

# WSF INSTANT UPDATE

**ISSUE 72     JANUARY / FEBRUARY 2018****To: ALL WSF MEMBER NATIONAL FEDERATIONS**

cc: WSF Regional Vice-Presidents, WSF Commission Members, PSA members, SPINs, Member Nations & stakeholders, Accredited Products and Companies

**WSF AGM IN MARSEILLE**

The French city of Marseille hosted the 47th World Squash Federation AGM and Conference, held alongside the WSF Men's World Team Championship.

The AGM followed the conference day which featured presentations from key people from inside and outside squash to update the delegates from over 40 countries on current initiatives as well as discuss plans for squash's efforts to secure a place on the Olympic Games 2024 in Paris.

WSF President Jacques Fontaine, himself a Parisian, reminded delegates that although everybody present thinks that squash would be a great addition to the Games programme, the bid must be embraced and promoted by all.



"We know that squash would bring something different and special to the Olympic Games through our wonderful youth, our professional athletes and great staging options," said Fontaine. "So every single player, official and stakeholder should take every opportunity to promote squash to their national media, sports officials and especially influencers. WSF & PSA will lead but it is the sea wave of the whole of squash repeatedly landing that will make the difference."

2017 was not an election year for Board positions, so the main focus of delegates was on the comprehensive updating of the WSF Articles, with proposed amendments to a great many of the current 155 clauses all being agreed.

**Estonia and Paraguay become members**

A number of changes were 'technical' but included specific amendments made to the system of conducting election ballots; a new process for electing Commission members; and alterations to the composition of the WSF Ethics Commission.

The WSF Forward Plan and budget were also received and endorsed and Estonia and Paraguay welcomed as new members.



The meeting concluded with the presentation of a *WSF Outstanding Service* award to Operations Manager Lorraine Harding, to great acclaim. She first joined WSF twenty years ago and has been the office rock around which all functions have been based.

## Egypt's ElShorbagy and El Welily Crowned 2017 PSA World Champions



Egyptian duo Mohamed ElShorbagy and Raneem El Welily are the 2017 AJ Bell PSA World Champions after an enthralling day of final action at Manchester Central Convention Complex saw both players enter the history books by lifting the sport's most prestigious title for the first time.

World No.2 ElShorbagy, a runner-up at this tournament in 2012 and 2014 to compatriot Ramy Ashour, prevailed over younger brother Marwan 11-5, 9-11, 11-7, 9-11, 11-6 in what was the first time two brothers had contested the final of the iconic tournament in its 41-year history.

A nail-biting encounter went all the way down to the wire, until 26-year-old Mohamed fired off seven successive points from 6-4 down in the decider to capture the biggest title of his career and the 30th overall as his stunning form - which has seen him win six of his last seven tournaments - continues.

"It feels great, it's a dream come true," said ElShorbagy.

"At 11-9 on the fourth it was a huge blow, then I was down in the fifth and I had to fight and fight, he gave it everything. I remember the 2012 match with Ramy, I know how he felt now. There was so much pressure on me, like Ramy in 2012, and in these matches you just want to win the last point.

"At the end we congratulated each other. It was my time today, with this title you have to be patient and it will come for him. I've won everything in the sport

now, but I still have much more to achieve and more titles to win."

El Welily had also suffered two World Championship final defeats in the past - with the 2014 final seeing her surrender four championship balls against Malaysia's Nicol David - but it was third time lucky for the Cairo-based World No.2 after she came back from a game down to defeat defending champion Nour El Sherbini.

El Welily had lost out in straight games to El Sherbini in the previous women's World Championship final, but a resilient El Welily battled back over the course of the next three games, taking a crucial second game on the tie-break, before claiming wins in games three and four to wrap up a 3-11, 12-10, 11-7, 11-5 victory, which sees her capture a 16th career title on the PSA World Tour.

"She was under more pressure than me today," said El Welily.

"I felt so different today compared to the last World Championship final. That one was a nightmare, today I was so much more relaxed.

"So much has changed since 2014. The game has changed, I have changed, the sport is different from then. We're all adapting and improving. I hope I can keep the same attitude for the remainder of the season. From this moment to the next event I don't know what will happen, but I know I don't want to stop with just this one success."



### Women's:

**Final:** [2] Raneem El Welily (EGY) bt [1] Nour El Sherbini (EGY) 3-1: 3-11, 12-10, 11-7, 11-5. **Semi Finals:** [1] Nour El Sherbini (EGY) bt [8] Nour El Tayeb (EGY) 3-2: 11-2, 8-11, 10-12, 11-5, 11-0, [2] Raneem El Welily (EGY) bt [3] Camille Serme (FRA) 3-0: 11-7, 11-9, 11-7. **Quarter-Finals:** [3] Camille Serme (FRA) bt [9] Joelle King (NZL) 3-0: 11-4, 11-6, 11-4, [2] Raneem El Welily (EGY) bt [6] Nicol David (MAS) 3-1: 11-8, 8-11, 11-6, 11-6, [1] Nour El Sherbini (EGY) bt [5] Nouran Gohar (EGY) 3-0: 11-7, 11-3, 11-4, [8] Nour El Tayeb (EGY) bt [16] Tesni Evans (WAL) 3-0: 11-9, 11-7, 11-9

### Men's:

**Final:** [3] Mohamed ElShorbagy (EGY) bt [6] Marwan ElShorbagy (EGY) 3-2: 11-5, 9-11, 11-7, 9-11, 11-6. **Semi-Finals:** [3] Mohamed ElShorbagy (EGY) bt [1] Gregory Gaultier (FRA) 3-0: 12-10, 11-4, 11-9, [6] Marwan ElShorbagy (EGY) bt [4] Ali Farag (EGY) 3-2: 11-8, 4-11, 9-11, 11-7, 11-9. **Quarter Finals:** [4] Ali Farag (EGY) bt Miguel Angel Rodriguez (COL) 3-1: 5-11, 11-6, 11-3, 11-6, [6] Marwan ElShorbagy (EGY) bt [2] Karim Abdel Gawad (EGY) 3-0: 11-8, 11-5, 11-9, [1] Gregory Gaultier (FRA) bt [8] Paul Coll (NZL) 3-0: 11-6, 11-5, 11-4, [3] Mohamed ElShorbagy (EGY) bt [5] Nick Matthew (ENG) 3-1: 11-7, 11-6, 5-11, 11-6.



