



# WORLD SQUASH UPDATE

Issue 79

March/April 2019

## FOR ALL WSF REGIONAL & NATIONAL FEDERATIONS

cc: WSF Regional Presidents, WSF Commission Members, PSA members, SPINs, Media, Stakeholders, Accredited Products and Companies

## OLYMPIC GAMES, PARIS 2024

### A letter from WSF President Jacques Fontaine:

Dear Colleague,

As you will have seen, squash was not proposed as an additional sport for the Paris 2024 Olympic Games programme; with Paris 2024 choosing to put forward breakdancing, sport climbing, skateboarding and surfing.

Naturally, we are hugely disappointed with this decision and believe that our campaign - which was run in partnership with PSA - respected both the timeline and criteria that was set out by the Paris 2024 Organising Committee and the IOC.

A delegation from WSF and PSA - which included French players Camille Serme and Victor Crouin - presented the reasons for squash's inclusion to the Paris 2024 Organising Committee in early January, where we received positive feedback from the Paris 2024 leadership.

During a presentation and discussion which lasted for nearly two hours our team presented the case for squash, backed by an impressive PowerPoint featuring the reasons why squash offers exciting options for the hosts and their city.

**We focused on the great staging opportunities that squash would bring to the host of any Games.** These included:

- Our glass court can be placed in an iconic or historic location, brilliantly showcasing the city.
- Showcourts can be built in as little as 25 hours and taken down in half that time – leaving no footprint on the environment.
- The showcourt would have been provided at no cost by the French Squash Federation.
- A venue could host 5,000 spectators in an area of less than 6,000 square meters.
- That squash is superbly creative, innovative and youth oriented. The interactive front wall used at the Youth Olympic Games in Buenos Aires, attracting more than 25,000 spectators of all ages was a great example of this that we put forward.



*At the Paris presentation: (L-R): Andrew Shelley, WSF Chief Executive; Jean-Denis Barbet, FFSquash President; Tommy Berden, PSA Chief Commercial Officer; Camille Serme, Nine-Time French National Champion and Six-Time European Individual Champion; Jacques Fontaine, WSF President; Pablo Serna, WSF General Secretary, and PSA Board Member; Victor Crouin, European Junior Champion; Alex Gough, PSA Chief Executive Officer*

**Some of the other features of the presentation were:**

- We are a strong unified sport. Our partnership with PSA and our regional / national structure with squash played in on 50,000 courts in 185 countries on all continents exemplifies this.
- Squash is gender equal, as is the prize money at major events.
- We would ensure the participation of the top world players at a spectacular event.
- Current elite French young players would be medal prospects for France in 2024.
- The quality of our broadcast via SquashTV has been recognised by broadcasters worldwide, including Eurosport.

There were so many other features that were covered not only in the speeches and PowerPoint, but also in the specially made five minute bid film which was a real visual explanation of the attraction of squash to any host city.

**In summary, we demonstrated that squash, an inclusive, innovative, athletic, youth & urban sport perfectly 'ticked all the boxes' and was completely in line with their vision for the Paris Games.**

For the record, during the Paris 2024 announcement of February 21<sup>st</sup> we heard from the different speakers that their selection responded to a need to "make the Olympics more urban" and that "this is why we have chosen to present to the IOC with four sports that are creative as spectacular, geared towards youth and completely in line with our vision". We feel that this describes squash perfectly!

We then launched our Squash Goes Gold Olympic bid campaign last week, with the aim of giving the global squash community the opportunity to take an active part in our sport's future, which included the bid to become part of the Paris 2024 Olympic Games programme.

This campaign was launched last week because, throughout the entire process, we have been advised that the proposed sports would not be announced until late March at the earliest, with June 2019 being communicated as the most likely time, to give the IOC the chance to review the sports recommended by Paris 2024.

The fact that three of the four proposed sports are already included on the Tokyo 2020 Olympic Games programme leads us to question whether the IOC favoured those sports, leaving practically no opportunity for other sports to integrate into the programme.

**Squash has made huge strides forward** in areas such as innovation, equality, sustainability and youth engagement - all of which matched the criteria communicated to us by Paris 2024 and the IOC.

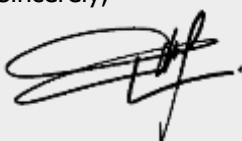
However, we believe this decision shouldn't detract from the incredible progress that the sport has made in recent years, particularly given the fact that the sport's first \$1 million dollar tournament - the PSA World Championships - in Chicago over the coming week.

To conclude, for now, I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the regions, nations and individuals who have supported the expensive and extensive campaign that WSF & PSA jointly executed.

I would also like to thank all members of the Olympic bid group and emphasise the quality of the cooperation with PSA.

**We remain committed to growing the sport** and believe the future of squash is very bright irrespective of the bid campaign failure. We will continue to show Paris in particular and IOC in general what they are missing out on.

Sincerely,



**Jacques FONTAINE, President, World Squash Federation**

## PAKISTAN & MALAYSIA TRIUMPH

Favourites Pakistan and Malaysia triumphed in the men's and women's finals, respectively, of the 19th Asian Junior Team Squash Championships at the Squash Centre in the Ambassador City Jomtien in Pattaya, Thailand.

