

CERN squash league FAQ

Compiled by Maxime Gouzevitch, Laszlo Rimoczy, Benjamin Stieger and Steen Jensen
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- **What is the CERN Squash league?**
 - It is a group of people at CERN who enjoys playing squash.
 - A number of volunteers organise the monthly mini-leagues that allow different players to meet together and enjoy games. Each mini-league counts 5 persons and there are between 14 and 20 of them depending on the period of the year. You can also have a small discount for your fees to be member of the Maisonnex squash club.
 - Contact persons can be found at <http://club-squash.web.cern.ch/club-squash/default.html>

- **How can I register to join the league?**
 - Read carefully this FAQ
 - Make sure you have a place to play squash (Maisonnex or any other club)
 - Organise 1-2 games with people already in the league if possible to assess your level
 - Send an email to the contact person given at <http://club-squash.web.cern.ch/club-squash/default.html> with your name, e-mail and proposed level (if possible not later than the 25th of the month to be included in next month's leagues)

- **Can I join the club if I'm not from CERN?**
 - Yes of course, many people do it.

- **How much does it cost?**
 - Membership in the CERN club is free, however you need to pay membership fees (or pay for each game) in a squash club (like Maisonnex) to use their courts.

- **What do I do if my partner doesn't show up?**
 - You are always invited to discuss with your partner. This is the basis of the fair play concept of our club. But in case of disagreement or if you judge that the reason of his absence is not a valid one, the match will count as 3-0 in your favour.

- **What happens if I didn't show up for a game?**
 - This should not happen ;)
 - However, if this happens, you are invited to contact the player and apologize. You shall also be aware that, unless he accept otherwise, the game will count as 3-0 in his/her favour.

- **What do we do if our game isn't finished after 45 minutes?**

- Try to finish it another time or just report the partial score.

- **Where can we play our games?**
 - The nearest club (the Centre Sportif de Maisonnex) is just across CERN entrance B, next to the ATLAS pit, where the swimming pool is. Most members play their matches there. But you can play at any venue agreed on by your opponent.

- **Do I have to be a member of the Maisonnex club?**
 - No, but please make sure you pay the appropriate fee if you are not a member, or are invited by a paying member.

- **How do we become members of the Maisonnex club?**
 - The Maisonnex club accepts new members at the start of each season, i.e. in April and October, if there are free spots. The first time you shall proceed by yourself to subscribe as the club volunteers cannot handle the Maisonnex waiting list. Starting from the second time, provided you are member of the CERN club, you will get a 15% reduced price, if you register in time.

- **What happens at the end of the month?**
 - Players move up and down according to their earned points. Generally, the first two (of five) players move up, the last two move down, the middle man stays. However this is not always unambiguous and furthermore depends on whether there are new members joining the leagues. Don't forget that the club volunteers always try to maximize the global happiness of the league. So enjoy your games!

- **Is the club offering squash lessons?**
 - No, but you can organize a lesson with the resident squash coach via the contact info given on the website.

- **Where can I learn to play squash?**
 - You can organize a lesson with the resident squash coach via the contact info given on the website.
 - The best way to learn to play is to join the leagues and play other players! Furthermore, the Maisonnex club organizes so called "Soirées squash" every Monday evening, where all players (who are members of Maisonnex club) are invited. Two courts are reserved. During this time you can meet very good players who would usually be happy to teach you. Similar activities may happen in other clubs.

- **Where is the best place to buy rackets/balls/shoes?**
 - Everybody has their own favourite store. In Geneva you can find a good selection of Squash rackets at Ochsner Sport (in rue du Marché, next to Globus). Squash balls and indoor shoes can be found in most sports shops. In France, you can find a selection of rackets and balls in Intersport (Saint-Genis) or Go Sport (Thoiry). In Go Sport provided you show your CERN card you can have ~15% reduction. Of course there are many other shops. You may also try to contact the club members who may be willing to sell for a reduced price a racket they don't use.

- **How many games will I have to play each week?**
 - You will have to play each player in your group, which usually ends up at about one game per week.
 - Remember to start organising and playing as soon as the new leagues are published. Usually the end of the month is very busy in Maisonnex.

- **What happens if I miss some games at the end of the month?**
 - Any player with at least one completed game will stay in the league, but naturally your chance to advance to the next league depends on how often you play. Players without any league games will be removed unless they explicitly ask to be kept in.
 - In some cases (for example if you played only one game and cannot play any other) it might be fair to ask for this game not to be counted in the league scoring. Of course before you shall ask the opinion of your league partners. Indeed the players who could not play with you are unfairly disadvantaged in the scoring.

- **What happens if I cannot play any game this month (I'm away or injured or ...)**
 - Inform a club volunteer, stating if you're leaving definitively the mini-league or would come back next month.

- **Where can I enter the league? I don't want to play 10 rounds in the lower leagues to move up to my level.**
 - If you think you are in a group that is below your level (or too good for you), just send an email to one of the club volunteers and s/he can move you to a more appropriate group.

- **Do I need to be a good player to join the league?**
 - No, there are plenty of beginners in the league! Joining the club is the best way to meet people to play regularly.

- **Is there a place where I can watch squash online?**
 - The YouTube channel of PSA Squash TV is a great place to start with lots of free content: <https://www.youtube.com/user/psasquashtv>. There are several full matches available and countless highlights. For live games (for a subscription fee), check their main website: <https://psaworldtour.com/tv>.
 - You can also come and watch good players during their game. Public is welcome.

- **What shall I do if my partner is aggressive?**
 - Squash is a fair play game – give plenty of room, be fair and enjoy. There is no prize to win neither bonus to obtain.
 - In case a conflict cannot be solved or your partner shows aggressive behaviour, you can stop the game and report the incident.
 - Remember that you are all grown-ups and you should be able to solve such issues.

- **Who shall send the results of a league game?**
 - The winner should do it via <http://club-squash.web.cern.ch/club-squash/Report.html> as it is written in mini-league rules.

- **What shall I/my partner do if reported a wrong result?**
 - Simply report again the correct result via <http://club-squash.web.cern.ch/club-squash/Report.html>, giving a comment about the reason.

- **Can I take responsibilities in the league?**
 - The league has (for the moment) no other activity than the organisation of the monthly leagues and result publishing so no real need for help.

- **What about social life?**
 - Anybody from the squash league is welcome to organise any social activity such as
 - coffee/drinks meeting
 - little tournament
 - Squash league t-shirt
 - Collective purchase of rackets
 - etc.
 - Should you be interested please send a proposal to the club volunteers.

- **Who can use club-squash-minileagues@SPAMNOT.cern.ch**
 - Anybody who is member of the club. Keep in mind that spam is not welcome.

- **Where can I get an answer to the question that is not in the list?**
 - Ask one of the club volunteers
 - You can ask your friends in the club.
 - Sometimes you can use the club-squashminileagues@SPAMNOT.cern.ch, if the question is appropriate. Keep in mind that spam is not welcome.