



# WSF INSTANT UPDATE

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## FOR ALL WSF REGIONAL & NATIONAL FEDERATIONS

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

## SQUASH & THE PARIS 2024 OLYMPIC GAMES

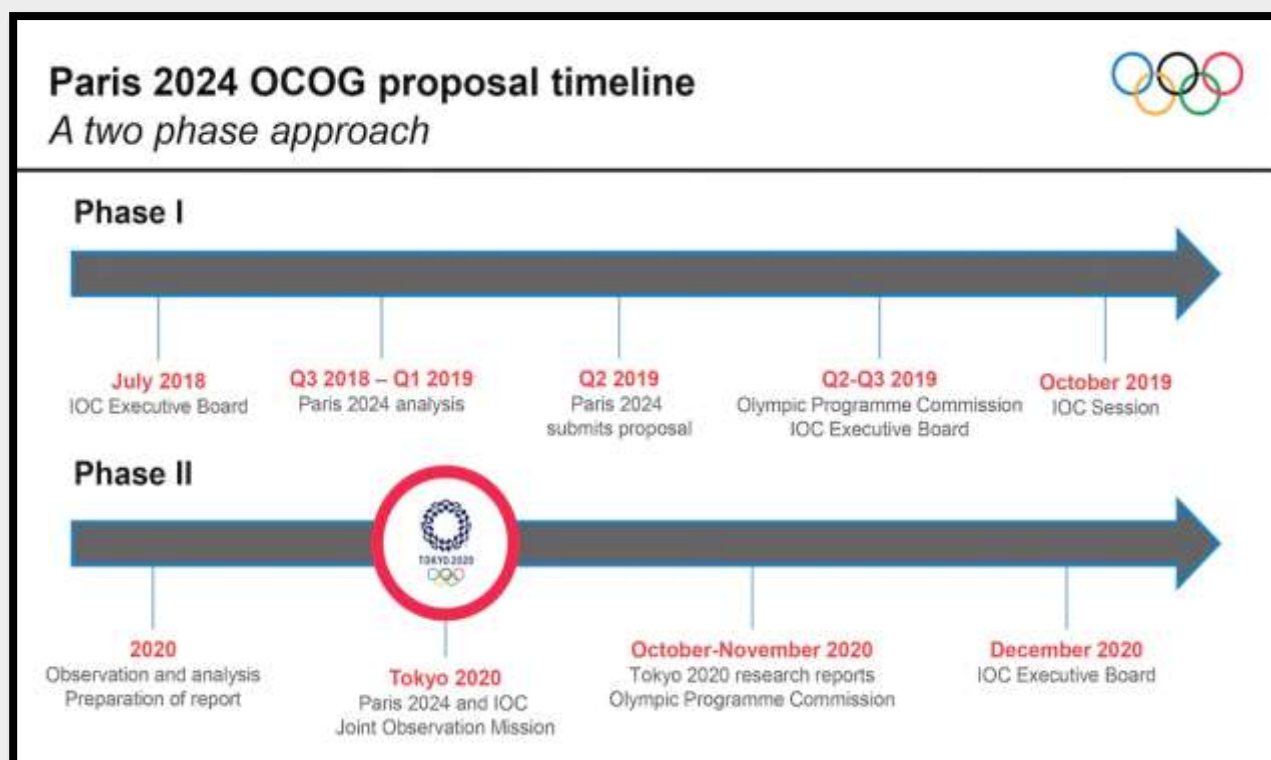
Here is a digest of current information and guidance on the Olympic bid, as squash continues to push to gain a nomination to be included in the Olympic Games in Paris in 2024.

*In summary:*

- *We have been preparing, we have the tools we need ready, the IOC timeline is now clear, we know the rules and we know the route towards nomination.*
- *WSF and PSA are underwriting costs to mount the bid, including showcasing squash at the Youth Olympic Games, employing a campaign agency (Weber Shandwick), to make sure that the IOC and Paris Organising Committee are persuaded by every means at our disposal.*
- *We now need the whole sport from Regions to Nations, stakeholders to clubs and individuals to focus their energy on helping us to realise the dream.*
- *We hope that you will support our bid fund-raising so that the campaign can be a full one.*

## NOMINATION TIMELINE AND PROCESS

On 18 July the IOC announced the principles of the Paris 2024 Olympic Games event programme.



## Nomination & Process timeline (cont).....

We now know that the deadline for new sports to be nominated by the Paris 2024 Organising Committee is set around the end of the first quarter of 2019 or the beginning of the second quarter of 2019 (actual date to be announced). The sports proposed by Paris 2024 will then be reviewed by the IOC Olympic Programme Commission and the IOC Executive Board during the second and third quarters of 2019, and presented for endorsement at the IOC Session in October 2019

## Final decision

Any sports that are endorsed may be considered for final inclusion in the last step of the process. This takes place after the Tokyo 2020 Games, with the final event programme and athlete quotas for new sports finalised in December 2020.

WSF and PSA jointly welcomed the announcement and reiterated squash's readiness to bid and to demonstrate why the sport will be a great strategic choice for inclusion in the Olympic programme. The official reaction can be found [here](#).

## WSF & PSA's SquashFORWARD INITIATIVE BEGINS

**SquashFORWARD** - the joint initiative between the WSF and PSA - officially kicked off its first activity with juniors from all four corners of the globe taking part in a series of brainstorming sessions during the Dutch Junior Open in Amsterdam.



SquashFORWARD was formed with the goal of engaging with the next generation of squash players in order to enable them to help shape the future of the sport, and the initiative will help make squash even more innovative, inclusive and sustainable.

Co-chaired by women's World No.1 Nour El Sherbini and men's World No.11 Diego Elias, SquashFORWARD members also include France's Victor Crouin, Malaysia's Eain Yow Ng, United States' Marina Stefanoni, Switzerland's Dimitri Steinmann, Japan's Satomi Watanabe and Ukraine's Nadiia Usenko.

Usenko (*pictured, left, with Camille Serme, during the WSF Ambassadors Programme visit to Ukraine*) was in Amsterdam as she spearheaded a series of sessions to gather ideas from her fellow juniors.

The sessions centred around the topics of innovation, sustainability, inclusiveness and accessibility: over 50 juniors took part. Comments from the juniors were hugely positive, many of the participants said they liked being included and felt that the process was an important one, given that some of them will also be appearing at the Buenos Aires Youth Olympic Games in October, where squash will be present.

Ideas from these sessions will be taken on board by SquashFORWARD and their forward-looking recommendations will be shared in Buenos Aires.

*"These focus groups have a huge meaning because such an event has been organized for the first time. Thanks to that, juniors all over the world got an opportunity to exchange their points of view about perspectives of developing squash,"* said Usenko, who won the women's U-19 Dutch Junior Open title in the tournament's first ever all-Ukrainian final.