After overcoming Hong Kong China in the semi-finals of the biennial event, Pakistan faced unexpected opponents India in the final after the defending champions - who were the fourth seeds - upset second-seeded Malaysia 2/1 in the other semi.



But in an emphatic endorsement of the seedings, Pakistan (*pictured above with ASF President David Mui*) dispatched India 2/0 to claim their men's title for first time since 2013 - but for the 14th time overall. Hong Kong China and Malaysia shared bronze medals.

### Repeat finals

In a repeat of both the 2015 and 2017 women's finals, defending champions Malaysia faced Hong Kong China. Boasting two players within the world top 100, favourites Malaysia brushed aside their opponents 2/0 to retain the title for the third time in a row. India and Republic of Korea claimed the co-third.



"It is the first time for Thailand Squash Rackets Association to host an Asian Championship," said David Mui, MH JP, President of the Asian Squash Federation (*pictured above with Women's champions Malaysia*). "I would like to thank and congratulate them for hosting such a

successful yet memorable event. Their warm hospitality and dedication has made the event run smoothly. I would also like to thank the officials, referees and helpers."

The 2019 championships attracted 12 junior men's teams and 9 junior women's teams.

**Men's semi-finals:** [1] PAKISTAN bt [3] HONG KONG CHINA 2/0. [4] INDIA bt [2] MALAYSIA 2/1. **Final:** [1] PAKISTAN bt [4] INDIA 2/0: Muhammad Farhan Hashmi bt Veer Chotrani 2-11, 11-9, 11-7, 5-11, 11-9. Abbas Zeb bt Utkarsh Baheti 11-4, 11-2, 11-6. Remaining positions: 3 Hong Kong China & Malaysia; 5 Kuwait; 6 Sri Lanka; 7 Republic of Korea; 8 Japan; 9 Singapore; 10 Chinese Taipei; 11 China; 12 Thailand

**Women's semi-finals:** [1] MALAYSIA bt [3] INDIA 2/0. [2] HONG KONG CHINA bt [5] REPUBLIC OF KOREA 2/0. **Final:** [1] MALAYSIA bt [2] HONG KONG CHINA 2/0. Aifa Azman bt Chan Sin Yuk 11-5, 6-11, 11-6, 7-11, 11-8. Ooi Kah Yan bt Lee Sum Yuet 11-9, 8-11, 12-10, 4-11, 13-11. Remaining positions: 3 India & Republic of Korea; 5 Sri Lanka; 6 Singapore; 7 Japan; 8 Macau; 9 Chinese Taipei



### NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT RESOURCES

The WSF Development Commission have collected details of several national development programmes as a resource for all member nations. They are on our website [here](#). More programme details are welcome