## FONTAINE SUPPLYING A POWERFUL NEW WAVE OF EFFORTS TO EARN SQUASH OLYMPIC PARTICIPATION

*Extract reprinted by courtesy of insidethegames:*

By Mike Rowbottom

Third time lucky, they say. Try telling that to squash. Three consecutive times this global sport has sought entry to the Olympic Games; three times it has been turned away. As the sport gets its 2017 World Championships underway in Manchester the World Squash Federation (WSF) and Professional Squash Association (PSA), more united than ever before, are preparing the groundwork for yet another push on the Olympic front.

It has been a long and painful campaign thus far. In the aftermath of the latest rejection there were expressions of bewilderment and pain from within the squash ranks.

By the IOC's own criteria, squash has a strong case for inclusion.

The French city of Marseille has just hosted the WSF Men's World Team Championship, which concluded on Monday with an AGM at which delegates from over 40 countries heard plans for squash's efforts to secure a place at the Paris 2024 Games.

The WSF President Jacques Fontaine told them:

"We know that squash would bring something different and special to the Olympic Games through our wonderful youth, our professional athletes and great staging options.

So every single player, official and stakeholder should take every opportunity to promote squash to their national media, sports officials and especially



influencers. WSF & PSA will lead but it is the sea wave of the whole of squash repeatedly landing that will make the difference."

### All about timing

Fontaine, who worked in the watch industry until 2015, knows all about timing. And as President of the French Squash Federation from 1996-2016 he oversaw a period of increased participation in which several European and World Championships were hosted.

Fontaine, who took over from President Ramachandran in November last year, told *insidethegames* that the mood of the latest Olympic bid by squash is rational and methodical.

Asked if this was a case of "thrice bitten, four times shy", the President – who recently announced he was "reasonably confident" squash would make the 2024 Games - responded:

"We must be realistic. We know that squash has the attributes to bring something new, fresh and athletic to the Olympic Games programme. We also know that squash is a popular and successful sport in France.

"But what we also know most of all is that we are not the only sport hoping for a place. It will be a challenge for squash to succeed, but real success doesn't come without one.

"The squash product is a superb one, and of course we have learnt, and have gained experience. The WSF Men's World Team Championship in Marseille last week has again shown definitively how our sport has changed and will continue to evolve.

"We have with a spirit of learning and humility to make an even better presentation of it on behalf of the sport as a whole and I am sure that we will be well received."

### The biggest challenge



On the subject of what he saw as the biggest challenge in getting squash onto the Olympic programme, Fontaine replied: "Our biggest challenge is how we make

sure that we strongly convey everything that squash can bring to Paris 2024. If we do that then we know that we have given the bid everything and can accept any decision.

"I was very proud of the way in which the French Squash Federation mounted the event. The broadcast output using SquashTV production will surely give great figures from Eurosport and so many other outlets. The production is superb and it is a joy to watch squash so effectively.

"And yes, the players are now in Manchester contesting the PSA World Individual Championships – with equal prize money of course! My expectation is that the viewing figures will continue to beat records as there are so many platforms now. The whole media world has changed, and our sport has kept up with it.

"And don't forget that squash will also be a showcase sport at the Youth Olympic Games next year in Buenos Aires, which we are very excited about."

### France's strength

Tokyo was always likely to look kindly on baseball and softball, as well as karate, when it came to naming additional events for the 2020 Games. But does Fontaine think it could work for squash in 2024 that France has such a strong presence in the sport, with Gaultier currently men's No 1 and Serme, the US and British Open champion, third in the women's list?

"Every host nation hopes to deliver many medals, and for France, that is certainly a possibility," he said.

"We have a pedigree. We have the Men's World No1, but Gregory Gaultier is not the first from France. That was Thierry Lincou in the last decade. As you say, Camille Serme is flying high too. But it is so much about the future. France had the men's runner-up in the World Junior Championships earlier this year in Victor Crouin, and our coaches are working hard to deliver more success for the next generation – in time for 2024!

"France also has a great track record of hosting World and European Championships all over the country. The WSF Men's World Team Championship has just finished in the 2024 Olympic sailing city of Marseille – a huge ticketing success - after the Women's event in Paris last year and earlier events in Nîmes, Valenciennes and Mulhouse. There are great audiences for squash in France to spur us on to do this."

In 2012, while lobbying for Tokyo 2020 inclusion, the then WSF President N Ramachandran said that squash was "totally different from the way it was two or three years ago," adding: "We have completely changed the game around from the last time we made a bid."

Innovations included new all glass courts, high definition television coverage and changes to the scoring system to make the game easier to understand. So what else is left to change?

### An evolution



"President Ramachandran was right, but change is not a once-only matter, it is an evolution," Fontaine (left) said. "Squash continues to evolve on and off the court. We have a superb professional Tour with who we now have a strong partnership, which

allows us to work together to develop the sport.