*"I was happy to be part of these activities at the Dutch Junior Open because I love squash and cannot imagine my life without it. I am ready to do everything in my power to increase the popularity of squash in all corners of the globe and hopefully to see it on the Olympic programme."*

## PSA SIGN'S DATA LABS PARTNERSHIP

PSA has confirmed a ground-breaking partnership with technology provider Sports Data Labs that sees squash become the first professional sport to make in-game physiological data assets available for commercialisation. Using Sports Data Labs' proprietary data capture and tracking technology, the PSA will receive real-time human data throughout the 2018/19 PSA Tour season.

The data will be incorporated into the sport's official broadcasts to enhance the viewing experience, whilst also being made available to commercial partners such as sports betting companies and organisations established in the health and wellness industries.

In addition, players will be given access to the data to help them with performance analysis and training, while earnings will be split between the PSA, Sports Data Labs and the PSA's athletes using a revenue share model - the first of its kind ever to be incorporated in professional sport.

## FITZ-GERALD & DAVENPORT LEAD WORLD MASTERS MEDAL TABLE



Australia emerged with six gold medals in the WSF World Masters Squash Championships in the USA state of Virginia - where Men's O60 champion Geoffrey Davenport claimed a record-equaling sixth World Masters title and Women's O45 champion Sarah Fitz-Gerald extended her remarkable unbeaten international record since 2001!

More than 750 players from a record 63 nations competed in the 15th edition of the biennial World Masters Championships staged at the McArthur Squash Center at the Boar's Head Sports Club in Charlottesville - featuring 19 men's and women's events in categories ranging from Over-35 to Over-80.

### Aussies go gold

Players from Australia headed the gold medal table, followed by England with five, Canada and hosts USA two, and single golds won by Netherlands, South Africa, Ireland and Cayman Islands.



After first winning World Masters gold in the O45 event in 2003 in Finland - then claiming his fifth in the O55 event 2014 - 60-year-old Geoffrey Davenport (left) was making his debut in the O60 event in Charlottesville. The

top seed from Sydney breezed through to the final without dropping a game, then dispatched surprise opponent Juan Mendez, an unseeded player from Mexico, 11-5, 11-5, 11-2.

Former world number one Sarah Fitz-Gerald enjoyed a distinguished career on the professional circuit where she won a then record five World Open titles. A firm favourite to defend her World Masters O45 title, the 49-year-old from Melbourne did so in some style -

seeing off fellow countrywoman Susan Davis in the final 11-5, 11-4, 11-3.

The title is Fitz-Gerald's third World O45 in a row, and follows three British Open Masters titles, a World Masters Games trophy and a World Masters O35 gold medal. The latest success also extends her winning run in all international events to 17 years - after suffering her most recent defeat in August 2001 in the semis of the Hong Kong Open - to NZ's Leilani Joyce!

### I love this sport

"I love this sport, I've been playing since I was a kid," said Fitz-Gerald, now a WSF Vice President (*pictured left with Championship Director Mark Allen*), after collecting her latest gold medal. "Just because I'm old and retired doesn't mean I can't keep playing. I still have the fire burning inside, and I think all of the old pros here still have that fire burning inside and want to see what they can do. As we all know we may get a little bit older and slower, but the game is still there. When you see the former pros reach the finals in this tournament, it's a combination of knowledge and practicing our skills to keep ourselves up there.

"I've met so many extraordinary people spending a lifetime in this sport, and it's so nice to be able to give back to it. All the former pros that are here are here because they love it, and hopefully everyone else has enjoyed watching them play."

Is there a secret to her success? "My history, experience and knowledge is worth 50% in a match, even before the physical side kicks in as a factor. I love the event, the friendships and team spirit between nations, and just love playing. No surprise that I have the next World Masters in Poland and the World Masters Games in Japan in my diary."



Distinguished former pro Brett Martin (*back, middle*) also provided gold medal success for Australia. Seeded four in the Men's O55 event, the former world No.2 followed his upset over the top seed in the semis to beat compatriot

Peter Gilbee 11-7, 12-10, 11-3 in the final. "World champion always sounds good if your name is next to it, even if you're older, slower, greyer and fatter, world champion is world champion," Martin said. "It's been great to travel here and catch up with so many people I haven't seen in years. It's fun playing in front of a crowd again, I haven't played on a glass court in a long time, it was a bit of a strange experience.



Thankfully all of the other guys had a little bit less experience than me.

All five of England's champions were seeded to win their respective titles, including Nick Taylor retaining the Men's O45 title and Ann Manley retaining the Women's O70 title. After losing in the O35 final in Johannesburg two years ago, Lauren Briggs coasted to her first World Masters title against compatriot Selina Sinclair. The eldest age group, Men's O80, saw England's top seed Lance Kinder come back from a game down against USA's Ed Burlingame to win his first World Masters title. Jill Campion, winner of a U.S. nationals title, rounded out the English champions in an all-English O60 final to win her first World title.



The wins assured England finished ahead of Australia to win the Nations Cup which totals finishing positions for nations, while Spain won the smaller entry category.

Team USA's Natalie Grainger ended the day on a high note for the home crowd, maintaining her unbeaten World Masters record with a second consecutive title-her first in the O40 division.

Northern neighbours Canada matched USA's total of two World Masters champions: Men's O75 fifth seed Howard Armitage thwarted second seed Gerald Poulton's title hopes in a five-game final. Lauren Wagner became the lowest-seeded champion by completing her surprise women's O50 title run with an upset over Australian top seed Sarah Nelson.

**Final results: MO35:** [1] Laurens Jan Anjema (NED) bt [2] Alister Walker (BOT) 11-7, 11-5, 7-11, 11-2 Third place play-off: [5] Alejandro Garbi Caro (ESP) bt [3] Wael El Hindi (USA) 11-3, 11-8, 11-2. **WO35:** [1] Lauren Briggs (ENG) bt [2] Selina Sinclair (ENG) 11-2, 11-2, 11-4 Third place play-off: [6] Reka Burmeister (ENG) bt [5] Margaret Gerety (USA) w/o **MO40:** [1] Liam Kenny (IRL) bt [3] Patrick Chifunda (ZAM) 11-7, 11-4, 11-4 Third place play-off: [5] Craig Ruane (RSA) bt [15] Wai Chung Wong (HKG) 10-12, 11-8, 11-6, 11-2. **WO40:** [1] Natalie Grainger (USA) bt [2] Melissa Martin (AUS) 9-11, 11-2, 11-8, 11-4 Third place play-off: [4] Samantha Herbert (RSA) bt [3] Jacqueline Ryder (RSA) 11-

6, 11-5, 11-9. **MO45:** [1] Nick Taylor (ENG) bt [2] Zuko Kubukeli (RSA) 11-2, 11-6, 11-4 Third place play-off: [3] Adrian Hansen (RSA) bt [12] Galen le Cheminant (USA) 11-9, 11-4, 5-11, 11-9. **WO45:** [1] Sarah Fitz-Gerald (AUS) bt [3] Susan Davis (AUS) 11-5, 11-4, 11-3 Third place play-off: [4] Karen Meakins (BAR) bt [2] Rachel Calver (ENG) 11-9,



