

Referee Certification
Frequently Asked Questions

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Platform

What is the WSO Platform?

- The WSO is a partnership between the WSF and the PSA.
- An online education and assessment portal to standardise officiating qualifications worldwide.
- Aim of creating a worldwide standard in refereeing and a clear referee pathway.
- Been developed over several years and includes;
 - a video library of decisions using recent SquashTV clips
 - an easy to navigate rules section with example clips
 - a download section with handy PDF versions of the rules
 - line of thinking decision flow charts and template score sheets.
- Each level is split into multiple modules.

Why do we want to move to this platform?

- Provides opportunity for all Referees to come together.
- Squash Australia believe aligning is the best interest for our referees and future development.
- The benefits of adopting the WSO programme include;
 - access to new and up to date content
 - explanations and current interpretations
 - exclusive video library content from SquashTV.

How do referees transition to the platform?

- Each current Referee in Australia needs to start from Level 0 and work their way through the theory components. Referees who have had assessments/been recorded while refereeing over the last two years can send these to the WSO panel to get registered at your current level.
- It is important to note that all referees around the world, from the beginner to those refereeing the World Championships must start at WSO Level 0 and work through the levels.

What documents need to be uploaded for WSO for migration?

- Each WSO Level has a Summary Sheet on the Resources section of the WSO Platform that explains the requirements. But basically for the initial migration each referee reaching WSO Level 2&3 are required to upload a current Referee Log and Appraisals. These are to ensure that the individual is an active referee, can put your learning into practice and are refereeing at the required standard for the WSO Level. We are able to accept documents from January 2017 onwards.

When can we start?

- The WSO platform is already available with over 40 Australian referees currently registered.
- Referees who complete WSO certification prior to the launch of the Squash Australia Learning Centre can process Australian requirements directly to Squash Australia education.



When are required to be on the WSO platform?

- Squash Australia requires all referees to be on the platform by December 31, 2022.
- Event Allocations for 2023 will be based WSO certification.

Certifications

How do WSO levels fit with Australia's current certification levels?

- Australian referee levels equated to:
 - Club Level – WSO Level 1
 - State Level – WSO Level 2
 - National level – WSO Level 3
- This can be revisited as part of the migration.

Exactly what does each WSO level comprise of?

- **Levels 0&1** are theory based and include online modules followed by exams.
- **Levels 2 upwards** consist of online modules and exams but also include a practical side.
- The Resources section of the website includes Summary's for each level which goes into the detail associated with each level.

Certification

Does the Regional Referee level still exist?

- The Regional Referee level currently exists but will be replaced by WSO Level 4/5 over time.
- WSO Levels 4&5 are still being developed and are due to be released in 2022.

Does a WSF Referee still exist?

- Yes. WSO Levels 4&5 are yet to be finalised and released. Once they are live the transition from WSF to WSO will begin based on feedback from the pilot program.

What WSO certification will Squash Australia certified referees migrate to?

- All referees, including Regional Referees must work through the WSO levels from WSO Level 0 upwards.
- Existing documentation (appraisals etc) can be used to confirm WSO Levels.
- Existing Regional Referees will become WSO level 3 (initially as Level 4&5 have not been released yet) once they have worked through the theory side of the WSO levels.

How often is re-certification required?

- Referees are required to complete recertification through WSO every two years. This may be in the form of appraisals completed in that period.
- Additionally, referees are required to complete recertification through the Squash Australia Learning Centre every two years.



Is refereeing activity still considered to maintain or prior to upgrading?

- To maintain a certification referees will be required to officiate a minimum number of matches.
- Initially, current Squash Australia framework requirements will be used.

Are referees required to complete BOTH the Squash Australia and WSO coursework to be certified?

- Yes. Only referees who complete both components will be certified to referee in Australia.
- Referees who complete only the WSO coursework may be eligible to referee in other countries, subject to the requirements of that country.

Do referees have to redo WSO (and pay) or just redo SqA (and pay)?

- WSO and Squash Australia both have a fee associated with certification. The Squash Australia certification fee will contribute towards elements such as insurances, resources and events.
- Every two years an individual must retake their WSO Level learning and exam. This is to ensure that they are up to date with changes in the rules, interpretation and current line of thinking.

Do referees of all levels have to recertify every 2 years?

- Yes -re-accreditation for all WSO Levels is 2 years

Is this by doing the WSO levels again?

- Yes this achieved by completing the theory based exam and complying to the practical based elements in order to confirm Level. The referee only retakes the learning and test for their WSO level - they don't have to work through from WSO Level 0 again.

Any idea when Levels 4 and 5 will get onto WSO site?

- No confirmed date as yet but WSO Level 4/5/Mentoring /Appraising modules are in development. WSO Level 4 is nearing completion and we are looking at a release date in early summer.

Will WSO issue certification directly, rather than only through Squash AUS?

- Upon completion of WSO requirements, learners can request a physical certificate. However, this certificate will not be recognised in Australia until Squash Australia requirements have also been achieved through the Squash Australia Learning Centre



Fees

Is there a cost for the course and certification?

