

### **Point a Rally (PAR) Scoring**

PAR scoring was introduced by the World Squash Federation as the standard scoring system within squash in 2008.

County associations have been encouraged since then to adopt PAR in their competitions. At the last Council meeting we agreed to circulate a brief questionnaire to all counties to ascertain where PAR had been introduced and to gauge its impact over a full season.

23 responses were received which revealed the following general trends:

- About half of county league premier divisions used PAR scoring during the 2009/10 season.
- Where PAR11 was introduced for county leagues some counties reported that due to the shortening of match times the scoring was altered to PAR15.
- HIHO scoring was retained for most county leagues below premier division.
- Just over half of senior county closed championships were run using PAR during the 2010/11 season - these were predominantly PAR11.
- Almost all junior county closed championships were run using PAR11 scoring during the 2010/11 season

The feedback received highlights a mixed approach from counties to PAR scoring. Some county associations have embraced PAR and introduced it throughout their activity. Some have also been proactive and adapted to PAR15 in the areas that where they felt it appropriate. In general these associations have reported that even after initial concern, PAR has been accepted and they will continue to use it.

Other counties have been more reluctant to trial PAR scoring due to concern from players about the length of matches and have instead preferred to continue to use HIHO scoring.

It is clear that since the introduction of PAR scoring our sport will continue to evolve as more and more squash moves over to PAR. England Squash & Racketball introduced PAR11 scoring for all its junior squash at the beginning of the 2008/9 season and over the last two years it has become embedded within the junior structure of the sport and has been widely accepted. PAR scoring will continue to be the standard scoring system for all our junior squash activity.

PAR will also continue to be used for the Men's and Women's Inter County Championships (at senior and junior Open level) as well as the Men's Over 35 and

Over 40 categories in the British Open and National Championships. It should also be noted that the Men's Over 35 and 40 categories at the Regional Masters championships now play PAR scoring.

The Competition & Events department will be putting forward the following recommendations to the Board of Directors on 1 July for consideration:

***The Inter County Men's Over 35 Championships to be played using PAR11 scoring from the start of the 2010/11 season, to bring it into line with the National and British Open Championships.***

***England Squash & Racketball to strongly recommend to counties:***

- ***The use of PAR scoring for all junior county activity***
- ***The use of PAR scoring for all county league premier divisions as a minimum***
- ***The use of PAR scoring for all senior county cup competitions***
- ***The use of PAR scoring for all county closed competitions***
- ***To consider using PAR15 where appropriate to alleviate the risk of shorter games, particularly in lower leagues.***

In line with earlier guidance we do still believe that scoring systems at recreational and club level should be entirely discretionary, and have no plans to propose change in this area.

We will continue to monitor the situation and report back periodically.

Chris Nutley  
Head of Competition & Events