## **WORLD SQUASH COMMISSIONS & PANELS 2019**

### **Anti-Doping**

**Chair:** Dr. Anne Smith

**Programme Manager:** Lorraine Harding

**Members:** Dr. Ellen Hamborg-Petersen, Dr. Bharatinder Singh

### **Athletes'**

**Joint Chair:** Jenny Duncalf, Ali Farag

**Members:** Sarah Cardwell, Samantha Cornett, Mahesh Mangaonkar, Daniel Mekbib, Sarah-Jane Perry, Juan Vargas

### **Championships**

**Chair:** Tony Choi

**Board Liaison:** Andrew Shelley

**Hardball Liaison:** Graham Bassett

**Members:** Tommy Berden, Hany Hamouda, Madeline Perry, Cyrus Poncha, Yvon Provencal, Thomas Troedsson, Wayne Werder

### **Commercial**

**Chair:** Peter Lasusa

**Board Liaison:** Andrew Shelley

**Members:** Sergio Becerra, Otto Kalvø, Guven Karakus, Kevin Klipstein, Julie Marks, Matthew Osmon

### **Communications**

**Chair:** Julie Marks

**Board Liaison:** Andrew Shelley

**Members:** Steve Cubbins, Nick Davies, Howard Harding, Walter Kuepfer, James Prudden, Alex Wan

### **Courts & Equipment**

**Chair:** Tom Oldroyd

**Board Liaison:** Huang Ying How

**Members:** Craig Archer, Chris Herridge, John Holland, Andy Malley, Jim O'Grady

### **Development**

**Chair:** Emily Mak

**Board Liaison:** Huang Ying How

**Members:** Karen Anderson, Kevin Klipstein, John Milton, Luke Morriss, Chris Peach

### **Disciplinary**

**Chair:** Gerard DeCourcy

**Board Liaison:** Andrew Shelley

**Members:** Volker Bernardi, Ken Stillman, Cedric Tyen

### **Ethics**

**Chair:** David Howman

**Members:** Alison Burchell, Robert Dolman, Jim Hay, Debendranath Sarangi

### **Governance & Audit**

**Chair:** David Mandel

**Board Liaison:** Jacques Fontaine

**Members:** Steven Indig, Janet Sairsingh

### **Junior**

**Chair:** Jackie Robinson

**Board Liaison:** Andrew Shelley

**Members:** Andrew Cross, Lee Drew, Mustafa Assem Khalifa, Shelley Kitchen, Cyrus Poncha, Vedran Rezic, Harry Smith

### **Major Games**

**Chair:** Sarah Fitz-Gerald

**Members:** Hany Hamouda, David Mui, Jim O'Grady, Federico Serna, Zena Wooldridge

### **Masters**

**Chair:** Malcolm Kerr

**Board Liaison:** Sarah Fitz-Gerald

**Members:** Angelique Clifton-Parks, Richard Millman, Wayne Seebeck, Pavel Sladeczek, Nick Taylor

### **Medical**

**Chair:** Dr. Anne Smith

**Board Liaison:** Lorraine Harding

**Members:** Derek Ryan, Dr. Bharatinder Singh, Dr. Manit Arora

### **Olympic Games**

**Chair:** Jacques Fontaine

**WSF Liaison:** Andrew Shelley

**Members:** Tommy Berden, Volker Bernardi (Para-Squash), Sarah Fitz-Gerald, Alex Gough, Sandro Gozi, Peter Lasusa, David Mui, Camille Serme, Pablo Serna

### **Para-Squash**

**Chair:** Volker Bernardi

**Board Liaison:** Jacques Fontaine

**Members:** Jan Bockweg, Marcel Borst, Sebastian Riediger, Jörn Verleger, Udo Ziegler

### **Rules:**

**Chair:** Mike Collins

**WSF Liaison:** Andrew Shelley

**Members:** Lee Drew, Srikanth Seshadri

### **Squash 57**

**Chair:** Patrick Osborn

**WSF Liaison:** Andrew Shelley

**Members:** Ken Chee, Mo Sarwar, Zena Wooldridge

### **Therapeutic Use Exemption**

**Chair:** Dr. Anne Smith

**Members:** Dr. Deborah Dudgeon, Dr. Charlotte Elgood, Dr. Connie Lebrun, Dr. Bharatinder Singh

### **World Squash Coaching Panel**

**Chair:** Sarah Fitz-Gerald

**Programme Manager:** Michael Khan

**Office Liaison:** Andrew Shelley

**Members:** Jason Fletcher, Maniam Singaraveloo, Colin White

### **World Squash Officiating**

**Programme Manager:** Roy Gingell

**Consultant:** Lee Drew

**Quality Assurance Manager:** Steve Eccles

**Project Administrator:** Lorraine Harding

**Referee Consultants:** Mike Collins, Tahir Khanzada, Marko Podgorsek, Jordan Till, Rich Wade



# PSA MARCH RANKINGS



## EGYPTIAN TRIO TAKE TOP THREE SPOTS



The March PSA Women's World Rankings features an all-Egyptian top three after Nour El Tayeb (*left*) moved up a spot behind compatriots Raneem El Welily and Nour El Sherbini.

El Tayeb had dropped down to No.4 last month after being overtaken by New Zealand's Joelle King,

but the 25-year-old has reclaimed her place amongst the top three once again on the same day that husband Ali Farag has become the men's World No.1.

Her fellow Egyptian, Raneem El Welily, celebrates her fourth month at the summit of the women's rankings.

Nour El Sherbini stays at No.2, with the French No.1 leap-frogging New Zealand's Joelle King to rank No.4.

England's Sarah-Jane Perry stays at No.6 and is followed by compatriot Laura Massaro, while Egypt's Nouran Gohar retains her No.8 ranking ahead of Alison Waters and Wales' Tesni Evans, who moves back into the top 10 at the expense of United States No.1 Amanda Sobhy.

Sobhy drops three spots to No.13 - meaning she is overtaken by Hong Kong's Annie Au and Egypt's Salma Hany, with the latter reaching a career-high ranking of No.12.

### PSA Women's Rankings – March 2019

1	Raneem El Welily	EGY
2	Nour El Sherbini	EGY
3	Nour El Tayeb	EGY
4	Camille Serme	FRA
5	Joelle King	NZL
6	Sarah-Jane Perry	ENG
7	Laura Massaro	ENG
8	Nouran Gohar	EGY
9	Alison Waters	ENG
10	Tesni Evans	WAL
11	Annie Au	HKG
12	Salma Hany	EGY
13	Amanda Sobhy	USA
14	Victoria Lust	ENG
15	Hania El Hammany	EGY
16	Joshna Chinappa	IND
17	Yathreb Adel	EGY
18	Joey Chan	HKG
19	Olivia Blatchford Clyne	USA
20	Emily Whitlock	ENG

## FARAG DETHRONES ELSHORBAGY



Egypt's Ali Farag (*left*) has overtaken compatriot Mohamed ElShorbagy to become the new men's World No.1 in the PSA Men's World Rankings for March.

Farag, the 26-year-old Harvard-graduate, is the sixth Egyptian male to top the rankings, following in the

footsteps of ElShorbagy, Karim Abdel Gawad, Ramy Ashour, Karim Darwish and Amr Shabana.

Cairo-born Farag earned top spot after coming back from two games down to beat ElShorbagy in the final of January's J.P. Morgan Tournament of Champions.

ElShorbagy, Tarek Momen and Karim Abdel Gawad make it an all-Egyptian top four, while Rösner drops a place to No.5.

Colombia's Miguel Rodriguez rises to No.6, swapping places with New Zealand's Paul Coll, with Egypt's Mohamed Abouelghar rising a place to a career-high No.8 ranking.