11-1, 11-7. **MO50:** [1] Michael Tootill (RSA) bt [2] Hansi Wiens (GER) 12-14, 8-11, 11-9, 11-4, 11-9 Third place play-off: [3] David Sly (CAN) bt [13] Sean Ryan (AUS) 11-8, 11-9, 11-9. **WO50:** [15] Lauren Wagner (CAN) bt [1] Sarah Nelson (AUS) 11-7, 11-8, 11-5 Third place play-off: [3] Hope Prockop (USA) bt [5] Wendy Ansdell (ENG) 11-4, 11-1, 11-4. **MO55:** [4] Brett Martin (AUS) bt [3] Peter Gilbee (AUS) 11-7, 12-10, 11-3 Third place play-off: [2] Fredrik Johnson (SWE) bt [1] Willie Hosey (IRL) 11-5, 12-10, 11-6. **WO55:** [1] Susan Hillier (AUS) bt [3] Mandy Akin (ENG) 11-7, 11-5, 11-4 Third place play-off: [2] Fiona McLean (SCO) bt [4] Sue Williams (AUS) 9-11, 7-11, 11-7, 11-6, 11-7. **MO60:** [1] Geoffrey Davenport (AUS) bt Juan Mendez (MEX) 11-5, 11-5, 11-2 Third place play-off: [4] Pierr Roodt (RSA) bt [2] Jeremy Goulding (ENG) 11-7, 11-9, 9-11, 10-12, 11-9. **WO60:** [1] Jill Campion (ENG) bt [2] Karen Hume (ENG) 5-11, 12-10, 4-11, 11-9, 11-5 Third place play-off: Shirley Whitmore (RSA) bt Maureen Duke (IRL) 11-6, 11-2, 11-5. **MO65:** [1] John Macrury (CAY) bt [6] Mario Raponi (CAN) 11-2, 11-6, 11-6 Third place play-off: [10] John Carroll (AUS) bt [4] Wayne Weatherhead (CAN) 11-7, 9-11, 12-10, 11-7. **WO65:** [3] Gaye Mitchell (AUS) bt [1] Laura Ramsay (CAN) 11-8, 11-7, 11-7 Third place play-off: Yvonne Trotter (AUS) bt [2] Faith Sinclair (SCO) 11-4, 11-7, 7-11, 12-14, 11-6. **MO70:** [1] Brian Cook (AUS) bt [3] Ian Ross (SCO) 11-1, 7-11, 7-11, 11-6, 12-10 Third place play-off: [7] Frikkie Bester (RSA) bt [5] Aubrey Waddy (ENG) 11-7, 9-11, 6-11, 12-10, 11-2. **WO70:** [1] Ann Manley (ENG) bt [6] Margaret Hunt-Kemp (RSA) 11-9, 6-11, 11-7, 8-11, 11-6 Third place play-off: [4] Marilyn Kennedy (AUS) bt [2] Robyn Prentice (AUS) 11-4, 6-11, 6-11, 13-11, 11-5. **MO75:** [5] Howard Armitage (CAN) bt [2] Gerald Poulton (CAN) 7-11, 11-5, 9-11, 15-13, 11-8 Third place play-off: [8] Michael Gough (USA) bt [3] John Nelson (USA) 10-12, 8-11, 11-6, 11-7, 11-8. **WO75:** Winner: [5] Joyce Davenport (USA); Runner-up [1] Jean Grainger (RSA). **MO80:** [1] Lance Kinder (ENG) bt [3] Edward Burlingame (USA) 5-11, 11-7, 11-6, 11-2 Third place play-off: [2] Barry Gardiner (NZL) bt [4] Stanley Fanaroff (RSA) w/o



**CGG 2018 世界女子壁球团体锦标赛**  
CGG WSF WOMEN'S WORLD TEAM CHAMPIONSHIP 2018

## EGYPT FAVOURITES FOR DALIAN

With a four-player squad all ranked in the world top six, Egypt are firm favourites to retain their title in next month's CGG WSF Women's World Team Squash Championship in the Chinese city of Dalian.

The first world squash championship ever to be held in China will take place at the Xigang Gymnasium in the Liaoning Province seaport from 11-16 September. The venue will feature two all-glass showcourts, with arena seating, plus four permanent all-glass courts.

The Egyptian team, looking for a fourth title since 2008, will be led by world No.1 Nour El Sherbini, a two-time world individual champion, and include world No.2 Raneem El Welily, No.3 Nour El Tayeb and sixth-placed Nouran Gohar.

Egypt are expected to face rivals England in the final. The second seeds are seven-times champions after

last winning the biennial World Squash Federation title in 2014 in Canada. Former world No.1 Laura Massaro, now ranked seven in the world, leads the team – supported by world No.8 Sarah-Jane Perry, world No.10 Alison Waters, and Victoria Lust, who boasts a career-high No.13 ranking.



*2016 Champions Egypt.*

USA, featuring the Sobhy sisters Amanda and Sabrina in their squad, are seeded third - ahead of Malaysia and Hong Kong China, who met in the Women's Team Final of the Asian Games in Jakarta and could be fighting for top spot in their pool in Dalian.

Initial action will take place in four pools before the top two teams in each pool will progress to the quarter-finals knockout stage. The full Pool line-ups are as follows:

### POOL A:

[1] Egypt, [8] New Zealand,  
[9] Canada, [13/16] Germany

### POOL B:

[2] England, [7] India,  
[10] Australia, [13/16] Finland

### POOL C:

[3] USA, [6] France,  
[11] Japan, [13/16] China

### POOL D:

[4] Malaysia, [5] Hong Kong China,  
[12] South Africa, [13/16] Switzerland

Since its launch in 1979, the Women's World Team Championship has been held in 11 different countries across all five continents – the most recent being France in 2016 when Egypt won the title for the third time, beating former champions England in the final in the capital Paris.



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## **WORLD SQUASH OFFICIATING UPDATE**

As has been reported previously, WSF, in partnership with PSA, have embarked on a world-wide structure to handle referee training, qualification, development and assessment, called *World Squash Officiating*.

The WSO is developing the collaboration on all refereeing issues (e.g. event appointments, referee development, event issues and match appointments) for a strategy that will facilitate a seamless transition to WSO. Here is an update:

### **WSO Website**

Anticipated timelines for the introduction of the WSO website and associated functionality proved to be overly optimistic and as a consequence has been delayed.

Visual design (layout design) and core content management (templates and functionality), aligned with provision of resources and materials to meet the needs and expectations of the refereeing community have delayed the provision and subsequent release of the website, which is now targeted for early 2019.

### **WSO Resources**

Development of required resources for the WSO website is continuing and includes:

#### **Level 0 & 1 WSO Education Programme**

Level 0 is a pre-cursor to the formal qualification structure recognised by the WSO and is targeted at preparing young or new officials to officiate within World Squash

Level 1 aims 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.

#### **Level 0 & 1 Online Test Module / Questions**

Online rules test at Level 0 consists of multiple choice questions and video clips, covering a basic understanding of scoring, warm-up, rallies, serving, play, intervals and safety.