"Broadcast is ever more and more important, so is presentation.

"Not just inside the venue but show-courts can even showcase the host city by being placed in outside locations too. But we have also to take into account the 2020 agenda and the double awarding of Paris 2024 and Los Angeles 2028 made in Lima.

"We will be looking at rules, scoring and everything else that is part of the package, and making them better. But we will also be innovating off the court in terms of a new worldwide referring structure to both strengthen and widen officiating – and here the importance of increasing the number of female referees will be important.

"There is also great development work internationally on urban squash programmes led by USA. Squash and education combined in such a way to give youngsters a chance in life where they wouldn't have had one before.

"Overall, it is like they say for cycling – incremental changes. Many small things that taken together can make a real difference."

### PSA MOU

How important, one wonders, is the Memorandum of Understanding recently signed between the WSF and PSA?

"A strong and close relationship with the professional sector is key," Fontaine replied. "It was something that I said I stood for before I was elected as President a little over a year ago, and I am very proud that with the full support and cooperation of PSA we have achieved it.

"It is more than an MoU - we now have a full agreement and are partners in many areas. It is a win-win for everybody, as we bring our combined resources into play to grow our sport."

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### WSF MASTERS TOUR

The WSF Masters Commission are developing a WSF Masters Tour, the plans for which are to:

**A. Develop a worldwide identity** and linkage for National Masters Opens, Regional Masters Championships and the World Masters as the **WSF World Masters Tour**.

**B. Create (and promote) a single integrated** portal for the Tour with greater visibility, consistency and integrated information targeted to Event Organisers, Players and Supporters.

**C. Establish a framework and criteria** for International Masters Events at each level (National, Regional, World), so that 'best practice' is available to adopt.

**D. Establish a World Ranking System** for Masters to support the existing national and regional systems –particularly to support seeding in World Championship events and as a common reference for players worldwide. (This is intended to be added later if there is seen to be significant inter-regional participation in the Masters Tour to make the rankings as reflective of world standing as possible).

Details will be announced during 2018 as they are finalised.



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## DOMINANT EGYPT RECLAIM MEN'S WORLD TEAM TITLE IN MARSEILLE



Favourites Egypt defeated defending champions England in the final of the WSF Men's World Team Squash Championship at Salle Vallier in Marseille to reclaim the World Squash Federation title they lost to England four years ago in Mulhouse, also in France.

England reached the final for the ninth time since 1983 in comfortable style and presented a line-up for the final boasting three players with more than 300 international caps between them - probably the most experienced team ever to represent the country in the 50 years of the tournament!

By contrast the four-man Egyptian squad only included one player who had ever competed in the championship before - yet the three-man team in the final all had rankings within the world top five!

With the agreed playing order being 1, 2, 3, title-holders England presented three-time world champion Nick Matthew, the 37-year-old world No.6 appearing in the event for the seventh time since 2003, to face 26-year-old world No.4 Karim Abdel Gawad, a championship debutant.

### Self Inflicted



Matthew (*left*) was clearly not the player who despatched Australian number one Ryan Cuskelly in straight games just 24 hours earlier. The Yorkshireman was

forced to take a three-minute 'self-inflicted injury break' midway through the second game - and it later transpired that he had suffered a minor recurrence of his old ankle injury during the warm-up for the match.

After just 34 minutes, Egypt took the lead when Gawad (pictured above with Matthew) claimed an 11-9, 11-3, 11-7 victory.

Egyptian number two Ali Farag was also making his debut in the final - while English opponent James Willstrop was not only celebrating his fifth successive World Team Championship battle against an Egyptian opponent since 2003, but also his 156th cap for his country.

Former world number one Willstrop, 34, did what he could to keep his 24-year-old opponent at bay - but Farag was clearly on a mission and after 36 minutes clasped his face in his hands as he celebrated his championship-winning 11-5, 11-9, 11-5 triumph.

### Bigger than big

"The word big is an understatement - it is much bigger than big!" gushed Farag when asked to comment on the significance of the win. "I felt I had the whole Egyptian squash community on my shoulders. I wanted to make them proud".

Success in Marseille means that Egypt now have all the men's and women's, senior and junior, team and individual WSF and PSA world titles - Except the Men's Junior World Team title, in which final in 2016 the country narrowly lost to Pakistan.

After their shock quarter-final exit to Hong Kong China, hosts France - the third seeds - beat New Zealand in the play-off for fifth place earlier today on the all-glass showcourt at Salle Vallier.

Third string Lucas Serme clinched victory in the decider, beating Kiwi Evan Williams



(debutants Iraq and Jamaica)

One of the first positions to be decided amongst the 24 teams was the one for 23rd place - won in impressive style, against the odds, by Iraq, the 24th seeds making their debut in the event.

With 45-year-old Rodney Durbach in the squad, 22nd seeds South Africa ended up in a creditable 18th place after losing 2/0 to 18th seeds Argentina in the play-off for 17th place. Durbach, his country's most capped player, endured his third successive five-game battle, this time narrowly going down 3 - 2.

Despite team number one Borja Golan being unavailable for the last three days due to injury, 12th seeds Spain ended in 11th place to record their highest finish ever in 13 appearances since 1985. Scotland also achieved their best finish since 2003 after taking 8th place.