Peru's Diego Elias has moved up to a career-high ranking of No.9, while Egypt's Marwan ElShorbagy drops two places to No.10.

### PSA Men's Rankings – March 2019

1	Ali Farag	EGY
2	Mohamed ElShorbagy	EGY
3	Tarek Momen	EGY
4	Karim Abdel Gawad	EGY
5	Simon Rösner	GER
6	Miguel Angel Rodriguez	COL
7	Paul Coll	NZL
8	Mohamed Abouelghar	EGY
9	Diego Elias	PER
10	Marwan ElShorbagy	EGY
11	Gregory Gaultier	FRA
12	Saurav Ghosal	IND
13	Omar Mosaad	EGY
14	Zahed Salem	EGY
15	James Willstrop	ENG
16	Raphael Kandra	GER
17	Gregoire Marche	FRA
18	Joel Makin	WAL
19	Tom Richards	ENG
20	Declan James	ENG

**CANADIAN INCLUSIVITY PROGRAM DEBUTS**

Squash Canada reports that the sport debuted its first-ever inclusivity program in January at the CBS Swimming Pool & Recreation Complex in Conception Bay South, Newfoundland. Spearheaded by Squash Newfoundland’s Past President and squash pioneer Eric Hart (*pictured below with players*) in less than eight months, the program has a long-term goal of taking this initiative across Canada in the future.



Squash Canada Past President Lolly Gillen (*below*), who also helped launch the grand opening said, “at the time Eric and I first discussed the idea of an inclusive squash program in May of 2018, there were a number of ways to go about it. There was always the option of Eric, as he originally intended, just running his own personal boutique "goodwill" program within his region of Newfoundland or, to consider how it could be a sustainable program with the potential of taking it national. This option would require it to have the ability to attract financial support, gain credibility and become a larger success”



Eric Hart has had years of experience working with disadvantaged athletes as the head coach of the Conception Bay South special Olympics softball team and assistant coach of their Special Olympics Table Tennis Program.

**Moving forward**

The goal now is for Eric and his assistant coaches to work with a group of mentally and physically challenged individuals in a flexible hands-on pilot program. It will be the concerted efforts of Eric, the assistant coaches, facility manager, participants, participants’ parents/guardians to record all their personal hurdles, successes, failures, experiences and suggestions. This invaluable data will further help develop the recommended framework for a Canadian Inclusivity Squash Program (CISP).

**WSF ACCREDITATION**

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

Contact details on the [WSF website](#)


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



### For Nations – why adopt WSC qualifications?

*World Squash Coaching (WSC)* is the new name for the WSF Coach Education Programme, and is managed by a specialist WSC Panel, working with Coordinators from Regions and Nations. It provides a unified and standardised coaching structure that:

1. Ensures, all courses delivered by nations in conjunction with/by regions include agreed core content and delivery method so that standards are uniform and qualifications are recognised not only in their own nation but worldwide too.
2. Introduces standards where certified courses are not used.
3. Expands the number of coaches who can help nations progress from development to elite performance of the sport and concurrently enlarge the playing population.
4. Improves the quality and general availability of training resources.
5. Ensures that all WSC Tutors are registered as WSC Certified at the appropriate level.
6. Provides a worldwide directory of WSC Certified Coaches and Tutors.
7. Ensures a robust, modern, uniform and transportable coaching system worldwide.

### Progressing

Last year saw WSC complete and implement the L3 syllabus and now have a full programme with three levels, based on Long Term Player Development (LTPD) and using a holistic, game based approach.

Courses have been delivered in all five regions and WSC has trained tutors in all regions

### For Nations not part of WSC yet

We are not looking to replace successful national programmes but rather align them with the WSC Coaching Philosophy thus allowing coaches to achieve comparable qualifications worldwide.

### Transitioning

Recognition of prior learning (RPL) allows candidates who already have recognised national qualifications to join WSC courses at their appropriate level and not forcing them to start at L1 if they already have sufficient coaching experience.

Equally we are providing the opportunity for national coach tutors to upgrade and become WSF Tutors and be able to deliver WSF certified courses.



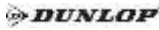








Please contact Michael Khan, the WSC Programme Manager, for further information at: [coaching@worldsquash.org](mailto:coaching@worldsquash.org)

### WSF APPROVED BALLS

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

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>Taiball Yellow Dot Ball</b>
	<b>Tecnifibre Squash Ball</b>
	<b>Victor/VICTEC Doppel-Gelb Squash Ball</b>





**WMT LISTINGS GO LIVE**

WSF has integrated World, Regional and National Masters events into a **WSF World Masters Tour (WMT)**, being in five year age bands from 35+ to 80+, to create an exciting unified structure for Masters Players.

The published calendar with event contact listings will enable players to plan their competing from information all in one place has now begun and can be seen [here](#).

After reviewing movement of players between regions, if viable an accompanying WSF World Masters Rankings can be developed.

**The components are:**

- Tier 1.** *WSF World Masters Championships.*
- Tier 2.** *Regional Open Championships.* (It is hoped that each Region will run a Regional Masters Open annually or biennially)
- Tier 3.** *Regional Closed and National Open Masters Championships.*

Events may be registered [here](#)

**WORLD SQUASH SURVEY 2019**

Thanks to all the National Federations, who provided their data for the Survey this year, we have detailed information that will be very helpful to various groups such as Refereeing, Coaching and others as they plan.

