



College Squash Association
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How to enter intercollegiate competition with a new club squash team. (revised 7/2007)

The College Squash Association (CSA) actively welcomes new men's, women's and coed squash teams (club and varsity) into our program of intercollegiate competition.

The CSA is an inclusive organization and there are only a few basic requirements for beginning competition, having matches recorded on the CSA website, gaining a ranking and participating in the National Championships.

At the National Championships, we invite all varsity and club teams to compete. The Nationals are divided into divisions of eight teams, according to regular season rankings, and we add divisions to ensure that all teams desired to compete may do so, irregardless of their ranking.

We also offer a special "Emerging Teams" division at the Nationals, specifically designed for teams starting out who are unable to field a full team of nine players to travel to the Nationals. This Emerging division is played with teams of five, and a national trophy is awarded.

Here are the basic CSA competition requirements for 07-08:

1. **CONTACT.** The team needs a central contact person (captain or coach) who will be a reliable contact for other teams to communicate with and for communication with the CSA.
2. **COMMITMENTS.** The team and contact person need to take full responsibility to uphold all commitments made to play matches that they schedule.
3. **TEAM MAKEUP.** CSA teams are made up of teams of at least nine players. All nine players must be "eligible" students, according to NCAA rules. This generally means the players must be full time undergraduates, or in some cases in division one schools, first year graduate students. If in doubt, please consult with your school's athletic department eligibility officer as to the rules at your school. The CSA welcomes club teams, but asks that the club teams self-regulate themselves in terms of

- understanding and following the eligibility rules at your school, since you will be competing against serious club teams and against varsity teams in many cases. To compete in the women's CSA league, all players must be women. To compete in the men's CSA league, teams may be all men or may be co-ed. (Teams without a separate women's team, such as Denison and MIT, and Cal Berkeley successfully compete on a co-ed basis and women are encouraged to compete.)
4. SCHEDULING. The CSA schedules are developed, to a large extent, on a school-to-school basis with individual coaches making their schedules. There is no central CSA scheduler. New teams need to actively contact other club and varsity programs to schedule matches. Teams often have open dates available well into the fall and early winter, so it is never too late to contact another team to schedule a match.
 5. ROUND ROBINS. One of the easiest and most successful ways for a new team to get matches is to travel to a round robins. Round robins happen almost every weekend during the season at various host schools. Round robins are a way for a team to travel to one location for all or part of a weekend and get one to five matches during that weekend against teams of varying skill levels. See the web page (<http://www.squashtalk.com/collegesquash/calendar/07-08/sched0708prelim1.htm>) for currently scheduled round robins.
 6. COMPETITION RULES, LADDERS AND ETHICS. Please carefully have everyone on your team read the CSA ethics guidelines. These will explain most aspects of sportsmanlike CSA competition:
 7. RANKING AND NATIONALS. To join the CSA competition, the team leader needs to simply contact the CSA executive director, Ron Beck, at squashtalk@verizon.net , indicate your plans to compete, provide the contact person mentioned above, and commit to paying the \$150 year team CSA dues. Your team will then be added to the competition list and will begin to be ranked (starting at the bottom position.) There is also a fee to attend the Nationals, and commitments for attending the nationals as a nine man team or emerging five man team must be made by January 1, 2008.
 8. EMERGING TEAM GRANTS/CSA SUPPORT: Beginning for the 07-08 season, the CSA intends to provide modest funding support (up to \$1000) for up to five newly emerging teams. There is an application form for that support, which needs to be submitted to committee chairman Dave Talbott of Yale and to the executive director.
 9. OFFICIAL SUPPLIERS: Harrow Sports is the official CSA supplier beginning in the 07-08 season. Harrow will be offering excellent discounts on equipment (racquets, eyeguards, etc.) for emerging teams. Dunlop is the official ball of the CSA. There is a ball program administered through the CSA office for obtaining balls at a discounted level.

If you have specific issues or questions, please contact Ron Beck at squashtalk@verizon.net or 978-771-5888.