The rules test at Level 1 builds on Level 0, and consists of multiple choice questions, covering a basic understanding of interference, ball hitting a player, appeals, distraction and fallen objects.

### **Roles and Responsibilities**

Information packs, role definitions, checklists and instructions associated with Tournament Officials including Tournament Referee, Central Referee, Side Referee and Video Referee.

## **Officiating Requirements**

Provide the event management team a better understanding of the needs and wants of Referees, to make more informed decisions relating to the overall planning of an event and the use of Referees.

### **Code of Conduct**

Updated procedures, processes, forms and instructions associated with Referee and Assessor Code of Conduct that include social media and fraternisation.

Referee Development training video exercises.

Training videos which break down every decision on selected televised matches, providing clarity on the correct decision and associated reasoning.

## **WSO Assessment Process**

The Assessment process, initially for top referees, is being re-energised and re-vamped. The following ideas are being considered:

Mechanisms to assess the ability, performance and competence of all current WSF referees and other referees who have shown potential ability.

Additional forms of assessment (e.g. CPD, Match analysis testing, periodic decision batch testing, summary analysis from events).

Online assessment to run alongside current assessment processes.

A body of approved assessors needs to be set up, fully trained to undertake the online assessment.

## **PSA ANNOUNCE RECORD PRIZE MONEY & REDUCED GENDER GAP**

PSA have reported that a record level of prize money was available on the PSA World Tour during the 2017/18 season, with total financial compensation reaching \$6.4 million - an 11% increase on the previous season.

The pay gap between female and male players dropped by almost a third last season, with total prize money on the women's tour totalling \$2,599,000 million - a 31% increase compared to 2016/17 - while the men's has increased to \$3,820,000.

The prize money was split across 227 events (146 men and 81 women) in 47 countries, while tournaments were staged in eight new countries during the 2017/18 season: Bermuda, Bolivia, Brazil, British Virgin Islands, Kuwait, Nigeria, Romania and Saudi Arabia.

## EGYPT'S HISTORIC MEN'S JUNIOR TEAM TITLE



Surpassing a five-title record set 26 years ago by Australia, hot favourites Egypt beat England 2/0 in the final of the WSF Men's World Junior Team Squash Championship in India to win the biennial World Squash Federation title for a sixth time, since 1994.

The Egyptian team cruised through the six-day event in Chennai without dropping a single game. It was Egypt's eighth final appearance in a row, since 2004 - but third seeds England's first time in the climax since 2002, which was also in Chennai.

### Express action at Express Avenue

The team's top strings took to the all-glass showcourt at the Express Avenue Mall in Chennai first. Marwan Tarek, the 18-year-old 2017 individual champion from Cairo who lost out to team-mate Mostafa Asal in the Individual final, faced Englishman Nick Wall, also 18, from Sheffield. Wall forced a tie-break in the opening game but Tarek took the opener, then comfortably the next two to claim the 12-10, 11-6, 11-7 win in 45 minutes which put Egypt in the driving seat.



In the second match between the third strings, Sam Todd - also from Yorkshire, but aged just 15 - threatened to give England a lifeline as he matched Egyptian Omar El Torkey (both pictured above) all the way in the opening game, earning game balls at 10-9 and 11-10. Egypt's bronze medalist held his nerve, however, to take the lead - and never looked back as he took the next two games to comfortably give Egypt the title 13-11, 11-4, 11-4 after a further 32 minutes.

"We're so proud and happy," said the Egyptian coaching team. "The boys have worked so hard for this and they've got their reward, bringing Egypt another treble, just like the girls last year".

### Czechs check out in bronze place

Czech Republic and USA shared the bronze medal - USA repeating their finish in 2017 but the sixth-seeded Czechs with their highest-ever finish.

Despite the absence of their top string Julien Gosset following his quarter-final injury, second seeds Canada beat Malaysia in the fifth place play-off to record their highest finish since 2010. Hong Kong China beat defending champions Pakistan 2/0 in the play-off for seventh place to better their finish two years ago. Their 2/1 win over New Zealand in the play-off for ninth place sees 12th seeds Switzerland record their best finish for 18 years.

Hosts India finished their 2018 campaign on a modest high after beating Argentina in the 11th place play-off.

Event debutants Saudi Arabia - a young four-man squad featuring two 17-year-olds, one 15-year-old and a 14-year-old in their country's first ever appearance in a world squash championship - went down to Zimbabwe in their final tie to finish in 24th place.

**Final:** [1] EGYPT bt [3] ENGLAND 2/0 Marwan Tarek bt Nick Wall 12-10, 11-6, 11-7, Omar El Torkey bt Sam Todd 13-11, 11-4, 11-4. **Bronze medalists:** [6] CZECH REPUBLIC & [8] USA. **5th place play-off:** [2] CANADA bt [4] MALAYSIA 2/1. **7th place play-off:** [9] HONG KONG CHINA bt [11] PAKISTAN 2/0. **9th place play-off:** [12] SWITZERLAND bt [10] NEW ZEALAND 2/1. **1th place play-off:** [5] INDIA bt [15] ARGENTINA 2/1. **13th place play-off:** [7] COLOMBIA bt [16] AUSTRALIA 2/0. **15th place play-off:** [14] IRELAND bt [18] GERMANY 2/0. **17th place play-off:** [17] SCOTLAND bt [13] FRANCE 2/1. **19th place play-off:** [19] SOUTH AFRICA bt [20] SINGAPORE 2/1. **21st place play-off:** [21] FINLAND bt [22] QATAR 2/1. **23rd place play-off:** [24] ZIMBABWE bt [23] SAUDI ARABIA 2/0.

### Current WSF Accredited Companies are



## ARABY & ASAL CELEBRATE DOUBLE

Whilst an Egyptian double in WSF World Junior Individual Squash Championships finals was a foregone conclusion, the winners were not. Top seed Rowan Reda Araby retained the women's title as anticipated but Mostafa Asal upset the seedings after defeating favourite and defending champion Marwan Tarek in straight games in the men's final at the Express Avenue Mall in the Indian city of Chennai.



The women's climax was a repeat of the 2017 final - for the first time in the event's 37-year history. But despite boasting two successive world junior championship wins over second seed Hania El Hammamy, Araby had lost to her compatriot on the previous four occasions - and trails world No.20 El Hammamy 11 positions in the PSA World Rankings.

Araby took the opening two games before a packed crowd at the Chennai shopping mall - then failed to convert three match-balls before Hammamy took the game 12-10 to force a further game.

But the 17-year-old from Alexandria regained her composure in the fourth to close out the match 11-4, 11-9, 10-12, 11-9 in 65 minutes to win the title for a second successive year.

Araby becomes the fourth Egyptian to win back-to-back women's titles after Raneem El Welily in 2007, Nour El Sherbini in 2013 and Nouran Gohar in 2016.

"It feels amazing," said Araby later. "I'm so happy! That was my last World Juniors and if I hadn't won I know I would have been so sad."