For information here is a snapshot of the general picture showing the trends:

National Percentages	2017	2018	2019
Participation is growing or stable	89	96	94
Number of courts is growing or stable	80	81	86
Identified National Centre	47	57	53
Having a National Coaching Qualification	72	64	40*
Having a National Referee Qualification	54	53	52
Some form of governmental support	81	86	88

*Some small variances may be a result of an enlarged response this year. Percentages rounded to full figures*

*\*lower figure signifies greater penetration of the WSF qualification as 41% use it.*

National responses: 2017 – 70, 2018 – 81, 2019 – 92.

**Current WSF Accredited Companies are**

**WSF EYEWEAR POSTER**

In order to minimise the small danger of eye injury to youngsters WSF makes the wearing of suitable protective eyewear mandatory for juniors, as well as encouraging players of all ages to consider doing so.

To help promote awareness of eye protection still further we have a scalable poster that can be downloaded by centres and placed on court doors, notice boards or in changing rooms.

It can be found [here](#)





**FARAG'S FIRST, SHERBINI'S THIRD**

Egyptian duo Ali Farag and Nour El Sherbini have been crowned World Champions after they got the better of compatriots Tarek Momen and Nour El Tayeb, respectively, at Chicago's Union Station to win the 2018-2019 PSA World Championships presented by the Walter Family.



The 2018-2019 PSA World Championships was the sport's first \$1 million tournament, with \$500,000 split equally between the male and female athletes. Union Station's Great Hall played host to two finals befitting squash's richest tournament, with over two hours of world-class squash on show.

Just 24 hours after dethroning fellow Egyptian Mohamed ElShorbagy to take the World No.1 spot, Farag lifted the sport's most iconic title after prevailing by an 11-5, 11-13, 13-11, 11-3 scoreline after 79 gripping minutes of action.

Both of the men's finalists were appearing in the World Championships title decider for the first time, with Momen defeating both of the 2017 finalists - brothers Mohamed and Marwan ElShorbagy - en route. Farag, meanwhile, had toppled Germany's World No.5 Simon Rösner in the semi-finals to book his final berth.

Fourth seed Momen fought back after going a game down to Farag, the No.2 seed. A crucial third game went the way of Farag on the tie-break and that proved pivotal as the 26-year-old powered to victory in the fifth to write his name into the history books.

"As I stand here today, I can't help but think about the road I've taken to be here," said Harvard-graduate Farag following the biggest win of his career.

"If, five years back, you had told me that I would be standing here holding the World Championship trophy, then no chance would I have believed you. As a senior

at college, I never thought about going pro and the main driving force behind it is Nour [El Tayeb]. It sounds like a cliché, but find someone who lifts you up day in and day out, I'm deeply blessed to have her in my life, and she is the one who pushed me to go pro.



Farag's win came shortly after wife El Tayeb fell in the women's final as World No.2 El Sherbini captured her third World Championship crown at the age of just 23. Appearing in her fourth successive World Championship final - and fifth overall - El Sherbini dominated the opening stages against a nervy-looking El Tayeb to go two games up in just 18 minutes.

El Tayeb and Farag became the first married couple in sporting history to lift the same major sports title on the same day when they won the 2017 U.S. Open, and



El Tayeb kept hopes of bettering that achievement alive when she battled back with a vengeance to halve the deficit, recovering from championship ball down in the process.

But El Sherbini edged a tense tie-break in the fourth to finally end El Tayeb's resistance, and she becomes the fifth woman to lift three World Championship titles after Malaysia's Nicol David, New Zealand's Susan Devoy and Australian duo Sarah Fitzgerald and Michelle Martin.

Results - Men's. Final: [2] Ali Farag (EGY) bt [4] Tarek Momen (EGY) 3-1: 11-5, 11-13, 13-11, 11-3 (79m). Semis: [4] Tarek Momen (EGY) bt [1] Mohamed ElShorbagy (EGY) 3-2: 8-11, 11-6, 8-11, 11-4, 11-8 (97m), [2] Ali Farag (EGY) bt [3] Simon Rösner (GER) 3-0: 11-2, 11-9, 11-4 (46m)

Results - Women's. Final: [2] Nour El Sherbini (EGY) bt [3] Nour El Tayeb (EGY) 3-1: 11-6, 11-5, 10-12, 15-13 (57m). Semis: [3] Nour El Tayeb (EGY) bt [1] Raneem El Welily (EGY) 3-2: 6-11, 11-6, 11-8, 7-11, 12-10 (64m), [2] Nour El Sherbini (EGY) bt [5] Camille Serme (FRA) 3-2: 11-8, 11-6, 6-11, 5-11, 11-6 (59m)

## June

### Doubles back on Gold Coast



A number of players will doubtless be preparing for the 2019 WSF World Doubles Championships, being held on Australia's Gold Coast from 17th to 21st June.

Six ASB courts, which transform into four doubles courts, along with the showcourt, have been transferred after hosting the squash in Oxenford Film Studios at the Commonwealth Games last year. They now form the Australian National Centre at nearby Carrara Stadium.