- WSO
 - WSO Level 0 – Free
 - WSO Level 1 – US\$15
 - WSO Level 2 – US\$25
 - WSO Level 3 – US\$50
 - WSO Level 4 & 5 – US\$100
- It is important to note that when you move up a level and pay the new fee you are automatically refunded the cost of the lower grade on a pro-rata basis. The refund is automatically generated and appears on the card account within 3 to 4 days.
- Squash Australia
 - \$15AUD at each certification level and recertification.
 - The \$15 certification fee is paid biennially and is the same regardless of certification level

Are the costs a one off or an annual cost? This is particularly in relation to WSO. It says re-accreditation every 2 years. We have let Club refs go for 4 years, so that's a change.

- Both the WSO and Squash Australia will require recertification biennially.
- The WSO fees are annual and are renewed automatically.

Administration

Who administers training and certification of each level?

- WSO manages and administers the system.
- Squash Australia will coordinate appraisals and domestic requirement (e.g. Working with Children Checks).
- For WSO Levels 0-3 there will be liaison with Squash Australia to confirm promotions etc.
- WSO Levels 4&5 will be controlled by WSO with consideration of Squash Australia requirements.

Will there be an appointment panel?

- Where a referee is appraised to be unsuccessful to advance to a higher level, Squash Australia will have in place mechanisms for that referee to request a review of their appraisal.

How do referees ensure their WWC Check/Blue card is up-to-date for Australian Junior events?

- Through the Squash Australia Learning Centre, referees will be able to manage all certification requirements.

Will state coordinators be able to see the records of other candidates of the state?

- No, only WSO, Squash Australia and individual referees will be able to access personal records and learning information. Squash Australia will regularly



update State and Territory Association Administrators of certified referees in their jurisdiction to assist with referee assessment at local events.

Are there any referee associations established internationally to represent referees interests?

- WSO has been developed to standardise refereeing worldwide and represent referees interests.

Requirements

Do countries have to partner with WSO to provide their referees with top level opportunities?

- It is at the discretion of Member Nation Federations (i.e. Squash Australia) to partner with WSO.
- It is hoped that WSO will become the unified referee training & development system around the world.
- Individuals are free to join WSO and benefit from the training and development opportunities.
- It is worth noting that:
 - It is the intention of WSF and PSA that over time referees will only be appointed to officiate at their events if they are appropriately WSO registered and qualified.

Has WSO published referee competencies? Without competencies, there is no basis for assessment/appraisal.

- Competencies are fundamental and are built into every WSO Level.

Development

Mention was made of future workshops. Will there be a cost?

- Squash Australia is currently investigating the possibility of delivering workshops and forums later in the year.
- WSO Workshops will become a regular feature on the calendar and will be free to WSO Level 1 members and above. However please note that some workshops may be targeted towards certain groups or levels of referee. For example a specific workshop may only be available to WSO Level 3 referees. We will make the workshops available on the WSO platform so that you can access them at any time. The first workshop, ran back in December is currently on the site and available to all.

Will there be a Log Book available to register matches on computer? This would make it easier for all to track.

- This is not currently possible but is great feedback and we will look at the possibility of adding this in future site developments.

Will it still be mandatory to do the Squash Australia Rules Exam?

- No, all squash specific assessments will be managed through the WSO platform.



Appraisals

Are appraisals required?

- Appraisals are required for individuals at, or working towards, WSO Level 2 and above.
- Up to WSO Level 3 these appraisals will continue to be carried out Squash Australia appraisers.
- Over time these appraisers will be given WSO training and guidance etc.
- Appraisals from January 2017 may be approved to help individuals to attain WSO Level 2&3.
- All levels also involve the use of mentoring and peer-to-peer development.

Are F2F appraisals still possible?

- Yes. F2F appraisals will continue as normal and wherever possible. Onsite/remote appraising will be available to give us more scope to ensure that those requiring appraisals can access them.

Who are Appraisers in Australia?

- WSO will continue to work with existing Squash Australia appraisers.
- Over time appraisers will be given WSO training and guidance.
- It is now possible for appraisals to take place remotely.

How are Appraisers certified/selected?

- WSO will work closely with Squash Australia to ensure that appraisers are suitably experienced to undertake the role.
- Existing Squash Australia appraisers will continue and over time will be given WSO training and guidance.
- WSO/Squash Australia will work together to identify individuals who have the potential to become appraisers etc.

Regarding standard of matches will these be related to PSA or Australian Rankings? There are a lot of Australian players who are not PSA members but better than the PSA members.

- There is no change here – matches will continue to be considered on their own merits and the standard of players/play involved. WSO will work closely with Squash Australia on this.

Rules

Does WSO include training and assessment of Doubles?

- This will come online over time. The doubles rules recently been updated and doubles will be incorporated to the WSO program.

WSO will eventually include: mentoring and Doubles?

- Mentoring modules are in development. Doubles will take a little longer (Phase 3) but interpretation material (including video footage) will be published throughout 2022.

Will it also include Appraising?

- Yes - see above