**Final:** [1] EGYPT bt [2] ENGLAND 2/0. **Bronze medallists:** [4] AUSTRALIA & [5] HONG KONG CHINA. **5th place play-off:** [3] FRANCE bt [6] NEW ZEALAND 2/1 **7th place play-off:** [8] INDIA bt [10] SCOTLAND 2/1. **9th place play-off:** [7] GERMANY bt [11] USA 2/0. **11th place play-off:** [12] SPAIN bt [9] MALAYSIA 2/1. **13th place play-off:** [14] CANADA bt [13] WALES 2/1. **15th place play-off:** [15] FINLAND bt [16] SWITZERLAND 2/1. **17th place play-off:** [18] ARGENTINA bt [22] SOUTH AFRICA 2/0. **19th place play-off:** [17] PAKISTAN bt [20] IRELAND 2/0. **21st place play-off:** [19] CZECH REPUBLIC bt [21] JAMAICA 2/0. **23rd place play-off:** [24] IRAQ bt [23] AUSTRIA 2/1





WSF in partnership with PSA has appointed Weber Shandwick, one of the world's leading global communications

and engagement firms, as communications campaign partner to provide strategic counsel and global public relations to support the bid for squash to be included in the Paris 2024 Olympic Games Programme.



L to R: Jacques Fontaine, Sevtlana Picou, Alex Gough)

Commenting on the appointment, WSF President, Jacques Fontaine said: "Becoming a Summer Olympic medal sport has been a long-time dream and goal for the sport of squash. "We are engaging in our fourth bid to be included in the Games' programme, with more passion and a clearer vision than ever before. Given Weber Shandwick's vast Olympic experience and its innovative, forward-looking approach, the agency is the preferred partner to help us make the case for our sport."

The campaign follows the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding between the WSF and PSA enabling the two bodies to work in unison towards achieving a joint vision for the future of squash on a global scale.

PSA Chief Executive Alex Gough said: "The Olympic ambition is a cornerstone of the unified structure that we created with WSF in order to expand squash's international profile as a sport and grow it at both professional and grass roots levels. Weber Shandwick's appointment will greatly support us in achieving our joint goal and communicating our cohesive vision."

### Award winning

Weber Shandwick has over 20 years of experience in supporting campaigns related to the Olympic Games, producing award-winning work for successful Olympic bids and Organising Committees.

Svetlana Picou, Chair, Global Olympic and Sport Affairs, Weber Shandwick, commented: "The sport of squash has undergone a significant transformation in recent years, becoming truly innovative, inclusive and urban, while preserving its qualities as a well-established sport. Squash is a perfect blend of unique sport heritage and excitement of the new.

The following brands have passed national safety standards and, having applied for WSF Certified listing, are the only brands permitted for use in WSF, Regional and many national junior events.

BRAND NAME	APPROVED MODEL
	Turbo (AC 114), Turbo Junior (AC 114 Jr) Lasers (AC 111) Sight Guard (AC 112) Kona (AC 119) Kona Junior (AC 119 Jr) Lynx (AC 122) Stiletto (AC 620) Air Frame Small (AC641SM) Guardian AV (AC 660)
	Baller, Coverage Crunch, Dominance Swag, Field, Homerun League, Playoff
	Dunlop I-ARMOR (R-07) Dunlop Junior (9903 Jr) Dunlop Vision (R-16)
	Grays GT Eyewear
	Shield Pro R16 Covet R615 Radar R43 Radar Jr R717JR
	i-Mask
	2500 (9903Jnr) Pro 3000 (R43) Overspec (KA642)p
	Rage (9903V) Rage Junior (9903JR) Prolite (RB10C) Speed (R601) Attitude (PRO2) Shark (R43) Marvel (SE-7)
	Rage (9903V) Rage Junior (9903JR) Prolite (RB10C) Speed (R601) Attitude (Pro2)
	ASTM F803
	R615

## SERNA LINKS BOARDS

At the PSA AGM held in Manchester during the PSA World Championships, World Squash Federation Vice-President Pablo Serna was elected to the PSA Board, becoming the first person to serve both bodies concurrently.

The election of Serna, President of the Colombian Squash Federation, illustrates the very close and strong partnership between WSF, the International Federation for squash, and PSA who are responsible for the administration of both men's and women's professional squash around the world.



*"I feel honoured and very happy that, after our member nations recognised my willingness and passion to work for squash by electing me as a WSF Vice President a year ago, now professional players have done so as well. This gives me a great opportunity to continue working for the best of this sport, for which*

*I have devoted everything I can in the past 30 years,"* commented an elated Serna.

WSF President Jacques Fontaine was equally delighted: *"Pablo is a great asset to the WSF Board and I am totally certain that he can provide the strongest link with PSA following his election. I am delighted for him, PSA, WSF and our whole sport."*

*"I had two key desires that impelled me to stand for the Presidency - a full partnership with PSA, and to work towards squash achieving a place on the Olympic Games programme in 2024. Our relationship with PSA is in place and will be strengthened further with Pablo linking us, and his energy and knowledge for the Olympic bid has already helped me greatly."* Serna, who is one year into his first four-year term as a WSF Vice President, has been elected for a minimum term of two years by PSA.

The new PSA Board of Directors:

Chairman: Ziad Al Turki Men's President: Ali Farag,  
Women's President: Jenny Duncalf

Board Members: John Nimick, Pablo Serna, Claudia Schürmann, Michael Puertas, Daryl Selby, James Willstrop

The logo for 'SQUASH PLAYER' features the word 'SQUASH' in a large, stylized yellow font with a red outline, and 'PLAYER' in a smaller, black font below it. A red diagonal line crosses through the text.

**Rod Gilmour talks to German entrepreneur Markos Kern about his interactive squash invention and predicts it could be the sport's future.**

**For this feature and more, please click here:**  
<http://www.squashplayer.co.uk>

## 1<sup>st</sup> WSF LEVEL 3 COACHING COURSE IN BUDAPEST

The WSF Coach Education Programme will this year add Level 3 to the first two Levels that are already on stream, with the first 1<sup>st</sup> WSF Level 3 Coaching Course taking place 12 – 16 June in Budapest, Hungary.

