

Squash Ontario AGM June 17th, 2016 Breakout Session Report - Leagues

Facilitated by: Andrew Mount

Reported by: Joanna Phang

1) Western Region

- Jeff Deverill presented his overview
- League Planner that is used for score keeping is competent
- Currently no Division 1, A players are in Div 2 playing the top spot on teams, makes up for good exhibition
- Currently no Division 5, potential for another tier of league play
- Memberships at clubs are generally increasing, league participation should increase within the next few years
- One of the reasons lacking league participation is players don't see value in playing, social aspect non-existent
- Some clubs set price point at \$30, possibly too high, especially for university students

2) T&D League

- Eric Baldwin and Josh McDonald presented their overview
- Main complaint is travel to and from matches during peak hours in TO
- To field 5 players per night is very challenging
- Younger players especially with young families unable to stay longer to socialize
- Andrew Laidlaw is now the current President and IT Director

3) Southwestern ON (Woodstock-Sarnia)

- Derek Moore presented his overview
- All divisions play on Thursday night only, at various clubs
- Social aspect is vibrant as there are more than 2 clubs playing at the same venue
- Players pay \$40 admin fee for the season

4) ODSA

- Mikola Czich presented his overview
- 6-7 Divisions
- 4 players per team
- Admin fee is \$150 for the season (I'm assuming this is cost per team)
- Food not included
- Players are on ranking system
- Teams get a chance to move up a division according to results per week
- Positive feedback so far

Recommendations/Suggestions:

- A universal Ranking system should be in place, will definitely help motivate players
- Mix players from different clubs to form teams
- Appoint 2-3 co-Captains per team to divide responsibilities
- Encourage junior teams

- Host at least 4 clubs per venue per night
- Give players option to socialize
- Regionalize teams to cut down traveling time, especially in Toronto
- Allow teams to move up a division
- Make teams all-inclusive (allow juniors and women to play on men's teams)
- Decrease number of players per night, i.e. 3 or 4 instead of 5).
- A self-rating system should be in place
- League results to be included in Squash Ontario ranking system
- Request for food and drinks to be separately charged to be considerate to the Muslim population (according to Pat Hartunian)

Break Out Sessions Report - School Squash

Facilitated by: Dave Morrish

Reported by: Kathy Cowper

- Teachers as members at club an advantage to getting into schools
- 1st year free (if you can) or else \$2/kid
- Keep drills short (2x15 min) repeat for 50 min total
- Squash ON currently has funds \$25 hr + travel (1 time) is good intro
- Matt E. mentioned the manual already created "Counting Schools" and "Guide to Junior Squash"—how about getting this out and revamp? WO get \$30,000 total revenue using non-peak court times, need SO "Hands On" and club managers to promote program
- Alan Cook—PE teachers will let you take over the class but need contacts as hard to get into the school boards
- SO-Contact Consultants @ school boards as initial contact so easier for coaches to get into school (K note)
- Pros need materials eg. Video from Dave
- SO-develop a package for distribution to requests?
- 8 week program from Squash NZ—"Small Nicks" (available on website)
- Personal relationships can be bridged with Ambassadors—use them!
- Clubs should be able to get contacts for schools from SO
- Everyone should be able to get info off the SO website
- Grants for Schools Squash and junior programming?
- Coordinate with SC and University Squash
- Shopping mall promotion-3 tables together—most # hits in a row.
- SO needs to tap into the YMCA, Boys & Girls Clubs.
- Have a "SO School Tour"—get corporate sponsor (like Black Knight) and hit 70-80 schools
- Set up a wall in the parking lot for most hits and also have a TV monitor beside showing a pro match
- Grade 3 ideal start up age—can continue and build on skills for Gr 4, 5

- Can get schools to come to club as a field trip after the in school visit—this fits well with Fitness Canada Model (early intro=lifelong fitness)
- Goal is to plant the seed at the school so this should be free
- Transportation is an issue to a club unless they can walk (otherwise need field trip)
- Marketing strategies needed to make program advantageous to the owners
- SO ambassador to universities to tap into this market
- WLU working with NF but some road blocks as only \$300 for squash
- Why not get university students to help with school programs?
- Good to send kids home with souvenir bag (SO anything to contribute?)
- University run sport camps—WLU having NF manage their squash camp
- Sharing of info-“can we get Dave’s ideas?”—portal on Website so everyone can share drills and ideas? Google Drive? Private Facebook Page? Send to SO to compile then PDF out to individuals interested?