

The Mid-Atlantic Squash Conference

Conference By-laws

October 2021

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Mid-Atlantic Squash Conference Bylaws

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Foreword

In order to best understand the following bylaws, it is important to clarify the relationship between the Mid-Atlantic Squash Conference (MASC), the College Squash Association (CSA), and the National Collegiate Athletics Association (NCAA).

The MASC, CSA, and NCAA are all separate entities but all are allied in a common goal of providing infrastructure to intercollegiate athletic competition.

The Mid-Atlantic Squash Conference is an athletic conference under the umbrella of the College Squash Association, the governing body for intercollegiate varsity and club squash. Currently, intercollegiate squash has three officially recognized conferences, the Ivy League, the New England Small College Athletic Conference (NESCAC) and the Liberty League. MASC operates as the first ever squash-specific conference in intercollegiate squash and follows similar competition and compliance models as these pre-existing conferences as mandated by the CSA and NCAA.

Separately, either Division I or Division III NCAA rules bind all member institutions of the CSA. The College Squash Association is a unique intercollegiate athletics governing body, as we have member institutions in both divisions. MASC will be in a similar situation, currently we will have representatives of Division III and Division I in both the men's and women's divisions.

Article I: Name

The association will be known as the Mid-Atlantic Squash Conference.

Article II: Mission

The Mid-Atlantic Squash Conference seeks to better member institution's student-athletes through the education of competition with an inherent focus on sportsmanship and fair play.

Article III: Purpose

The purpose of the Mid-Atlantic Squash Conference (MASC) is to unify currently non-conference affiliated varsity collegiate squash programs, mainly concentrated in the Mid-Atlantic region of the United States, into a competition conference.

Article IV: Governance Structure

1. The head coaches of every member institution will govern the Mid-Atlantic Squash Conference, known as the Executive Committee. This committee will vote on all issues brought in front of the conference that require a decision. Each coach will receive one vote on all matters, with dual head coaches (head coaches of both men's and women's teams) receiving one vote total.
 - a. A President of the Executive Committee will be voted in beginning in the 2021/22 season. A unanimous vote by the committee is required to assume the role.
2. A Commissioner will be voted to lead the conference beginning in 2021/22. The commissioner will conduct and organize all committee meetings, set the agenda for those meetings, and manage the conference's finances and championships. The commissioner will also serve as the tiebreaker in the event of a tie on votes of a league issue.
 - a. In the event of the role being vacated, an election would take place at the next scheduled Executive Committee meeting. In the interim, the Executive Committee would take joint control of the Conference.
3. A 2/3-majority vote is required for passage of any issue being voted on.

Article V: Membership

1. Membership in the Mid-Atlantic Squash Conference entitles all membership institutions the rights, privileges, and obligations stated in the By-laws of the conference.
2. More specifically, a member in good standing is provided the right to participate in the end of season MASC Championships, the right to use the official MASC logo in promotional literature, online, on paper, or in signage.
3. The members the Mid-Atlantic Squash Conference are as follows:
 - a. Men's Division: Dickinson College, Drexel University, Franklin & Marshall College, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, The University of Virginia, and the US Naval Academy
 - b. Women's Division: Dickinson College, Drexel University, Franklin & Marshall College, Georgetown University and The University of Virginia
 - c. Former members: George Washington University
4. **Membership for an institution to join MASC will be voted upon by the Executive Committee, be ratified by the commissioner and require a unanimous vote for a proposed member institution to join.**
5. For a team to join MASC they must be a varsity program at an accredited American university. Club teams may not join.

Article VI: Dues

1. Dues will provide for conference trophies, funds necessary to put on the MASC Championship weekend, and general conference business.
 - a. Dues will be presented to the executive committee by the commissioner and voted on. The president will send an outline justifying the amount of the dues to all member coaches prior to the vote.
2. A requirement for continued membership in the MASC will be prompt payment of league dues. Delinquent payments or failing to pay at all will result in a two-step penalty process (see a & b, below). Member institutions that do not have any issues with due payments or problems during competition will be viewed as being in “good standing” in the eyes of the Executive Committee.
 - a. Step 1: Probation period requiring punctual payment of dues of the previously missed dues and future dues.
 - b. Step 2: If another violation occurs, a member institution's status as a member in the conference will be voted on.