The Level 3 course aims to teach coaches to work up to a national squad level. All candidates must have completed a WSF Level 2 course, or provide evidence of an equivalent qualification and level of competence with a good standard of English as part of the ongoing assessment procedure includes participation in debates and presentations (in English).

Acceptance of applicants not holding a WSF Level 2 qualification is subject to approval by the WSF Coach Education Programme Panel. Additionally to attending the course candidates are expected to fulfil a practical post course assignment.

The course tutors will be Peter Hirst (Eng), Major Maniam (Mas) and Csaba Altvater (Fitness, Hun, right)



The course will be held at: *Griff Squash Fitness Club*, Budapest. For information and a booking form please contact Michael Khan, WSF Coach Education Programme Coordinator, Email: [office@mkhan.at](mailto:office@mkhan.at)

## ASIA PACIFIC WORLD MASTERS 2018



Registration is now open for the Asia Pacific Masters Games being played on the Malaysian island city of Georgetown Penang, a Unesco World Heritage site.

Squash is one of 21 sports taking place at one of Asia's top holiday destinations, at the Nicol David International Squash Centre.

Events and dates:

**Squash Singles** (male and female, 35+ to 80+, Open and recreational categories) 8 – 12 September.  
**Squash Mixed Team** (35+, 45+, 55+, Open and recreational categories) 12 – 14 September.  
**Squash 57** (male and female, 35+ to 80+, one category) 11 – 14 September

Full details can be found at [www.apmg2018.com](http://www.apmg2018.com)

**PHOTOGRAPHS:** Many supplied with thanks to SquashSite.co.uk and squashpics.com

## WORLD SQUASH OFFICIATING

Developing a cutting edge worldwide structure to handle referee training, qualification, development and assessing is quite a project, but that is exactly what WSF, in partnership with PSA, are embarking upon.

Here is a flavour of what is intended for the programme:

### *WSO will benefit squash at:*

World, Regional and PSA Tour PSA World tour events, right down to club level squash

### *WSO will provide:*

A dedicated resource centre for referees/players/coaches and squash enthusiasts

~ An online training and education facility for both referees & assessors

~ All policies & procedures relating to officiating

### *WSO Coordination:*

A WSO consultancy group representing all regions has been formed and tasked with overall responsibility of all activities associated with WSO – including:

- ~ Setting International levels for officiating
- ~ Increasing refereeing /assessing pool
- ~ Improving officiating quality
- ~ Helping to promote positive behaviour
- ~ Promoting good match management

### *WSO Covers:*

The full range from a basic referee rules test through five levels of qualification

- ▶ Level 5 – Highest certificated level
- ▶ Level 4
- ▶ Level 3
- ▶ Level 2
- ▶ Level 1 – Lowest certificated level
- ▶ Level 0 – A basic online rules test

(WSO managing level 4/5, member nation managing level 1 to 3)

QUALIFICATION (A)		LEVEL 1 (initial qualification)	LEVEL 2	LEVEL 3 (Approx. National level)	LEVEL 4	LEVEL 5 (World equivalent)
MATCH MANAGEMENT / RULES TEST	LEVEL 0					
Fee	FREE	*	*	*	*	*
National Fed fee rebate		20%	20%	20%	20%	20%
Annual Renewal fee		*	*	*	*	*
National Fed renewal rebate		20%	20%	20%	20%	20%

\* Fee levels to be published, early 2018

### *In general:*

- ~ Member nations will be encouraged to use WSO
- ~ Enable existing member nation courses and qualifications can be integrated
- ~ Referees will be registered
- ~ Rebates offered to member nations (see below)

~ Support and resources will be available for member nations

~ Worldwide Officials databases will be accessible

### *Initial anticipated introduction timelines:*

Level 0 – May 2018

Level 1 – May 2018

## WSF LAUNCH TEUTON SHOE PARTNERSHIP



The WSF is delighted to announce a new three-year agreement with the performance footwear brand Teuton Sports, which will see the German brand become the WSF's Official Shoe Partner from 2018 onwards.

The German indoor shoe specialists will feature on the WSF media platforms, while their official WSF merchandise will become available to purchase via the WSF's official website in the future.

"It is a pleasure to welcome Teuton as a new WSF partner" commented WSF Chief Executive Andrew Shelley. "Teuton is a specialist squash brand who are known for their strong emphasis on design and high-quality products, and we look forward to working closely with them to build a strong partnership."

Managing Director of Teuton Sports Javier Rodriguez Cepeda said:

"We are delighted and proud to have reached a Partnership Agreement with the World Squash Federation which we have now signed. Squash is our passion. We work aligned with the WSF goals looking forward to seeing our sport securing a place in the Olympic Games. Through our sponsoring programmes for players, clubs, academies such as regional and national federations, we want to contribute to growing the squash participation level around the world. For more information and to see the entire range of Teuton products visit: [www.teutonsports.com](http://www.teutonsports.com)



## RAMY ASHOUR & CAMILLE SERME LEAD 2018 WSF AMBASSADOR VISIT

Egypt's three-time world champion Ramy Ashour and France's world No.3 Camille Serme will lead the 2018 WSF Ambassador Programme to Armenia and Ukraine in June next year when the latest World Squash Federation initiative visits the countries' capitals Yerevan and Kiev, respectively.

Launched in 2011, the inspired WSF international promotional initiative takes two leading squash players, together with an international coach and referee, into younger squash nations to help raise the sport's profile - through clinics, exhibition matches, refereeing and coaching seminars, and media presentations.