Once again competing nations will vie for medals in the Men's, Women's and Mixed events, with hosts Australia currently holding the Men's title while neighbours New Zealand are reigning Women's and Mixed champions.

With the PanAm Games coming up this year too, some Pan American nations are likely to use the World Doubles as they prepare for the event in Lima, Peru.

## July/August

### WSF World Juniors takes place in Kuala Lumpur Chinese Taipei make their debut



Chinese Taipei are set to make their debut in the 2019 WSF Women's World Junior Team Squash Championship in Malaysia in August.

Hosted by the Squash Rackets Association of Malaysia (SRAM) for the third time since 1993, the biennial World Squash Federation event will take place at the National Squash Centre in the capital Kuala Lumpur from 5-9 August, following the WSF Men's & Women's World Junior Individual Championships from 30 July to 4 August.

18 nations will be competing in the 2019 team championships: Australia, Canada, Chinese Taipei, Egypt, England, France, Hong Kong China, India, Ireland, Japan, Malaysia, New Zealand, Republic of Korea, Singapore, South Africa, Sweden, Switzerland and USA.

Eight-time champions Egypt will defend the title they won for a sixth successive time in 2017 in New Zealand, where hosts Malaysia recorded their best-ever finish as runners-up.

The Women's World Junior Team Championship will be celebrating its 18<sup>th</sup> edition since the inaugural event in Ireland in 1985 when Australia emerged as the first champions.

"We are thrilled to be host to these young teams at our superb National Centre facilities at Bukit Jalil," said Maniam Singaraveloo, Director, SRAM. "And obviously we look forward to a strong finish from the home team."

## December

### The Men's Teams comes to America

For the first time in the event's 50-year history, the WSF Men's World Team Squash Championship will be staged in the USA in 2019.

Since its launch in 1967 in Australia, the Men's World Team Championship has been staged in 12 countries - including Canada in 1977 - but never before in the USA.



It will be held at *Squash On Fire*, the state-of-the-art membership-free facility in Washington, DC, a superb new 'pay to play' facility which opened above Washington's newest fire station. It boasts eight squash courts, including an all-glass showcourt. The showcourt will see action at the atrium of the Ronald Reagan Building.

Dates are 15 – 21 December, and in the last major event of the year, Egypt will be defending the title they won in 2017 in Marseille.

### WSF CHAMPIONSHIP REGULATIONS 2019

The updated World Championship Regulations applicable for World & Regional Championships have been uploaded following on from decisions taken at the recent AGM and Championships Commission meetings.

Regions were informed earlier, and for your reference the control sheet at the front lists the changes. You can find them on the World Squash website [here](#)



## DAVID SIGNALS END TO HER UNIQUE ERA



The announcement that Nicol David is bringing to a close her illustrious playing career in squash signals the end of a unique era in the sport.

Since making her debut on the international stage in 1996 when she won the British Junior U14 Open title as a 12-year-old, this formidable woman from Penang has blazed a phenomenal trail through the sport, creating record after record. Now 35, David became the first player to win two world junior titles in 2001 before going on to accumulate a record eight senior individual world titles amongst a total of 81 PSA World Tour titles from 102 final appearances.

In 2015, David established a record 109-month unbroken run as world No.1 - and in Malaysia she is recognised as the country's most successful Asian Games athlete with 7 gold medals (5 individual and 2 in team championships) in the quadrennial event.

### WSF Hall of Fame



David was inducted into the World Squash Federation 'Hall of Fame' in 2011.

In the statement issued in Malaysia David said: "After more than 20 years playing squash for Malaysia, competing on the professional tour and achieving the utmost best from my career being the

only Malaysian athlete to achieve these accolades and to be recognised as the greatest female squash athlete of all time by my peers, I can proudly say that I am ready and happy to announce my retirement at the end of this seasonal tour.

### Three ways

"This decision has been thought through for quite some time and I do know this is my last season. I love squash with all my heart, and it will always play an

important role in my life. Which is why I would like to give back in three ways:

1. To Squash by joining PSA to work with them closely to raise the awareness of our sport globally and to build a support team for our professional squash athletes as they continue to raise the bar on tour.
2. To Malaysia's younger generation through the Nicol David Foundation which seeks to empower girls through sport to reach their full potential.
3. To the People in Malaysia, I will be sharing my story, 'Nurturing Belief', through a series of talks and writings.

Andrew Shelley, WSF CEO commented: "Nicol's playing record speaks for itself. She had already become a legend several years ago. Her results have been very special, but so is she.

I can well remember trying to manoeuvre the winner and runner up of the British Junior Open under 14 event in 1997 into standing and smiling for a presentation photograph. The winner was Nicol, the runner up Omneya (Abdel Kawy) - and yes, at that time the girls hadn't got to grips with smiling!

Since then Nicol has not only developed a smile, but grew from girl into woman with such a warm and winning personality that has marked her as special both on and off court.



It has been a privilege of mine to have watched her blossom in both respects. Running the Women's Tour during so many years of her success, like everybody else I saw her wonderful athleticism so well-honed by

Liz Irving, her drive to succeed, but also her humility. Her opponents have always been respected, those who have helped or simply supported her received sincere thanks, never a hint of diva, dealing with defeat ... and always that smile.