"Looking at the players who have won it twice, Nicol (David), Ramy (Ashour), Raneem, Marwan (Elshorbagy), and especially Mohamed (Elshorbagy) - he's my role model, I can't thank him enough, he's helped me so much and is always there for me."

"That may be my last junior match, it depends on the British next year, but if it is my last I'm happy to finish with that one!"

The men's final also featured the top two seeds and whilst Asal was the second seed, the 17-year-old from 6th of October City is by far the highest-ranked player in the men's field - at 71, compared with Tarek's 281.

Asal reached the final without dropping a game - and continued his 'clean sheet' in Chennai as he romped to an 11-7, 13-11, 11-4 victory in 45 minutes over Tarek to claim the world junior title for the first time.

**Men's Final:** [2] Mostafa Asal (EGY) bt [1] Marwan Tarek (EGY) 11-7, 13-11, 11-4. Semi-finals: [1] Marwan Tarek (EGY) bt [3/4] Omar El Torkey (EGY) 11-9, 6-11, 11-8, 2-11, 11-8, [2] Mostafa Asal (EGY) bt [3/4] Mostafa El Serty (EGY) 11-3, 11-7, 11-7.

**Women's Final:** [1] Rowan Reda Araby (EGY) bt [2] Hania El Hammamy (EGY) 11-4, 11-9, 10-12, 11-9. Semi-finals: [1] Rowan Reda Araby (EGY) bt [5/8] Jana Shiha (EGY) 11-5, 13-11, 11-6, [2] Hania El Hammamy (EGY) bt [3/4] Lucy Turmel (ENG) 11-6, 8-11, 11-4, 11-4.

## GRAHAM PRIOR



Tragedy struck at the World Junior Team Championship on the final day when Graham Prior, the South African Team Manager (and WSF African Coaching Coordinator), collapsed as he was boarding a bus after his team's tie. He had suffered a severe heart attack and was pronounced dead shortly afterwards.

"The sense of shock, coupled with a complete numbness, is all that one can feel when something like this occurs," said WSF CEO Andrew Shelley on hearing the news. "Graham was such an esteemed and popular leader amongst coaches, a mentor to so many. While that is how the world of squash know him, it is his family and friends, robbed of Graham so early, that our hearts go out to at this terrible time. He and they will be in everybody's thoughts, I know."

As Squash South Africa Executive Director Liz Addison commented 'In his quiet, unassuming way, Graham has left such a lasting impression on so many people, as is evident from the large number of tributes coming in from all over South Africa and people around the world. Mentor, friend, role model, coach, husband, father ... he was so many things to so many people.'

In Zulu there is the word "isihlala" - a large tree, over 4 metres in height which spreads a huge shadow under which people can shelter - an appropriate nickname for Graham, who is also leaving a huge crater in South African coaching and squash. Our deepest condolences to Sue, his wife, his son, Rhys, and his daughter Lauren'.



## MALAYSIA SECURES 2020 WOMEN'S WORLD TEAM HOSTING

The World Squash Federation has awarded the right to host the 2020 WSF Women's World Team Squash Championship to Malaysia.

The 22nd edition of the biennial event will take place at the 10-court Bukit Jalil National Squash Centre in Kuala Lumpur, from 15-20 December 2020. The venue, which also features a glass showcourt, has become a very valuable legacy for Malaysian sport, regularly hosting international events since being inaugurated for the 1998 Commonwealth Games.

### Second to none

"We are delighted that Malaysia will host our Women's World Championship in 2020," said WSF President Jacques Fontaine. "The enthusiasm for squash is second to none in Malaysia and the press and broadcast output wonderful too. So this, coupled with the warm hospitality and effective management that we know the visiting teams will receive, is something to look forward to after the much-awaited staging of the 2018 Championship in Dalian, China, next month."



Nik Razeen A Daud (left), Squash Malaysia President, added: "It is indeed a great honour for Malaysia to have been confirmed as hosts for the 22nd WSF Women's World Team Championships 2020."

"The Women's Team Championship was last held here in 1996 and we are excited for its return."

Malaysia will be marking its 15th appearance in the Championships since making its debut in 1990. Led by record eight-time World Open champion Nicol David, the women's team achieved their best-ever Worlds finish in 2014, as runners-up to England.

### WSF CERTIFIED SOFTWARE

These good event management packages all meet the requirements to link with SPIN verification, and for results uploading to WSF & PSA Satellite Tours e.g National Junior and Senior Championships, and other WSF co-ordinated events.

	<b>ClubLocker</b>
	<b>RankedIn</b>
	<b>SportyHQ</b>
	<b>Tournament Software</b>

## interactiveSQUASH BRINGS LIVE SQUASH TO SMART COURTS VIA SQUASHTV STREAM



Munich-based company interactiveSQUASH in partnership with PSA will stream live coverage and Video On Demand (VOD) content from events on SQUASHTV directly to interactiveSQUASH's smart courts worldwide.

Coverage from the world's biggest squash tournaments will be streamed on the front wall of interactiveSQUASH's innovative smart courts via a SQUASHTV application which, when activated, will give the user access to the stream.

To be launched during the 2018/19 season, this feature will be made available with a free automatic update to interactiveSQUASH courts worldwide

The PSA and interactiveSQUASH have already collaborated on the development of the 'MoTrack' system, enabling real-time analysis of player and ball behaviour, while a fully interactive front wall was used during June's ATCO PSA Dubai World Series Finals to display player stats, replays, entertaining games, visual effects and sponsor's content and branding.



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## PSA SEPTEMBER RANKINGS

### EL SHERBINI'S 29th MONTH ON TOP

Egypt's Nour El Sherbini has topped the PSA Women's World Rankings for a 29th consecutive month as she heads up an unchanged top 20 in September's Women's World Rankings.



The 22-year-old is the fifth longest reigning World No.1 of all time in the women's game and she is followed in the rankings by World Champion Raneem El Welily, World No.3 Nour El Tayeb, France's World No.4 Camille Serme and New Zealand's Joelle King, who completes the top five.

Egypt's Nouran Gohar stays at No.6, while England's Laura Massaro (No.7), her compatriot Sarah-Jane Perry (No.8), Malaysia's Nicol David (No.9) and Alison Waters finish the top 10.

Hong Kong's Annie Au comes next at No.11, followed by Tesni Evans (No.12), Victoria Lust (No.13), Olivia Blatchford (No.14) and Salma Hany (No.15).

Meanwhile, India's Joshna Chinappa (No.16), Australia's Donna Lobban (No.17), United States' Amanda Sobhy (No.18), India's Dipika Pallikal Karthik (No.19) and Egypt's Hania El Hammamy take the final spots in the top 20.

### PSA Women's Rankings – September 2018

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



### ELSHORBAGY HEADS UNCHANGED TOP 20



Egyptian World Champion Mohamed ElShorbagy has retained his World No.1 spot for the seventh month in succession after the release of the PSA Men's World Rankings for September featured an unchanged top 20.