Ashour and Serme, both WSF Ambassador Programme debutants, will be joined Belgian national coach Ronny Vlassaks and international referee Marko Podgorsek, from Slovenia. The 2018 campaign will take place from 18-24 June.



"We are delighted that Ramy and Camille are able to take time out from their busy international schedules to join us in this vital annual promotional project for the first time," said WSF CEO Andrew Shelley.

"We all look forward to meeting and interacting with the squash communities, sports authorities and media in Armenia and Ukraine. This

opportunity to help younger Federations with their developmental and promotional work is one we relish."

Ramy Ashour has become one of the sport's biggest draws. Winner of 39 PSA World Tour titles, including the World Championship in 2008, 2012 and 2014, the 30-year-old from Cairo topped the world rankings for 21 months over a period in which he reached 12



successive Tour finals. France's most successful female squash player of all-time and a record six-time European champion, Camille Serme achieved a career-high world No.2 ranking in February this year after winning the prestigious Tournament of Champions title in New York.

The WSF Ambassador Programme first visited the Baltic country of Latvia in 2011, followed by a trip to the African countries of Malawi and Namibia, then Panama and Venezuela in 2013, Papua New Guinea in 2014, before focussing on the Balkan region in 2015 with appearances in Serbia, Romania and Croatia. In 2016, the team visited Dalian and Macau in China. The 2017 edition was postponed until 2018.

## SPIN MOVES TO ANNUAL RENEWAL

The WSF Board are expanding specific aims for SPIN in supporting our programmes on behalf of the sport and our stakeholders and enhancing its use as a tool for information flow and providing benefits.

SPIN has now become an annual licence fee for players, team officials and coaches.

One priority is to provide relevant information to all groups, such as rules information, championship details, masters updates, coaching resources etc. This will involve resourcing by WSF. We are also beginning to offer member benefits too such as squash-related discounts that we hope that SPINs will like. Details will be uploaded as they are added.

### Registration fee unchanged

The initial Registration fee will be unchanged at £15, but there will be an annual renewal fee for subsequent years set at £10 for adults, and £5 for juniors (still Under 19 on 1<sup>st</sup> January at the start of the renewal year).

However, WSF is mindful that the current SPIN registered individuals were offered it on a once-for-lifetime basis, so SPINs paid before 31 December this year will not be subject to an annual renewal fee.

Registration Rebates will continue to be offered to Regions and when the planned worldwide refereeing programme - being developed in partnership with PSA - goes live during 2018, rebates will be offered to Nation Federations for referee course fees. (Details of this will be published during the first quarter of this year).

on objectives such as, securing a place on the Olympic Games programme; maintaining squash's presence on other international multi-sport games programmes; growing participation levels around the world; and encouraging the development of court facilities in conjunction with centres, local associations and national federations.

### Current WSF Accredited Companies are



## WSF & PSA SATELLITE TOUR

WSF and PSA in partnership are integrating sanctioned regional, national and junior tournaments into the PSA World Rankings to create a pathway for young up-and-coming players to the professional tours.

### Junior Satellite Tour

The Tours cover:

- WSF World and WSF Regional Junior Championships
- WSF National Junior Opens
- WSF National Junior Championships
- Results from all WSF Satellite Tour tournaments will count towards the PSA World Rankings.

The National Junior Open and National Junior Championship tournament of a WSF Member Nation may be registered.

- All Satellite Tour tournaments are run by WSF Members or sanctioned independent promoters. Where there is a Junior Regional Circuit in place regional authorisation will be required for events not included in that circuit.
- There are no requirements or restrictions for WSF Members or sanctioned promoters with regards to draw size, tournament format, etc. for any Satellite Tour tournament.

WSF Junior Rankings or PSA World Rankings should be used, as appropriate, for seeding (those wishing to apply to use their national ranking instead will be able to apply in writing to PSA/WSF).

The Satellite Tour for Juniors comprises Under-19 and Under-17 age group tournaments

- PSA members and non-members can compete in all Satellite Tour tournaments.
- To earn points for the PSA World Rankings, players will have to join the PSA as a member.
- All players competing in all WSF & PSA Satellite Tour junior tournaments will need a WSF SPIN registration.

All National Senior & Junior tournaments will be automatically registered with PSA free of charge.

- There will be WSF World Junior Rankings at Under-19 and Under-17 level, separated out of the PSA World Rankings using results from all the PSA World Tour, PSA Regional Tour, WSF & PSA Satellite Tour. These will be published monthly.

### National Championships

- PSA and WSF will accept registration of WSF Full or Associate National Federation men's and/or women's 'Closed' Championships for the Satellite Tour.
- There will be no registration charge.
- The entry into these men's and women's tournaments must be open to any citizen or resident of the country, as allowed by the eligibility rules of the host WSF Member.

- There is no minimum prize money requirement for these Championships.

All National Senior & Junior tournaments can be registered free of charge [here](#):

### Other than National Championships













- PSA and WSF will accept registration of tournaments other than WSF National Championships that feature a minimum prize money of \$1,000 for men's tournaments and/or \$500 for women's tournaments as a WSF & PSA Satellite Tournament.
- These tournaments must be managed by the WSF Member itself or a promoter that has been recognized as being in good standing by the WSF Member, PSA and/or WSF.

## WSF APPROVED BALLS

**Dunlop provide the WSF Adopted Ball**, which is used for all WSF World Championships, along with all Regional events.

A number of manufacturers make balls that have been tested to conform to the WSF Squash Ball Specifications and so are quality assured.