More than this, she would always give of herself. 'No' was such a hard word for her. From the Women's Tour perspective, the burden of interviews was accepted with good grace. More than that, from 2002 onwards, Nicol would always say yes to the onerous WISPA Promotional Tours and latterly the WSF Ambassadors Programme whenever she could. And how the players and organisers from the 'young' squash countries loved her!

All this followed the 19-year-old realising that in order to achieve her potential she had to move to Europe, leave her family and friends, and make her way on her own. She succeeded as we know - another accolade.

For so many years as world number one, Nicol 'carried' the Tour. She was the face of it - and Malaysian sport too. She was the Ambassador. She was being pulled this way and that. She graciously dealt with it all.

One can have no doubt that her next life phase will be a great success, with her drive and captivating style. She says that the dream remains, so not only has squash had a wonderful career to watch, but thankfully we know that Nicol will continue giving of herself in many ways in the future.



**World Games have awarded Nicol David (MAS) The World Games Athlete of February 2019. Nice timing!**



**WSF & PSA SATELLITE TOURS**

**These events** form part of the WSF and PSA Satellite Tours.

- *WSF World and WSF Regional Junior Championships*
- *National Senior & Junior Championships*
- *National Junior Opens*
- *Satellite Tournaments*

General details and event registration [here](#)  
 World Junior ranking lists can be seen [here](#)

**CHICAGO FEATURES interactiveSQUASH WALL**

The 2018-2019 PSA World Championships presented by the Walter Family has feature a fully interactive front wall. This enables the tournament to project player stats, replays, entertaining games, visual effects, and sponsor's content and branding on the playing surface of the all-glass ASB ShowGlassCourt.

The interactiveSQUASH front wall was successfully implemented at last year's PSA World Series Finals in Dubai and also featured at the Buenos Aires Youth Olympic Games in October 2018, where squash was a showcase sport. Over 25,000 people witnessed squash in the flesh in Buenos Aires, with local attendees getting the opportunity to play a series of new, interactive games on the showpiece court as squash left a lasting impression.



The ability to transfer the front wall into a giant interactive screen is another example of squash's relentless drive for innovation. In partnership with leading court manufacturer ASB, the PSA and WSF have already introduced improved court colour schemes, floor cooling ducts and side door entry points in recent years to enhance the player and spectator experience. The latest innovation is a selection of new glass floor options, which will be less affected by weather conditions, will require less maintenance, and will optimise the presentation of individual sponsors.

Furthermore, the introduction of new initiatives such as Video Review and Video Referee, and the integration of real-time heart-rate and tracking data into the live broadcast output, are prime examples of squash's forward-thinking approach.

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## **WORLD SQUASH OFFICIATING UPDATE**

February saw the start of the final phase of WSO preparation, developing the website platform - via a briefing meeting with the website development team to confirm requirements and align development key milestones and expectations.

### **WSO Governance**

WSO reflects the WSF and PSA vision to organise the world's referees into a single integrated unit, providing worldwide quality, service and value. WSO is responsible for providing governance concerning all aspects of squash officiating to meet the needs and expectations of players, promoters and referees.

Roles and Responsibilities of the WSO core team have been identified, along with referee specialists from all regions.

### **WSO Services**

The WSO *will* provide a range of services, including:

- Resource Material for Regional and National Federations
- Technical and administrative management of all aspects of Level 4 & 5 officiating
- Technical and administrative management of all aspects of Level 2 & 3 assessors
- Consultancy and support on all officiating related matters.

The WSO *will not* manage the following services:

- Technical and administrative management of all aspects of Level 1, 2 & 3 officiating (National levels)
- Technical and administrative management of all aspects of Level 1 assessors
- The WSO will ensure that all aspects of Level 1, 2 & 3 officiating are managed in accordance with WSO best practice.
- WSO stakeholder liaison

WSO range of activities will include:

Regular newsletters \* Assignment of Officiators to Tournaments \* PSA Rule Book Discussions \* Official and Assessor grading and re-grading \* WSO Management System Review \* WSO Governance procedures will be published on the website for

general viewing \* WSO Graphic Branding \* the 'look and feel' for WSO.

### **WSO Website**

The initial website layout has been specified in conjunction with WSO branding material. This will evolve throughout the development phase to provide a website that is clear and effective for referees.

All official website language and documentation will initially be in English. However, it is intended to add French, German, Spanish and Arabic languages in due course.

To access to the full range of resources on the website, users will need to register with WSO and login to enter the system to access their individual profile and relevant materials.

WSO will provide features for multiple types of user, including Referees, Assessors, Coaches, Tournament Organisers and Tournament Officials. Functionality will be filtered accordingly to maximise the relevance and availability, whilst minimising access times.

The website and associated functionality will be managed by WSO Administrators, supported by National Co-ordinators. The co-ordinators, nominated by their respective nation, will provide the link between the WSO and referees in their country. Responsibilities will include: administration of WSO referees in their nation, provision and distribution of WSO resource material, organising logistics training courses for WSO training to be run in their country and validation of WSO affiliated referees

### **WSO Resources**

WSO resources form a key part of the provision for the WSO website to standardise and improve refereeing. It will help define the benchmark against which WSO registered referees will be measured.

