

Folks,

Just to make things clear, the bottom line is that under the rules of Squash, it has been a longstanding and accepted single sex sport - competitively men play men and women play women - Internationally, NZ Championships, District Championships Super Champs etc (except for mixed doubles). However, for many years, occasionally at the top level, A/B1 grade women were permitted by clubs in "open tournaments".

Some years ago (at least 15-20) when the grading list first became computerised, the MEN raised the question of their not receiving points for winning matches against the A/B1 women that they encountered in men's competitions.

To overcome this, Squash NZ introduced the policy whereby if top graded women (A/B1) wished to participate in men's competitions - primarily tournaments - they would be given a "men's grade" and that men v's women's matches would be recorded on the men's grading list. It was also a policy that **where two women with men's gradings** met in a match in a **men's** competition, the match was to be recorded as a **women's match on the women's grading list only**. The result was not "recorded" as being a "men's competition" match.

With the implementation of the new SIT system, the above policy was reviewed, particularly in the light of the fact that there has, over the past few years been a downward creep of the original "A/B1 women only" on the men's grading list and that it is now not uncommon to see women playing in the C, D & E grade men's tournaments, and in many cases NOT playing in the women's divisions of the same tournaments, (as is required by the original Squash NZ policy). In effect many women have only been playing in the men's divisions of tournaments.

The above has also been noted in respect of Interclub in some districts with "mixed" teams - women only playing in "mixed" competition and more often than not, only playing men.

On the basis that **women who hold a men's grading** do so for the purposes of playing competitive matches against **men in men's competition**, (and having the result recorded in the men's side of the system), and in consideration of past policy where two women met in men's competition the result was only recorded as a women's match, it has been determined for the 2010 season onwards, that:-

1. Where a woman with a **men's** grading plays a man, the result will be recorded in the MENS Grading List (in accordance with previous policy).
2. Where two women, with men's gradings play in a men's competition,
 - a) The result will be recorded on the MENS Grading List (in recognition of the fact that they BOTH have men's gradings).
 - b) The result will be recorded on the WOMENS Grading List (in accordance with previous policy), *AND*
3. Where two women with BOTH women's & men's gradings play in women's competition,
 - a) The result will be recorded Women's Grading List (normal practice), *AND*
 - b) The result will also be recorded in the MENS Grading List (in recognition of the fact that they BOTH have men's gradings).

In summary, where two women, with **both** men's & women's gradings play one another in ANY competition, the result will be reflected against both their men's & women's gradings.

In effect the introduction of the new SIT system has enabled a very contentious area:

- Women playing women in men's competition and the result only impacting on the women's grading list;
- Women playing men only and "holding" their women's grading

To be addressed and very simply "fixed".

While Squash NZ will accept and provide for those women who wish to do so, to play men competitively, the sport & gradings are, by the official rules: men's v's men/ women v's women.

In short those women who wish to play men competitively (and thus have a men's grading), their competition results will be reflected in both the women's grading and their men's grading, where applicable.

This change in policy was advised to District Statisticians some time ago.

Steve Scott

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Squash NZ.