ElShorbagy - who last month became the longest-reigning Egyptian World No.1 of all time - is part of a six-man Egyptian contingent in the top

10, which also includes Ali Farag (No.2), younger brother Marwan ElShorbagy (No.3), Tarek Momen (No.4), Karim Abdel Gawad (No.8) and Ramy Ashour (No.9).

Meanwhile, Germany's Simon Rösner (No.5), Colombia's Miguel Angel Rodriguez (No.6), France's Gregory Gaultier (No.7) and New Zealand's Paul Coll (No.10) complete the top ten. The rest of the men's top 20 remains unchanged.

The biggest risers on the men's rankings are England's Joe Brooke and India's Karan Malik who rise from World No.425 to World No.339 and World No.425 to World No.344, respectively.

### PSA Men's Rankings – September 2018

1	Mohamed ElShorbagy	EGY
2	Ali Farag	EGY
3	Marwan ElShorbagy	EGY
4	Tarek Momen	EGY
5	Simon Rösner	GER
6	Miguel Angel Rodriguez	COL
7	Gregory Gaultier	FRA
8	Karim Abdel Gawad	EGY
9	Ramy Ashour	EGY
10	Paul Coll	NZL
11	Diego Elias	PER
12	Saurav Ghosal	IND
13	Mohamed Abouelghar	EGY
14	Omar Mosaad	EGY
15	Ryan Cuskelly	AUS
16	Daryl Selby	ENG
17	James Willstrop	ENG
18	Nicholas Mueller	SUI
19	Max Lee	HKG
20	Cameron Pilley	AUS



## WSF & SATELLITE TOUR KICKS OFF

Last month saw the start of the new Tour featuring National Senior and Junior events, along with other Satellite events, with the World Junior Under 17 and 19 Ranking lists viewable [here](#)

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

Events can be registered [here](#)

Here are the eligibility and general requirements in table form:

EVENT CATEGORY	EVENT REG FEE	ELIGIBILITY / AGE	PSA MEMBERSHIP REQUIRED (2)	SPIN REQUIRED (2)	PRIZE MONEY
<b>World / Regional Junior Championships (1)</b>	Free	Entries from:  Worlds – WSF Full Member Nations  Regionals – Regional Member Nations	Optional	Required for all entries in all age groups	As decided by WSF / Regions
<b>National (adult) Championship</b>	Free	Decided by the National Federation	Optional	Optional	Optional
<b>National Junior Championship</b>	Free	Decided by the National Federation / Age categories	Optional	Optional	Optional
<b>National Junior Open</b>	Free	International entry / Age categories	Optional	Required for all entries in U19/17 age groups. Other ages optional	Optional
<b>Satellite Tournaments</b>	\$100	International entry	Optional	Optional	Minimums:  Men-\$1,000  Women-\$600  Maximum: \$4,999 overall

(1) Only U19/17 age bands are registered

(2) PSA membership and SPIN are required by all players (before commencement of the event) if they wish to earn PSA ranking points, which cannot be claimed retrospectively



## WSF ACCREDITATION

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

Contact details on the [WSF website](https://www.wsf.org.uk/)

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

## SQUASH CELEBRATES DIVERSITY AT GAY GAMES

The French Squash Federation, WSF and PSA proudly supported squash's participation at the 2018 Gay Games which took place last month in Paris. This year's edition of the worldwide sport and cultural event that promoted diversity and tolerance marked the 8th time squash was part of the official programme of the Gay Games, with a packed week of action at the Charléty Stadium.



The event was open to all, regardless of skill level, and welcomed 104 participants, women and men, representing 20 different nationalities, including Hungary, Ireland, Malaysia, Spain, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom, USA, and of course France, among others. *[Picture below shows Laura Flessel, the French Minister of Sports, meeting athletes]*



The pool of participants also demonstrated that squash is a truly intergenerational sport, as the participants' age range was from twenties to sixties.

WSF President Jacques Fontaine commented: "We are very proud of squash being an integral part of this dynamic and celebratory multi-sport event taking place across the city of Paris. The Gay Games are an excellent demonstration of the important role that sport can play in society, by bringing people together and promoting diversity and mutual respect. As we are vying to be included in the Olympic programme, we are eager to demonstrate how squash can also contribute to promoting Paris 2024 Olympic Games' vision in terms of diversity and inclusiveness."

### 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](https://www.wsf.org.uk/).

More programme details are welcome



## BIRTHDAY GIRL DAVID'S 5<sup>th</sup> ASIAN GOLD

After a glittering squash career in which she has won



every prize on offer, Malaysian superstar Nicol David could hardly have dreamed of a better way of celebrating her 35th birthday than by claiming a record fifth Asian Games gold medal - 20 years after winning her first.

The former world number one - a title David held for an unprecedented 109 months in a row - defended the title she last won in Incheon in 2014 after again surviving a final against a fellow countrywoman. This time, at the Gelora Bung Karno Sports Complex in the Indonesia capital Jakarta, David fought back from 2/1 down to overcome teenager Sivasangari Subramaniam - her undoubted successor in 52 minutes.

While David was marking her sixth successive appearance in the event - the only player in Jakarta to have also competed in the inaugural event in Thailand in 1998 - Subramaniam was making her debut. The 19-year-old 5/8 seed from Kedah claimed two of the biggest scalps of her brief career to reach the final, seeing off second seed Annie Au in the quarter-finals, then world No.16 Joshna Chinappa in the semis to set up a meeting with her idol for the first time.



The men's final was also a one-nation affair in which second seed Max Lee, the Hong Kong No.1, faced domestic rival

Leo Au, the 3/4 seed who upset Indian favourite Saurav Ghosal to reach the final.

Lee boasted a career 10-7 head-to-head advantage over Au going into the match - but only two months ago lost out to lower-ranked Au in the Hong Kong national championship final.

World No.21 Au carried on where he left off on home soil, and defeated Lee to become the first Hong Kong player to claim gold in the men's event.

Men's Final: [3/4] Leo Au (HKG) bt [2] Max Lee (HKG) 11-8, 12-10, 6-11, 11-4. Semis: [3/4] Leo Au (HKG) bt [1] Saurav

Ghosal (IND) 10-12, 11-13, 11-6, 11-5, 11-6, [2] Max Lee (HKG) bt [5/8] Nafiizwan Adnan (MAS) 5-11, 6-11, 11-5, 11-5, 11-9

Women's Final: [1] Nicol David (MAS) bt [5/8] Sivasangari Subramaniam (MAS) 11-13, 11-9, 5-11, 11-6, 11-8. Semis: [1] Nicol David (MAS) bt [3/4] Dipika Pallikal Karthik (IND) 11-7, 11-9, 11-6, [5/8] Sivasangari Subramaniam (MAS) bt [3/4] Joshna Chinappa (IND) 12-10, 11-6, 9-11, 11-7 (41m)

## Malaysia Deny Hong Kong a Team Double

After Hong Kong China despatched India 2/0 to clinch the women's Asian Games Team Championship Squash title for the first time, Malaysia denied the highest-ranked team in the event a historic double by coming from behind to beat the favourites 2/1 in a dramatic men's final at the Gelora Bung Karno Sports Complex in Jakarta, Indonesia.