3. Dues will be reviewed on an annual basis to determine if a need for increasing or decreasing the amount exists.

Article VII: Sportsmanship, Fair Play, and Code of Conduct Policy

1. Sportsmanship and Fair Play, as it applies to players and coaches, are of the utmost importance to the members and leadership of the Mid-Atlantic Squash Conference and are crucial to our mission statement as a conference. The core of MASC's official sportsmanship statement is as follows:
 - a. "The College Squash Association will promote and expect good sportsmanship by student-athletes, coaches, staff and spectators. We request your cooperation by supporting the participants and officials in a positive manner. Cheer for your team, not against opponents. Profanity, racist or sexist comments or other intimidating actions directed at officials, student-athletes, coaches or team representatives are not acceptable and are grounds for removal from the site of competition. Also, consumption or possession of alcoholic beverages is prohibited.
 - b. Any intentional cheating, on or off court, is punishable under the terms of these bylaws; see Section 3 of Article VII.
2. Code of Conduct Policy:
 - a. Players: Competing players must treat their opponents, player, referees and coaches alike, with respect. Foul language, aggressive/physical behavior, verbal abuse or dissent will not be tolerated. Any violation of these terms shall be reported via the approved CSA Incident Reporting process.
 - b. Coaches: The conduct of the coaches is paramount to the successful enforcement of the MASC Sportsmanship, Fair Play, and Code of Conduct Policy.
 - i. Coaches are prohibited from speaking directly with referees about decisions or the conduct of an opposing player.
 - ii. Coaches are responsible for enforcing this policy within their own teams.
 - c. Supporters: a supporter of a certain institution is the assumed responsibility of that team's coaches and athletic department administration if he or she is being unruly, disrespectful or aggressive.
 - i. Coaches have the right to expel any unruly fan from the venue.

3. Rules Infractions:
 - a. Any rules infractions shall be reported by any officially listed coach to the [CSA Incident Reporting System](#)
 - b. Rule infractions can involve any of the following categories:
 - i. Sportsmanship, Fair Play, and Code of Conduct Policy violations involving players, coaches, or supporters
 - ii. Academic or Athletic Eligibility
 - iii. Roster manipulation or “stacking”
 - iv. Any other violation deemed to violate any NCAA, CSA, or MASC policies.

Article VIII: The MASC Championships

1. The MASC Championship will be the annual conference championship tournament comprised of all member institutions in good standing with the conference.
2. The tournament will take place to coincide with the NESCAC and Liberty League annual tournaments, and can start no earlier than February 1.
 - a. If an alternate weekend is agreed upon unanimously by all coaches, it can be moved away from the NESCAC/LL weekend
3. Host venue requirements:
 - a. The host facility must have a minimum of 6 courts to be able to accommodate two simultaneous team matches.
 - b. The host facility must provide shower and locker room facilities to visiting teams.
4. Host venue rotation:
 - a. Previous hosts: 2018/19: University of Virginia, 2019/20: Washington DC/George Washington University, 2020/21: No contest/COVID-19
 - b. In the following seasons, we will commence a three-year rotational schedule of Mid-Atlantic host sites.
 - i. As of October 2020, agreed upon rotation will be: 2023 in Philadelphia, 2024 at UVA, 2025 is TBD.
5. Tournament seeding:
 - a. Seeding for tournament will be based off of head to head conference standings when all teams are able to play one another before the MASC Championships.
 - b. If any tie is present, the two team’s head-to-head record will be used to determine the tiebreaker.

- c. If no head-to-head result exists, the higher CSA ranking will break the tie.
 - d. If not all member teams are able to play one another prior to the MASC Championships, the most recent CSA rankings before the event will be used to determine seeding.
- 6. Tournament structure:
 - a. Dependent on the amount of teams entered into each division:
 - i. 4 teams: round robin play.
 - ii. 5 teams: round robin play.
 - iii. 6-8 teams: 8 team draw, 6 teams mean 1 & 2 seeds get byes, 7 teams mean 1 seed gets a first round bye.
- 7. Rosters:
 - a. Rosters must be submitted the Wednesday before the event to give ample time to coaches to appeal any lineups.
 - b. 10 players will compete in matches, with 9 counting towards the final score.
 - c. A player must have played in 5 official CSA matches prior to the MASC Championships to be eligible to play.
 - i. Extreme cases: these will be decided by the Executive Committee on a case-by-case basis, for players returning from injury etc. that do not meet the 5-match benchmark.
- 8. Refereeing:
 - a. The away team referees the odd numbered matches and the home team the even. The higher ranked team is considered the home team.
 - b. Professional referees will be able to referee both the men's and women's finals, if agreed upon by the Executive Committee.
- 9. Trophies:
 - a. Cumulative trophies: The trophies that will list all past winners and will be held by the winners of the men's and women's divisions until the next MASC championship.

Article IX: Compliance and Eligibility

- 1. The members of the Mid-Atlantic Squash Conference will follow the eligibility and compliance regulations set forth by the College Squash Association and the NCAA division applicable to their institution.
 - a. Division I members: Drexel University, Georgetown University, the University of Virginia, and the US Naval Academy

- b. Division III members: Dickinson College, Franklin & Marshall College, and Massachusetts Institute of Technology
- 2. All NCAA Division I/III academic and athletic eligibility rules followed by each member institution apply to, and will be enforced during competition in the Mid-Atlantic Squash Conference.
- 3. Specific cases concerning eligibility, if not already handled by the institution involved, shall be reported to, and handled by the CSA if the issue persists.

Article X: Amendments

- 1. Any amendment to these bylaws can be brought before the Executive Committee but requires a unanimous vote to go into effect.

