



[DAL CLUB TOURNAMENT](#) | [REF CLINIC DRAWS INTEREST](#) | [ASK THE REF!](#)

SMUfit Hosts Big Turnout For N.S. Junior Open Squash Tournament

By Judy Myrden

This year 50 juniors from Nova Scotia and New Brunswick played in the **Nova Scotia Junior Open Squash 2024 Tournament** up from 36 last year, held Nov. 15-16 at **SMUfit**'s squash courts in Halifax.

"Growth of the sport is the reason we hold these tournaments," **Josh Rudolph**, Provincial Squash Coach and Tournament Director, told **In The Nick**. "Tournaments bring together the camaraderie and build friendships."

Rudolph said junior tournaments are important for the development of the sport.

Players learn how to compete, while making new friendships and having fun playing the racquet sport.



Julia Pelton gives her 6-year-old daughter, Ella, a hug after playing in her first tournament. (Photo by Judy Myrden)

This year, many of the matches went to five games, he said, indicating the games were competitive.

The event featured seven divisions with 12 girls and 35 boys taking to the courts. The glass backed courts were busy with over 70 matches, along with strong turnout from family and friends in the bleachers.

It is a dramatic turn around for the junior squash scene. Last year the tournament was held for the first time since the COVID 19 pandemic cancelled tournaments.

It indicates juniors are returning or entering the sport - which will be included for the first time in the summer Olympics in 2028 in Los Angeles, said Rudolph.

The Junior Mixed 1 Division winner was **Garreth Beckles** who won the title in three straight matches, only dropping two games. And this was his last N.S. Junior Open Tournament as he turns 19 in January 2025.

Upcoming Events

Dec 7: SMUfit Xmas Calcutta
([Email to sign up!](#))

Dec 7-10: [2024 Forthlane Partners Canadian Junior Open](#)

Dec 9: [SMUfit Ladies Night Tournament](#)

Jan 10-11: [KCSC Winter Thaw Junior Tournament](#)

Jan 16-19: [Dalhousie Open Squash Tournament](#)

Jan 24-26: [2025 Canadian Masters Teams Championships \(Moncton NB\)](#)

Jan 31-Feb 2: Mill River PEI Squash Tournament

Feb 7-9: [Lighthouse Junior Gold Open](#)

Beckles was the Team Captain for the 2023 Nova Scotia Canada Games Squash Team.

The Junior Mixed 2 Division was won by **Kayin Burrell**.

Two brothers battled it out for the Junior Mixed 3 Division in the final match. **Zakareeah Hussein** came back from a two game deficit to beat his brother, **Hamza Hussein**, winning in five games.

Arreyah Carvery won the Mixed 4 Division, in a very close final match against **Violet Palmer**, winning in five games. In the Junior Mixed 5 Division there were eight players and competition was fierce with **Rui Yu** taking the title of 1st Place.

Henry Quach won the title for Junior Mixed 6 Division in three straight matches, never dropping a game.

Leo Guilderson deserves a shout out. This was the 12-year-old's second N.S. Junior Open Squash Tournament, and his third career tournament, and won his first two matches ever, finishing 2nd of 4 in a tough mixed junior division.

In the non-competitive Novice Division, six-year-old **Ella Pelton** won her first squash medal.



The Junior Mixed Div 1 winners were (left to right) first place Garreth Beckles, runner-up Jack Comeau, third place Jack Foerster and Tournament Director Josh Rudolph. (Photo by Monique Guilderson.)



Junior squash players from left to right Zaki Hussein, Hudson Kinney and Calum Webster play a few round of cards while waiting to play their matches. (Photo by Judy Myrden)



Brother and sister duo Victor Onyebuchi and his sister, Christabelle, both played in the junior tournament supporting one another. (Photo by Judy Myrden)



Malika Sallam and James Nelson before they take a bite of energy food - beautifully decorated yellow double dot squash ball cookies. (Photo by Judy Myrden)



Junior Mixed 1 Division winner Garreth Beckles keeps a watchful eye keeping score of a match. (Photo by Judy Myrden)



Squash player Monique Guilderson and her 12 year-old son, Leo, take a break courtside. (Photo by Judy Myrden)

Dal Squash Club Introduces New Players To The Sport

By Emily Burke

Dalhousie Squash Club (DSC) kicked off the school year with an Introduction to Squash Tournament.

For the past four years the active club has organized non-competitive tournaments, but this year's event held Nov. 3rd at the **Dalplex** attracted 35 Dal squash players, including 10 new players.

This year the club added a new division entitled: "New to Squash Division" with many who had never played an "official" match before entering.

The aim of adding the division was to introduce new players on to match format including scoring and rules of the court. Before hitting the courts, Dal player and certified squash referee **Abdo Abdallah** gave a short introduction to the game and official match etiquette.

The tournament included four divisions and 48 matches were played.



Charlie McClay (left) Will Garvey (right) from division 1 battle it out in the final. (Photo by Emily Burke)



Angelos Yiannou (right) and Jumana Abouelela (left) play on court while participants look on. (Photo by Emily Burke)

1st and 2nd place Division Winners include:

- New to Squash Division - **Hillary Ferguson** (1st) and **Manon Pawlowski** (2nd).
- Division 3 - **Carlos Azcarraga** (1st) and **Maegen Burke** (2nd).
- Division 2 - **Daniel Hasselman** (1st) and **Wasi Alavi** (2nd).
- Division 1 - **Charlie McClay** (1st) and **Will Garvey** (2nd).

Ref Clinic Draws Interest

By Judy Myrden

With 18 years of refereeing under his belt, Black Shirt Provincial Level Squash Canada Referee **Lee Kirby**, is one of Nova Scotia's most experienced squash officials.