The women's final was a repeat of a qualifying tie 48 hours earlier in which Hong Kong, the second seeds, overcame third seeds India 2/1 to claim pole position in Pool B.

But India earned the re-match in the final after creating the event's biggest upset by ousting defending champions Malaysia, the team led by the newly-crowned 'Greatest Player of All-Time' Nicol David who were seeded to take gold for the third successive time.



The third seeds were unable to reverse the outcome, however, as third string Sunayna Kuruvilla went down in four games to Ho Tze-Lok - before talented left-hander Annie Au (*above*) clinched gold for Hong Kong after beating Indian top string Joshna Chinappa 11-3, 11-9, 11-5 in 28 minutes.

The elusive double looked on the cards when, in the opening clash between the teams' third strings, Yip Tsz Fung put Hong Kong ahead with a four-game win over Malaysian Ivan Yuen - after surviving a marathon 20-18 second game.

With the crowd on the edge of their seats, Malaysia drew level when team number one Nafiizwan Adnan (*overleaf*) defeated higher-ranked Max Lee 11-9, 11-7, 11-7.

Having not played in the earlier individual event, Malaysia's second string Eain Yow Ng - at 20, the youngest player in the squad - had no Games history



against his Hong Kong opponent Leo Au, the 2018 men's individual gold medalist. But in the biggest match of his career so far, the young Malaysian truly came of age when he trounced Au in straight games, 11-7, 11-7, 11-4 in 36 minutes to bring the gold medal to Malaysia.

"As a team we bonded well," said the jubilant Ng after his seventh straight win in the championship. "We came into the tournament knowing that we can win and we certainly did it".

### IOC President watches the action



IOC President Thomas Bach was guest of honour on Squash team finals day at the Gelora Bung Karno Sports Complex, watching the exciting action unfold.

#### Men's Final:

[3] MALAYSIA bt [1] HONG KONG CHINA 2/1.  
Ivan Yuen lost to Yip Tsz

Fung 7-11, 18-20, 11-9, 8-11,  
Nafiizwan Adnan bt Max Lee 11-9, 11-7, 11-7, Eain Yow Ng  
bt Leo Au 11-7, 11-7, 11-4. Bronze medalists: [2] INDIA &  
[4] PAKISTAN

#### Women's Final:

[2] HONG KONG CHINA bt [3] INDIA 2/0. Ho Tze-Lok bt  
Sunayna Kuruvilla 11-8, 11-6, 10-12, 11-3, Annie Au bt  
Joshna Chinappa 11-3, 11-9, 11-5. Bronze medalists: [1]  
MALAYSIA & [4] JAPAN

### WSF AGM 2018 IN CAIRO

The 48th Annual General Meeting of WSF will take place in Cairo, Egypt, next month (24 – 27 October), being hosted by the Egyptian Squash Association.

The daily programme will be:  
24: Board & Executive Committee,  
25: WSF Commission Meetings,  
26: Conference Day,  
27: WSF AGM.



### SYRIAN REFUGEE GIRLS GET TO HONG KONG

The girls, aged between 11 and 13, are part of a new team called Squash Dreamers, made up of displaced Syrian youngsters who were forced to flee their war-torn homeland.

Offered the opportunity to play under a WSF 'White Flag' as Syria does not have a currently active Federation, the girls, with assistance from the Jordanian Federation and accommodation provided by Hong Kong Squash, were able to participate in the Hong Kong Junior Open last month.



The three young Syrian squash players clearly enjoyed their first ever international tournament.

"It's not that important whether I win or not, I just like playing games," 13-year-old Raghda Husryeh said, saying she hoped to become a squash coach in the future.

### Bombs & Bullets

Husryeh and her family escaped the bombs and bullets in their battered hometown of Homs five years ago, before gradually making their way to safety abroad, and became numbered among more than 330,000 Syrian children estimated by the UN to have fled across the border to neighbouring Jordan since conflict broke out in 2011.

Team coach Reem Niaz, herself a refugee from Damascus, said the game was playing a role in helping the young women rebuild their lives.

"The sport is helping them a lot as refugees, because it's not forbidden to them or inaccessible to them. They can just be like anybody else and play," Niaz said.

"(There's) a sense of national pride. The team feel like they are part of the world," said Niaz, adding that it helped them retain a connection with their home country.

Squash Dreamers, a United States NGO based in Jordan, set up the 15-strong team of displaced girls from Syria over the past two years.

*Courtesy: South China Morning Post*



## YOUTH OLYMPIC GAMES NEXT MONTH



Next month from 7 – 12 October squash will make its first appearance at the Youth Olympic Games (YOG) in Buenos Aires as a showcase sport. It will be a critical moment for our sport to give key Olympic stakeholders the opportunity to

experience squash first-hand and demonstrate that it would be a natural – and strategic – addition to the Olympic programme.

The event will take place at Technopolis Park, where everything is in place for play and clinics on the glass show-court, together with an initiation court.



A total 36 young squash players from 27 nations spread across the globe will experience the sport's first taste of Olympic competition at the YOG, encouraging young fans to try and practice squash.

We expect a big number of IOC members, as well as Paris 2024 and Los Angeles 2028 representatives, to gather in Buenos Aires for the inaugural Olympism in Action Forum which will precede the Youth Olympic Games. Pakistani player Maria Toorpakai is due to speak at the Forum and will join the Olympic bid delegation in Buenos Aires.

Watch out for more information during September.

## WORLD SQUASH DAY 2018



A reminder that **Saturday 13 October** is the date set for World Squash Day this year, the date on which players and clubs worldwide come

together to promote the sport and support charities.

One of the main aims this year, as well as simply encouraging clubs to open their doors to encourage participation, is to use empty daytime courts for projects to welcome disadvantaged young people.

For further information contact World Squash Day coordinator Alan Thatcher at: [alan@squashmad.com](mailto:alan@squashmad.com)

## CERTIFIED EYEWEAR BRANDS 2018

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)
	ASTM F803
	R615

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

## 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](#)

## GOLAN & TOMLINSON'S EUROPEAN CROWNS

After disappointments in 2017, England's Millie Tomlinson and Spaniard Borja Golan bounced back this year to win the 2018 women's and men's European Individual Squash Championship titles, respectively, at Squash Dome in Graz, Austria.

Tomlinson, runner-up last year, was seeded to go one better in Austria's second largest city. After defeating Belgian Tinne Gilis in the semis, the 26-year-old top seed from Derbyshire reached the final without dropping a game.



Her opponent Coline Aumard also beat a Gilis in the other semi - the 3/4 seed causing an upset over Tinne's second-seeded older sister Nele Gilis.

World No.27 Tomlinson beat Aumard to become the first English winner of the women's trophy since former world No.2 Jenny Duncalf in 2010.