They are all listed here:

	<b>Artengo SB 990 Squash Ball</b>
	<b>Black Knight Ball</b>
	<b>Dunlop XX Yellow Dot Championship Ball</b>
	<b>Eye Squash Ball</b>
	<b>HEAD Sport AG Yellow Dot Ball</b>
	<b>Huashen Double &amp; Single Yellow Dot Balls</b>
	<b>Karakal Squash Ball</b>
	<b>MR Price Sport Maxed Squash Ball</b>
	<b>Prince Rebel Pro Ball</b>
	<b>Taiball Yellow Dot Ball</b>
	<b>Tecnifibre Squash Ball</b>
	<b>Victor/VICTEC Doppel-Gelb Squash Ball</b>

## AFP REPORTS ON A STIRRING STORY FROM JORDAN

Eleven-year-old Syrian refugee Raghda Hasriyeh whacks a ball against the wall of a squash court as she practices in front of her parents in the Jordanian capital of Amman. Along with a group of other young girls displaced by the war in their homeland, she has been playing the sport for almost a year thanks to a U.S. charity – and now dreams of taking on all-comers.

"I love this sport. I train almost every day," Hasriyeh said. "I hope I can travel around the e world and take part in Arab championships and international ones."

Since the conflict in Syria broke out in 2011, the U.N. estimates more than 330,000 children have been among the waves of people who fled across the border into Jordan. Five years ago Hasriyeh and her family escaped the bombs and bullets in their battered hometown of Homs before gradually making their way to safety in the kingdom.

"God alone knows what would have happened to my five children and I if I had not decided to flee my country," her father, Nizar Hasriyeh, said.



US charity Reclaim Childhood's Clayton Keir (C) poses with Syrian refugee girls and their parents during a squash training session in the Jordanian capital Amman, on November 18, 2017. AFP / Khalil MAZRAAWI

### Crowded camp near Amman

Life for the family in Jordan has been difficult and they had to move out of a crowded camp to the outskirts of Amman. In those conditions, squash has proved a godsend for the children. "I don't understand anything about this sport but I am so happy to see my three daughters playing squash. I hope to see them become world champions one day," Nizar told AFP.

With its costly rackets and purpose-built courts, squash might not seem an obvious choice for children displaced from Syria. But while the game has never been mainstream in the country, it is hugely popular in some parts of the Middle East, most prominently Egypt, and major events are hosted in Qatar.

















Reclaim Childhood, the charity behind the program, insists that getting refugee girls involved in the sport can be invaluable in helping them deal with the hardships they face.

"Today the team is made up of four girls and we are looking to expand it to 15," founder Clayton Keir said.

"We train five times a week and training includes English lessons aimed at helping them compete in tournaments in Jordan and abroad," he added.

### WSF ACCREDITATION

WSF Accredited Products available from these companies mean assured standards when building or renovating squash courts.

 DOUBLEPLAY A Best Enterprises, Inc	 AACER SPORTS FLOORING	 Action FLOOR SYSTEMS
 ARMOURCOAT SURFACE FINISHES	 ASB	 BOEN SPORT
 CONNOR SPORTS FLOORING	 courtcraft SPORTS & LEISURE CONTRACTORS	 COURTECH WE MAKE COURTS
 COURT WALL INNOVATION MADE FOR WINNERS	 ellispearson GLASS WALLS	 FIBERESIN INDUSTRIES, INC.
 G2G Inc. - Hardware Trading Company	 HARO Sports Flooring	 HARRISON SPORTS SYSTEMS
 QUALITY HOLLMAN SINCE 1976	 JUNCKERS	 McWIL squash courts
 PSS PRESTIGE SPORTS SYSTEMS	 Rebound	
 TarkettSPORTS	 THE COURT COMPANY SINCE 1977	

For a full list of all Accredited Products please click [here](#)



## EL WELILY CLOSES IN ON EL SHERBINI



World Champion Raneem El Welily (*left*) has closed the gap between herself and current World No.1 Nour El Sherbini in the PSA January Women's World Rankings.

El Welily, 28, defeated El Sherbini in the final of the women's PSA World Championships last month to capture the

most prestigious title on the women's Tour for the first time in her career.

Despite her final defeat, El Sherbini retains top spot for a 21st successive month but now sits just over 200 ranking points ahead of El Welily in second - having previously led by over 350 points in December - while the rest of the top five is made up of Camille Serme (3), Laura Massaro (4) and Nouran Gohar (5).

Malaysia's eight-time World Champion Nicol David remains sixth, while U.S. Open champion Nour El Tayeb's maiden World Championship semi-final last month sees her move up to seventh spot. Perry drops a place to eight, while Joelle King and Alison Waters take the last two top ten spots.

Elsewhere, Annie Au stays at No.11, with Tesni Evans on the rise to reach a career-high ranking of No.12 as United States No.1 Olivia Blatchford falls a place to No.13. Joshna Chinappa moves up to No.14, while Emily Whitlock falls two places to No.15.

## PSA Women's Rankings – January 2018

1	Nour El Sherbini	EGY
2	Raneem El Welily	EGY
3	Camille Serme	FRA
4	Laura Massaro	ENG
5	Nouran Gohar	EGY
6	Nicol David	MAS
7	Nour El Tayeb	EGY
8	Sarah-Jane Perry	ENG
9	Joelle King	NZL
10	Alison Waters	ENG
11	Annie Au	HKG
12	Tesni Evans	WAL
13	Olivia Blatchford	USA
14	Joshna Chinappa	IND
15	Emily Whitlock	ENG
16=	Victoria Lust	ENG
16=	Donna Urquhart	AUS
18	Salma Hany	EGY
19	Joey Chan	HKG
20	Dipika Pallikal Karthik	IND

## GAULTIER UNDER THREAT



The release of the January PSA Men's World Rankings has seen Egypt's Mohamed ElShorbagy cut the gap between himself and current World No.1 Gregory Gaultier (*left*) to just 43 points after his PSA World Championship triumph.

