The British Junior Open (BJO) is one of the most prestigious junior squash championships in the world, and US SQUASH will conduct a Team USA 2018 BJO Trip as a development program for the country’s top ranked junior players.

England Squash limits each country to a maximum of five (5) players per age group and requires these players to be approved and endorsed by the player’s federation. As such, US Squash will nominate five players per age group to represent Team USA at the 2018 BJO with the players being selected based on the criteria outlined below.

Players will have the ability to choose whether they travel as part of the US Squash Team USA BJO Trip or travel separately under supervision by a parent or guardian. The Under 11 division is new this year at the BJO. US Squash will endorse qualified players wishing to participate in the Under 11 division, however for age and supervision reasons, Under 11 competitors must travel with at least one parent or guardian for the duration of the trip. All American players are eligible to receive coaching from US Squash coaches, regardless of travel arrangements.

1. Eligibility Criteria

In order for players to be considered for selection they must:

- Be a United States citizen
- Be age-eligible for the competition in question
- Maintain US Squash membership from the start of the candidate process through the end of the competition
- Comply with all World Squash Federation eligibility requirements regarding international championships
- Have no documented serious on or off-court conduct violations of the US Squash Code of Conduct
- Sign and comply with all US Squash U.S. Junior Team policies and contracts

2. Selection Criteria

- The five (5) highest ranked U.S. Citizens competing in each of the Under 19/Under 17/ Under 15/ Under 13/ Under 11 Divisions, that remain age-eligible throughout the entirety of the competition and who confirm their interest with US Squash by the documented deadline will be endorsed to enter the competition and represent Team USA at the 2018 BJO.
- Rankings to determine the qualification for the 2018 BJO will be based on the first rankings run after the 2017 Midwest JCT (September 20, 2017).
- US Squash will use all active rankings points in the respective age division; i.e. if a player has 3 exposures at BU15 then they will be taken into account first.
US Squash will use points accrued at the older age group and calculate down to the younger age group at 120%, starting with the highest tournaments points and continuing down until 4 exposures are reached.

In the event that two players are tied on points, the following criteria will be used to determine qualification:

1. The most recent head-to-head match record between the two tied players (the match must have taken place since 9/20/16).
2. The player with the highest junior rating as of the first rankings run after the JCT Midwest (9/20/17).

Selected players will have until October 4, 2017, or three (3) days after an invitation is extended, whichever is later, to accept or decline the position on the team.

Should a player decline a position then the next person that is age and rankings eligible will receive the invitation.

3. Registration Timeline

- September 20 – Initial notification and invitations sent to the Top 15 players.
- October 4 – Deadline for accepting a position.

4. Benefits

US Squash will be assigning six national/regional coaches to accompany the Team USA Trip players to the 2018 BJO and will also be available to coach all American participants.

In the event a player travels as a member of the Team USA Trip, they will not be allowed to also travel and be supervised by a private/personal coach.

The Team USA BJO Trip is inclusive of the following:

1. BJO Entry Fee
2. Local Travel in England
3. Accommodation
4. Meals
5. Team USA Training Squads (3) in England
6. Team USA Uniform/Apparel
7. Supervision and Coaching

Team USA Trip participants will be responsible for the cost of their own roundtrip airfare from the U.S. to England and spending money. Should parents of players participating via the Team USA Trip wish to travel to the event, there will be periods of time allocated to Team USA activities when parents will not be permitted to take players away from the group. Guidelines of how best to cooperate in support of the supervising US Squash national/regional coaches will be distributed in advance of the trip and will include details on how to approach any ‘in-game’ coaching by parents for supervised Team USA Trip players (allowed with prior approval of a US Squash national/regional coach).
For those choosing to travel and participate independently from the supervised Team USA Trip, the costs related to US Squash will be reimbursement of the BJO Entry Fee and the cost of purchasing (optional) Team USA Uniform/Apparel.

Again, all American players are eligible to receive coaching from US Squash coaches, regardless of travel arrangements.

5. Team USA Trip Timeline

- December 30 - Depart from USA on an evening flight.
- December 31 - Arrive into Manchester International Airport + Team USA Training Squad
- January 1 - Team USA Training Squad
- January 2 - Team USA Training Squad → depart for Birmingham.
- January 3 - Day 1 – 2018 British Junior Open.
- January 4 - Day 2 – 2018 British Junior Open.
- January 5 - Day 3 – 2018 British Junior Open.
- January 6 - Day 4 – 2018 British Junior Open.
- January 7 - Day 5 – 2018 British Junior Open / 7th evening departure (from either Manchester or London Heathrow).