After winning the men's title in 2016, Golan fell at the semi-final stage last year and was eager to make amends this time.

His final opponent George Parker caused the biggest upset in the event where he outplayed German favourite Raphael Kandra, surviving an 81-minute five-game marathon against the world No.22. But Parker, on his debut in the event, still had more to offer in the final - taking the higher-ranked Spaniard to match-ball in the fourth game after building up a 2/1 lead.

But Golan called upon all his experience to take the fourth and force a decider - going on to win the match to win the title for the second time.

**Men's** Semi-finals: [3/4] George Parker (ENG) bt [1] Raphael Kandra (GER) 11-7, 9-11, 6-11, 11-6, 11-4, [2] Borja Golan (ESP) bt [3/4] Lucas Serme (FRA) 11-5, 11-6, 11-7. Final: [2] Borja Golan (ESP) bt [3/4] George Parker (ENG) 8-11, 11-4, 10-12, 13-11, 11-6.

**Women's** Semi-finals: [1] Millie Tomlinson (ENG) bt [3/4] Tinne Gilis (BEL) 11-7, 11-8, 11-5, [3/4] Coline Aumard (FRA) bt [2] Nele Gilis (BEL) 11-9, 8-11, 8-11, 11-7, 11-8. Final: [1] Millie Tomlinson (ENG) bt [3/4] Coline Aumard (FRA) 11-9, 12-10, 4-11, 11-7.



## SOBHY STARS AT PANAM CHAMPIONSHIPS

After the region's leading players competed for seven titles over seven days at the Pan American Squash Championships in the Cayman Islands, it was USA's Amanda Sobhy who emerged as the most decorated athlete with three gold medals at the South Sound Squash Club in Georgetown.



The 25-year-old world No.18 from New York kicked off her gold haul by winning the women's singles title as expected, beating her younger sister Sabrina Sobhy 11-3,

11-8, 11-8. Sabrina, a 9/16 seed, beat three higher-seeded opponent to set up the first ever PanAm final between two siblings. Partnering Sabrina, Amanda collected gold No.2 in the women's doubles with a straight games final victory over Mexicans Laura Tovar & Maria Tovar Perez (*podium picture below*).



It was on the final day that Sobhy senior struck gold for a third time, leading favourites USA to a 2/0 win over second seeds Canada in the women's team final - in a tie where Sabrina also played her part by winning the opening match to put her country into the lead.

History was made in the men's singles event where Diego Elias became the event's first Peruvian gold medallist when he beat Christopher Binnie 11-7, 11-8, 11-5 in the final. But 9/16 seed Binnie (*pictured right, with Elias*) also had much to be proud about after dismissing three higher seeds en-route to becoming the first ever Jamaican to reach the final.

Mexico won the first of two gold medals in the men's doubles event where second seeds Alfredo Avila & Cesar Salazar survived a 129-minute final to see off unseeded Peruvians Andres Duany & Alonso Escudero.

The two Mexicans paired up again in the men's team final where Mexico secured gold after beating fellow 3/4 seeds Colombia 2/0 - the title clinched when



underdog Cesar Salazar claimed his first win in seven years over world No.6 Miguel Angel Rodriguez, ranked 18 places higher.

Rodriguez claimed gold earlier in the mixed doubles final where, with partner Catalina Pelaez, he beat Cayman stars Marlene West & Cameron Stafford.

**Men's Singles.** Final: [1] Diego Elias (PER) bt [9/16] Christopher Binnie (JAM) 11-7, 11-8, 11-5. Bronze medallists: Todd Harrity (USA), Chris Hanson (USA).

**Women's Singles** Final: [1] Amanda Sobhy (USA) bt [9/16] Sabrina Sobhy (USA) 11-3, 11-8, 11-8. Bronze medallists: Danielle Letourneau (CAN), Samantha Cornett (CAN).

**Men's Doubles** Final: [2] Alfredo Avila & Cesar Salazar (MEX) bt Andres Duany & Alonso Escudero (PER) 11-8, 10-11, 11-8. Bronze medallists: Robertino Pezzota & Leandro Romiglio (ARG), Chris Hanson & Todd Harrity (USA).

**Women's Doubles** Final: [3/4] Amanda Sobhy & Sabrina Sobhy (USA) bt [3/4] Laura Tovar & Maria Tovar Perez (COL) 11-5, 11-5. Bronze medallists: Giselle Delgado & Anita Pinto (CHI), Samantha Cornett & Nikki Todd (CAN).

**Mixed Doubles** Final: [3/4] Catalina Pelaez & Miguel Angel Rodriguez (COL) bt [5/8] Marlene West & Cameron Stafford (CAY) 11-8, 11-9. Bronze medallists: Antonella Falcione & Gonzalo Miranda (ARG), Danielle Letourneau & Michael McCue (CAN)

**Men's Team** Final: [3/4] MEXICO bt [3/4] COLOMBIA 2/0 [Alfredo Avila bt Juan Camilo Vargas 11-6, 11-8, 11-5, Cesar Salazar bt Miguel Angel Rodriguez 11-9, 11-7, 11-3. Bronze medallists: USA & CANADA. **Women's Team** Final: [1] USA bt [2] CANADA 2/0 [Sabrina Sobhy bt Hollie Naughton 11-8, 11-3, 11-5; Amanda Sobhy bt Samantha Cornett 11-6, 11-6, 11-5. Bronze medallists: COLOMBIA & MEXICO



**Issue 3 is a Nick Matthew special as *Squash Player* looks back on the three-time world champion's glittering career.**

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

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## SNIPPETS

### Elshorbagy becomes the longest lasting Egyptian number 1.



World Champion Mohamed ElShorbagy overtook the legendary Amr Shabana to become the longest-reigning Egyptian World No.1 after the PSA Men's World Rankings for August were released last month.

Now in September ElShorbagy, 27, has held top spot for 35 months overall - two more than four-time

World Champion Shabana - across three spells atop the World Rankings and the Bristol-based Egyptian has 33 PSA Tour titles to his name.

### The most ignored squash rule?

Surely that must be the foot-fault Rule. It is simple enough – part of one foot must be touching the floor completely inside the service-box when serving. Not touching the line, completely inside. Does yours?

## Pallikal Karthik Appointed to GGF Commission

Indian squash player Dipika Pallikal Karthik has been appointed as Asia's representative in the Athletes



Advisory Commission (AAC) of the Commonwealth Games Federation (CGF).

Each continent is represented by one athlete in CGFAAC. Former Commonwealth Doubles Gold medallist Pallikal Karthik is pictured here meeting India's Prime Minister Narendra Modi, recently

## EICC in Graz



As reported earlier, The European Individual Closed Championship had a new home this month, at a new centre. Graz in Austria, is where Courtwall built *Squashdome*, last year - featuring seven courts with glass back walls, including one with a moveable backwall that can open out for functions and other sports or games, for example.

One court is a permanently installed four sided all glass court. The layout with a central café lounge ensured that all the EICC event players were able to relax and just move their seats around to watch all the matches!



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