, the match must be played within a **two-week timeframe of the original request**. If there is a valid reason, e.g. challenged member is on leave, it is requested that the challenger be accommodating if the match cannot take place within a two-week time frame.

The challenging member is responsible for proposing a time and date for the match, and thereafter booking of a court.

I'VE BEEN CHALLENGED AND I CAN'T PLAY MY MATCH – WHAT HAPPENS NOW?

If a player has been challenged and cannot play their match **within the two-week time limit**, e.g. due to a persistent injury or an **extended** holiday, they can simply award their challenger with a **walkover (WO)** – a default (3-0) victory for their opponent.

WHAT HAPPENS IF A WALKOVER IS AWARDED TO ME?

If you are awarded a walkover (WO) victory by your opponent, **you will automatically move up to your opponents' position in the ladder, and your opponent will fall below you by one place.**

A participation point will only be awarded to the player who has received a WO victory. The player who is unable to fulfil their match obligation won't receive a participation point.

The player who has received the WO victory will need to add their result to the sheet on the board – **stating 'WO' in the relevant 'Score (Games)' column** - and this will then be processed along with the other ladder results that week.

WHAT ARE THE RULES OF PLAY

- Ladder matches are best-of-5 games (i.e. first player to win three games).
- Ladder games are scored to 11 or 15 points (to be agreed by the players before the match begins).
- The player who scores 11 or 15 points first wins the game except when the score reaches 10-all or 14-all, and the game then continues **until one player leads by two clear points**, e.g. 19-17.
- Either player may score points (PAR – point–a–rally). The server, on winning a rally, scores a point and retains the service; the receiver, on winning a rally, scores a point and becomes the server.
- There are no handicap systems used during ladder matches.
- A green dot ball must be used during “summer” months (September up to end of April) and a double yellow dot during winter months (May to August). If both members agree otherwise and alternative ball may be used.
- A referee is optional but if one player requests a referee it becomes compulsory. The challenger is responsible to arrange a referee for the match. The challenged player may object against a proposed referee if valid reasons can be supplied. An alternative referee then needs to be proposed.

WHAT HAPPENS AFTER I'VE PLAYED MY MATCH?

After playing a ladder match, please fill out the result, stating both players' names (winner and runner-up) and the score, e.g. 3-1, on the sheet provided on the club ladder board (situated at the entrance of the Mittal club courts).

A walkover (WO) victory must be recorded in the same way – however, **remember to add 'WO' in the relevant 'Score (Games)' column, otherwise your opponent will be wrongly awarded a participation point.** That's it – simple.

The ladder results sheet will be picked up off the board each week by the responsible member and a new one will be added. That week's ladder results will then be processed, with the club rankings and participation points updated accordingly. The newly confirmed rankings and participation points will then be posted on to the club board each week.

DOES LEAGUE AND CHAMPIONSHIP GAMES QUALIFY?

League and championship games that is in line with the ladder rules, qualifies. For example, both players must be Mittal members, within two ladder positions from one another and the rules of play must be the same.

Only results completed on the results sheet, located on the club ladder board, will be considered. In other words, it is the player who want the result to be reflected on the ladder responsibility to capture the result on the result sheet.

I'M NOT IN THE LADDER – HOW DO I JOIN?

You must be a fully paid-up member of Mittal Squash Club to become part of the ladder.

The same rules as for new members (refer to The 'New Member Challenge' section below) will apply for current members not reflected on the initial ladder (*).

Any ladder matches featuring non-members won't be valid.

THE 'NEW MEMBER CHALLENGE'

- When a new member of the club joins the squash ladder, they can issue a 'one-off' challenge to any ladder member.
- If the new member is successful in their first challenge (i.e. they win the match), then **they move up to their opponents' position in the ladder, and their opponent will fall below them by one place.**
- However, if the new member challenges unsuccessfully (i.e. they lose the match), **then they are added to the very bottom of the ladder rankings.**

- Indicate on the results sheet that the challenge was by a new member. Add the words **(New Member)** in brackets behind the Challengers name.

I'M LISTED IN THE LADDER – BUT I DIDN'T OPT-IN?

Please don't scratch your name out from the ladder rankings sheet. If you don't wish to contest a ladder challenge, you can simply reward your challenger with a walkover victory (WO).

I HAVE MORE QUESTIONS ABOUT THE LADDER – WHO DO I CONTACT FROM THE CLUB?

You can contact either Deon Meyer, who will be able to answer your questions. Disputes to be addressed to Deon Meyer. The decision on disputes is final.

SURELY I SHOULD BE RANKED HIGHER THAN THAT?

If you feel you are ranked too low, then you can immediately start challenging players and play your way up the ladder rankings.

(*) The initial ladder rankings order was established by using the results of the Mittal Squash Club members during the 2022 Vaal Open (played in October 2022). It is acknowledged that some members might not agree with this approach, but we need to start somewhere. Your understanding is requested and that you immediately start with challenging other players.