

U.S. SQUASH Junior Update

October 2011



Dear Junior Parents, Players, and Coaches,

Please read the following newsletter for some important information and reminders regarding updates with U.S. SQUASH:

- Code of Conduct Reminder
- Junior Calendar Complete Through March
- JCT—Pennsylvania and the 2011 U.S. Junior Open Squash Championships
- Combined Age Divisions and Minimum Number of Players
- Junior Membership Dues Supplement Program Enhancements

2011 Delaware Investments U.S. Open

Congratulations to Amr Shabana and Laura Massaro for winning the 2011 Delaware Investments U.S. Open Squash Championships that took place from September 28th—October 6th at Drexel University's Daskalakis Athletic Center in Philadelphia, PA. Pictured above is the venue that hosted the incredible squash matches throughout the week long tournament.

Code of Conduct Reminder

The principles of fair play and sportsmanship are a central tenet of the game of squash. These values are upheld in the U.S. SQUASH Code of Conduct, which applies to all sanctioned play in the U.S. for both Juniors and Adults. As an exciting new season begins, U.S. SQUASH would like to remind all players, parents, and coaches of some of the central concepts of the Code of Conduct, and asks the entire community for their help in upholding what makes squash a special and unique sport.

When watching a match, parents, coaches, and fans should cheer for good play, whether for the player they support or for the opponent. This support should always remain positive; do not cheer for errors or actively root against another player.

If a player believes their own ball was out, not up, or down, they are expected to call this on themselves in the event that a referee is not present or does not make the call.

Refereeing is difficult, and junior players are working hard to improve their skills to adjudicate matches fairly. In no situation is it acceptable for parents or coaches to interfere with the referees, either during or after a match. If a parent or coach has a concern, this should be addressed with a tournament staff member or the Tournament Director, never directly with the referees.

Players should accept a referee's decision with grace and respect.

Players are expected to fulfill their refereeing duties after their match is completed. One of the distinctive elements of squash is that two players who have just battled it out on court must then immediately work together to act as marker and referee for the next match. Doing so shows mutual respect and helps to build meaningful friendships.

U.S. SQUASH thanks all players, parents, coaches, and fans for their support in upholding the Code of Conduct and the ideals of fair play and sportsmanship.



Junior Calendar Complete Through March

The Junior Calendar is now complete through the end of March! Soon, summer tournament dates will also be available on the U.S. SQUASH Calendar to help better prepare players and families for squash camps and other junior events during the summer.

JCT— Pennsylvania and the 2011 U.S. Junior Open Squash Championships

Registration is open for JCT – Pennsylvania taking place from December 2-4, 2011. Please go to the JCT – Pennsylvania tournament information page to sign up today! Registration closes at 12:00pm EST, Noon, on November 9, 2011. And, registration is open for the 2011 U.S. Junior Open Squash Championships! Be a part of 600 or more Juniors coming from all over the world to play in the United States' Premier Junior Tournament! Visit the Tournament Information page to register by 5:00pm EST, on November 11th, 2011!

Combined Age Divisions and Minimum Number of Players

In some cases, a Tournament Director may choose to combine age divisions (For instance Boys' Under 15 and Boys' Under 17) due to low entries or other extenuating factors.

In the event divisions are combined, a player who registered in the younger age division may choose to have his or her earned points from that tournament applied to his or her ranking in that younger age division. If there are 4 or more players who are eligible by age in the younger age division which have been combined into the older age division, the requesting player will earn points equivalent to his or her relative finish compared to all players in the division who qualified and attended the tournament from the lower age division (e.g. if 5 players qualify for the BU11 division and it is combined with the BU13, the player that finishes the best out of those 5 players would receive points for first in the BU11, etc.).

If there are 3 or fewer players, then the requesting player will earn the same number of points in the younger age division as they did for their finish in the older combined division.

The player may also choose to not convert his or her point values into the younger age division, and instead take the points in the older age division.

If a player who registered in the lower age division wishes to have their points converted into his or her standard age division, they must communicate this to the tournament director and U.S. SQUASH in order to have the points adjusted.

Junior Member Dues Supplement Program Enhancements

The U.S. SQUASH Board of Directors approved a modest junior member dues increase effective October 1, 2011. The increase is part of a funding plan to increase sweeping junior program enhancements focusing on building out the world's leading officiating infrastructure.



At their meeting held today in conjunction with the 2011 Delaware Investments U.S. Open Squash Championships, the Board reviewed initial plans for a initiative which will, among other things, provide introductory referee clinics taught in clubs nationally, enhance the online referee exam and provide additional online educational officiating resources, and a Junior Leadership Mentoring program. The initiative is based on filling needs expressed by the junior community in surveys conducted earlier this spring. Early program details have been discussed and reviewed by the U.S. SQUASH Teaching Pro Advisory Council and several District leaders.

Continued on the next page.

Continued from page 3.

The goals of the program include developing better educated, more highly trained, confident junior players and referees. The program intends to increase knowledge and awareness of the rules, proper sportsmanship and the code of conduct by all players in order to provide a more positive experience of the sport.



To fund the full program, the ten dollar junior member dues increase will be accompanied by a ten dollar sanctioned tournament participant fee per tournament. The tournament fees will roll out for all junior sanctioned tournaments effective January 1, 2012 and will partially offset costs associated with the program which

will require an additional employee and contractor support to develop the program materials, implement and manage all aspects of the initiative.