He recently took time out from his busy schedule as a medical doctor and researcher to host an introductory referee clinic on Monday November 18 at SMUfit in Halifax.

The hour long course which took place on Court 1 at the SMUfit glass back courts served to prepare participants for the Squash Canada Club Level Referee online examination, and demonstrated common situations in an on-court format.

Six players attended the session, and this is the second time this calendar year a referee clinic has been held.

SMUfit squash player **Victor Onyebuchi** attended the clinic and found it very interesting.

"I loved the fact that we went deep into the basics. You think you know it all, but in the game there's always something."

Kirby has been playing squash for six decades starting in 1964 and officially refereeing since 2006.

When Kirby's not playing squash he's heading up the Wheelchair Research Team, among other projects, for over 40 years at Dalhousie University and The Nova Scotia Rehabilitation Centre, in Halifax.



Provincial Squash Referee Lee Kirby provides instruction on the basics of refereeing the game of squash. (Photo by Judy Myrden)



Squash players Cordale Hann, left, Brooklyn Boudreau and Craig Potts listen carefully to Kirby's instructions. (Photo by Judy Myrden)

902 Squash Ed Tourney



Junior Division 5 winner Ava Wiseman with runner up and cousin Cooper Wiseman (Photo by Cordale Hann)

The 902SquashEd program held its annual Squash Tournament for education programs on Nov.22-24 at the King's Squash Club (KCSC) in Kentville.

Apart from a good vibe, the club hosted nine Divisions, including five Junior Divisions, with a total of 74 players.

The non-profit program aims to empower students of African descent through the sport of squash. The weekly program has 20 players - 13 of these players are new to the 902SquashEd this year.

The event raised approximately \$700.

All money raised goes directly to the 902Squash Ed programming, including tournament participation for the players, nutrition and leadership opportunities, as well as, travel and accommodations.

Two 902Squash Ed players **Kayin Burrell** and **Cohen Riley-Zwicker** will be travelling to the Canadian Junior Open on Dec. 7th at the White Oaks Club in Niagara, along with Squash Coach and 902Squash Ed President **Janet MacLeod**.

A special thanks to **James Wiseman**, **Greg Myers** and Janet MacLeod for making this event a success. And to **Dr. Carrie Terry Family Dentistry**, as the sponsor in part of food for the event, and has sponsored many Valley tournaments. Horton High School was the sponsor for the T-shirts.

Ask The Ref!

Dealing With Player Dissent - Recent World Squash Organization Directives

From the Black Shirt team: Zal Davar, Lee Kirby, Thom Hori, Elvira Mitraka , and Abdelrahman Abdallah

Recently, the **World Squash Officiating** (WSO) has issued a few directives which seek to clarify referees' implementation of some of the rules. With Squash's upcoming debut at the Olympics, as well as a desire to bring squash to mainstream television, the intent is to make squash more viewer-friendly by reducing a few controversial behaviours which have caused some concern in the recent past, and also clarifying understanding of a few key areas.

The directives gained attention when a clip of a recent **Professional Squash Association** (PSA) match was posted, in which one of the players was penalized by "conduct match", for trying to influence the referee's decision. The clip did not show what led up to the decision, nor the context of the preceding WSO directives which had jointly been agreed to by the WSO and the PSA players.

Below are a few highlights of the directives which address "player dissent" and how it is now being handled at the PSA level. While dissent is not typically such an issue at the recreational level, the information below is provided to raise awareness.

Directives related to Player Dissent :

It is important to understand that players trying to influence referee decisions by creating or exaggerating improper movement(s) and/or interference, thus causing too many interruptions and stoppages in the game, will not be tolerated.

Nor should players be shouting decisions or making comments to influence the referee prior to them awarding a decision. Referees have been instructed to use the Code of Conduct for this type of influencing behaviour.

Players can ask for explanations from referees to understand actions better, but explanations should not be required for every decision. Providing an explanation, after giving their decision, is at the discretion of the referee, and that must be accepted without further discussion.

Player dissent is distinct from requesting an explanation for a decision. Dissent occurs when a player expresses disagreement or objection to a referee's decision through behaviours such as repeated questioning, using an aggressive tone, arguing, shouting, or making disrespectful comments, gestures, expressions, or head-shakes, audibly and/or visibly challenging the referee's authority or competency at any time before, during or after a match or tournament. This includes attempting to sway, vary or change the outcome of the referee's decision.

This behaviour will result in code of conduct consequences based on the severity. Players must accept the decisions and explanations given by the Referee without engaging in further

Each month our local **Black Shirt Ref Crew** responds to questions from the readership about rules, specific situations, and officiating decisions in general.

Through this column, players will build knowledge into both their games and their own officiating skills.

Please submit your squash officiating questions by email to inthenick@nssquash.ca.

discussion. Referees are being instructed to clamp down on this area due to an increase in continued and extended discussions during matches.

The links below provide access to the full directives published to date, which also include topics related to: speed of play, time wasting, foot faults, safety (notably eyewear for juniors), fair play, proper player movement and clearing, coaching, court etiquette, verbal or physical abuse, interference, injury, blocking and code of conduct.

Also included is a link to an interview with WSO/PSA representatives, explaining the context of the match in question and an interview with **Lee Drew**, WSO Officiating.

- [WSO Directives](#)
- [Player discussion](#)
- [Interview with Lee Drew WSO Officiating \(podcast hosted by Gerry Gibson, former Halifax squash stalwart\)](#)

Contributions to **In The Nick** are welcome! Send in your letters, stories, or feedback to us here:
InTheNick@nssquash.ca

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