Resource material can be categorised as:

#### **National Referee Development Package**

A package of resources for National Federations that currently lack a referee development programme. Resource and training material will be available for Nations to use as provided, or to take away (subject to copyright) and use to develop their own programme. These include roles and responsibilities, code of conduct processes, training videos, mentoring and assessment material.

#### **Tournament Package**

A package of resources targeted at those who already have their own development programme, but who wish to enhance and/or align to the standard defined by the WSO. These include roles and responsibilities (e.g. Tournament Referee, Video Referee), promoter

contracts, officiating requirements, code of conduct, conflict of interest, scoresheets and terminology.

## WSO Education Programme

### Referee Training

The training and education module of the WSO website web education programme for referees is initially targeted at Level 0 & 1 as originally planned. However, now the education programme for Levels 4 & 5 is being developed in parallel where possible.

Level 0 is a free to take online rules test and also the entry point to the formal qualification structure recognised by the WSO. It aims to help players of all levels understand the Rules and match management, and to prepare young or new officials to officiate within World Squash. It consists of multiple choice questions and video clips, covering a basic understanding of the core elements of squash officiating.

Level 1 is the initial local qualification level aiming at providing new officials with a basic understanding of how to referee in a match environment including basic knowledge of the rules and an awareness of communication skills. The online rules test consists of additional multiple choice questions and video clips, covering a basic understanding of the more involved elements of squash officiating, including interference.

### Assessor Training

Running alongside the referee training programme will be training and education for assessors which will initially be targeted at Level 1. At this level, National Federations will be able to develop their own assessors using bespoke training modules to then plan and arrange assessments of new and existing referees.

## ELIAS & COLL PROMOTE PANAMS



Diego Elias, who is a Lima 2019 Ambassador recently played a squash exhibition match against New Zealand's Paul Coll to promote squash at this year's Pan American Games, which runs from July 26 to August 11. Club Terrazas de Miraflores was the host venue.

The 22-year-old lost the Toronto 2015 Pan American Games final to Colombian Miguel Ángel Rodríguez. The Squash events are scheduled to be held at the National Sports Village in the opening half of the Games in the Peruvian capital.

## WSF CERTIFIED EYEWEAR BRANDS 2019

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
	Artengo SPG 100 Size S Artengo SPG 100 Size L
	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
	Mantis Protective Eyewear
	Rage (9903V) Rage Junior (9903JR) Prolite (RB10C) Speed (R601) Attitude (PRO2) Shark (R43) Marvel (SE-7)
	Split Vision Type II
	R615

## WSF AGM & CONFERENCE 2019

Squash South Africa will host the Meeting this year in Cape Town. Dates are:

Sunday 3 November:	Board / ExCo Meetings
Monday 4 November:	Commission Meetings
Tuesday 5 November:	WSF Conference
Wednesday 6 November:	WSF AGM

### And in other news:

#### Arafura Games

The Arafura Games, played in Darwin, Australia, but welcoming athletes from around the world, has added squash to the programme. Squash joins Athletics, Badminton, Basketball, Basketball 3X3 Pro Hustle, Beach Volleyball, Boxing, Football, Indoor Volleyball, Muaythai, Netball, Sailing, Sepak Takraw, Swimming, Table Tennis, Tennis and Weightlifting at the Games which run from April 26 to May 4, 2019. For entry details visit [arafuragames.nt.gov.au](http://arafuragames.nt.gov.au).

#### PSA Signs Agreement to Stream Live Squash on Facebook Watch

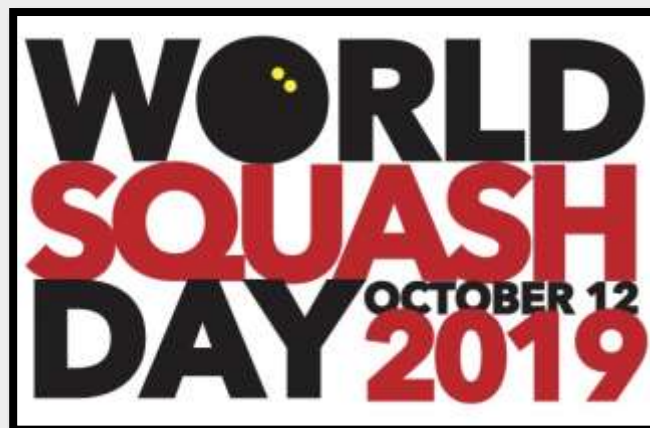
PSA has signed a multi-year agreement with Facebook to bring live matches from the PSA Tour to Facebook Watch. These matches will be available to territories outside of Europe and Japan on a non-exclusive basis.

Live action up until the semi-finals for each tournament will be shown on Facebook Watch, as well as host of additional squash content, including match highlights and feature content. The semi-finals and finals will be shown live on Facebook Watch to territories in the Indian subcontinent only.

### Bob Finch honoured

Former Squash Australia President and World Squash Federation Vice-President Bob Finch was honoured in the 2019 Australia Day Awards.

Finch was recognised for his 'significant service to squash', becoming a Member of the Order of Australia (AM). He was WSF Vice President between 1990 and 1997, and has held various other management roles during his lengthy and successful involvement.



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