

HOWE CUP

U.S. Women's Team Championship Tournament Rules

TOURNAMENT NAME

The competition or the national team championships in the U.S. shall be called the "Howe Cup National Team Championships". The Howe Cup, a permanent trophy, was presented by Mrs. Virginia Griggs of New York in 1955 in honor of the leading family in women's squash. The 'B' Howe Cup was given in 1959 by Mrs. Henry Flynt and Mrs. Mary W. Knapp. The 'C' Howe Cup was donated in 1969 by Mr. James Traviss of Toronto.

TOURNAMENT DIRECTOR

The Howe Cup National Championship shall be run by the Howe Cup Chairperson who is appointed annually by the President of the USSRA Women's Division, and such persons as she shall appoint to assist her.

The tournament director shall make the draw 10 days prior to the start of play. Each regional Howe Cup chairperson is responsible for telephoning the tournament director for the starting times.

The decision of the tournament director shall control during the matches.

ELIGIBILITY

1. The competition shall be a sanctioned tournament open to members of the USSRA and invited foreign teams.
2. The tournament shall be divided into three categories: A, B & C, which shall conform to such definitions as are established by the USSRA Women's Division.
3. Each region shall be entitled to enter one team in each category, and may request to enter additional teams in one or more categories. The member of a regional team must be residents of that region, except as provided below:
4. Any player not residing within a region may represent the region geographically closest to her residence.
5. Any region not able to field a complete team in any category may complete the teams with members of the USSRA who do not reside within the boundaries of that region provided, however, that each region may be represented on only one such co-mingled team. The captain of a co-mingled team must be a member of the region not able to field a complete team.
6. No player ranked as an 'A' player may play on a lower team such as the 'B' or 'C' team. This applies to all levels. But a player may play above her USSRA established ranking level. If a player is found to be playing below her USSRA ranked level, her position on the team will be played as a default throughout the tournament.
7. In the event that the number of teams must be limited, teams will be accepted in the following order:
 - Regional Teams
 - Co-mingled Teams
 - Foreign Teams
 - Additional Teams from regions.

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ENTRIES

1. The entry application must list the name and address and telephone(s) of the captain of each team and the regional Howe Cup Chairperson and must enclose payment of the entry fee.
2. All players MUST be members of the USSRA, and their USSRA membership number must be submitted before the start of the tournament.
3. The tournament director has the option of rejecting any entries not made, as specified on the entry application.

PLAYING RULES

1. The team shall be rated in the order of their playing ability and shall be played in that order without substitution throughout the tournament.
2. Each team captain shall be responsible for giving the line-up of her team to the tournament director 4 days prior to the start of the tournament, and for such other duties as are assigned her by the tournament director.
3. In the event a team has less than five players available for their first match, the remaining players shall move up, if necessary, to fill the gap(s) in the line-up and shall default at the bottom position(s) held by the player(s) not available.
4. In the event a team has less than five players available for any subsequent match, they shall default at the position(s) held by the player(s) not available.
5. The tournament director may, at her option, permit any player who has been defaulted due to conditions beyond her control to take up her original position in the line-up for all matches following the match in which she was defaulted. "Conditions beyond her control" shall mean the player is unable to arrive on time due to accident, travel conditions, or other unavoidable hindrance.
6. Should a position on her team be vacant, the team captain shall attempt to find a player of similar ability for an informal match with the listed opponent. The score from this informal match will not count in any way for the tournament or for national ranking.
7. All matches shall be governed by the official playing rules of the USSRA.
8. Beginning with the 1983-84 tournament season. ALL PLAYERS MUST WEAR EYE PROTECTION FOR ALL MATCHES. Eye protection used must be that which is USSRA approved.

MANNER OF PLAY

1. IF four or fewer teams are entered in one category, the matches in that category shall be conducted on a round-robin basis.
2. If five or more teams are entered in one category, the tournament director may, at her option, run the matches as an elimination tournament. A consolation tournament shall be held for all first-round losers. The defending region, if any, shall be seeded first.

DETERMINATION OF THE WINNERS

1. In the event of a round-robin, the team winning the greatest number of matches shall be declared the Winner. Ties shall be broken in the following manner:
 - team matches won
 - individual matches won
 - games won
 - individual points won

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2. In the event of an elimination tournament, the winner of the final round shall be declared the Winner.

TROPHIES

1. The Howe Cup shall be awarded at the completion of matches to the region represented by the winning team in each category, which the team captain(s) shall retain custody thereof until the next competition. Each winning region shall have the year and its name engraved on the trophy at the expense of the USSRA. The receipt must be submitted to the USSRA treasurer for reimbursement.
2. Individual prizes shall be awarded to the members of the winning team in each category. There shall be a minimum of five prizes per team. Prizes will be determined by the tournament committee.

Document History:

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