ElShorbagy, who held the World No.1 ranking for 28 months between 2014-2017, took a step closer to reclaiming top spot after he defeated Gaultier en route to lifting the biggest title on the Men's Tour a fortnight ago, beating younger brother Marwan in a historic final victory to finally get his hands on the coveted World Championship trophy.

ElShorbagy will have the chance to surpass Gaultier at the J.P. Morgan Tournament of Champions later this month, with the duo set to meet in a blockbuster final clash inside New York's stunning Grand Central Terminal.

ElShorbagy sits one place ahead of compatriot Ali Farag, with 2016 World Champion Karim Abdel Gawad and Marwan completing the top five.

Nick Matthew and Tarek Momen come next at six and seven respectively, with Germany's Simon Rösner rising a place to eight. Egypt's Mohamed Abouelghar moves into the top 10 for the first time in his career to take the ninth spot as New Zealand's Paul Coll drops two places toten.

## PSA Men's Rankings – January 2018

1	Gregory Gaultier	FRA
2	Mohamed ElShorbagy	EGY
3	Ali Farag	EGY
4	Karim Abdel Gawad	EGY
5	Marwan ElShorbagy	EGY
6	Nick Matthew	ENG
7	Tarek Momen	EGY
8	Simon Rösner	GER
9	Mohamed Abouelghar	EGY
10	Paul Coll	NZL
11	Diego Elias	PER
12	Fares Dessouky	EGY
13	James Willstrop	ENG
14	Ramy Ashour	EGY
15	Ryan Cuskelly	AUS
16	Saurav Ghosal	IND
17	Daryl Selby	ENG
18	Borja Golan	ESP
19	Cameron Pilley	AUS
20	Omar Mosaad	EGY

## COLOMBIA SWEEPS BOARD

With six gold, two silver and a bronze medal, Colombia were the dominant nation at the recent Bolivarian Games held in their capital city of Bogota recently, as they were in Trujillo Peru four years ago. The event was played at the Complejo De Racuetas De Santa Marta, using four new courts with movable walls for Doubles, the first in the city.



There are eleven countries in the region, contesting 39 sports, with Bolivia, Chile, Colombia, Ecuador, Guatemala, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, and Venezuela in the hunt for squash medals, with the formats being singles, doubles and team events.

## HONG KONG WIN AWARD



Hong Kong Squash have become the first National Sports Association to receive "Directors of The Year Awards 2017" in the categories of Statutory / Non-profit-distributing Organizations by The Hong Kong Institute of Directors. This award recognised achievement in demonstrating the high standards in corporate governance.

Chairman Mr. David Mui (pictured here) and the Association's General Committee, were commended by the panel of judges saying, "The Board of Hong Kong Squash has established sound principles and procedures in terms of corporate governance, with policies on risk management, financial controls, internal controls, compliance and reporting in place. Its supervision and evaluation of strategic plans developed by the management team contribute to the continual success of the organization. The Board totally deserves the Award."

## NUSEA IS NOW SQUASH & EDUCATION ALLIANCE

When the American National Urban Squash and Education Association was launched in 2005, it was "national" in aspiration more than reality. Four member programs served a total of 250 students in Boston, New York and Philadelphia. Things have changed a lot since then. It now has 19 member organizations across the country and four affiliates abroad, with more than 2,500 students enrolled. As the NUSEA network expanded—beyond the United States and outside of major urban centres—the need for a new name became clear. *Squash and Education Alliance (SEA)*, was chosen,

As SEA reported, 'Every day after school, in cities across the country and beyond, students from underserved communities make their way to our programs to study in classrooms and train on the

squash courts. We provide other important services too—mentoring, counselling, travel, career prep, and more — but at our core we help students develop as squash players and prepare for college'.

## WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP REGULATIONS 2018

The updated WSF World Championship Regulations applicable from 1 January 2018 are on the WSF website. Click [here](#) to see them.



Bad Kissingen - Germany

Email: [info@teutonsports.com](mailto:info@teutonsports.com)  
Website: [www.teutonsports.com](http://www.teutonsports.com)

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Teuton 1017C (NAVY/BLUE/WHITE)



Teuton 1017F (WHITE/NAVY)



Teuton 1017F (RED/NAVY)

## HAVE CCI SET A RECORD?



Naval Pandole, from the Cricket Club of India (CCI), Mumbai has written saying that the CCI has been conducting the CCI Western India Squash Tournament for the last 74 years and the 2018 even will be their 75th consecutive uninterrupted year of holding the event.

He has asked whether we 'have any information of any other organisation in the world that has conducted a Squash tournament uninterruptedly for the last 74 years. This request for information is only since the CCI wishes to make something of a celebration for such an important milestone'.

Wars have interrupted many longstanding older events, but do write to Mr Pandole at [npandole@gmail.com](mailto:npandole@gmail.com) if you know of an event that can better their record and we will ask him to report back for the next Instant Update.

## MEAGAN BEST GETS A FIRST



Barbados's Meagan Best, at only 15 years and 8 months old, became the first ever medalist of any colour when she scooped gold in the Under 17 category. In a nail biting final she beat USA's Malak Ashraf Kamal 11/9 in the deciding game.

The total field in the four day event was 930 players from 41 countries, with events being played at four Connecticut facilities, culminating in finals at Yale University.



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