FREE STATE SQUASH ASSOCIATION

MINUTES OF GENERAL MEETING HELD ON 09.03.2026

VIRTUAL MEETING (ONLINE) AT 17:15

Free State Squash / SQ GM 09 March 2026

No.	ITEM	DETAILS / NOTES	RESPONSIBLE
1.	**OPENING & WELCOME**	The Chairman opened the meeting at 17:06.	Chairman
2.	**PRESENT**	Riaan van Straaten (Chairman) Pierre Venter Margo Morgan Barend van der Merwe	Secretary
3.	**APOLOGIES**	Uncle Keith (written comments on previous minutes submitted prior to meeting)	Secretary
4.	**QUORUM**	**Discussion:** Pierre Venter indicated proxies were held for some clubs. Margo Morgan raised that no written proxies were submitted for this meeting and that each person may only hold one proxy. **Decision:** Meeting proceeded on the basis of members present. Proxy compliance flagged for future meetings. **Action:** *None.*	Chairman
5.	**MINUTES**	**Discussion:** Confirmation of Minutes of General Meeting held on 9 February 2026. Chairman read written feedback received from Uncle Keith. The following corrections were noted: Min 8: Bloem Open age groups and entry fees remain problematic. Sporty HQ does not accept entries without payment. Min 9.1: Bank signatories not yet changed despite new committee elected in November. Min 9.2: Spelling error identified by Margo Morgan. Min 9.3: Heading to change to “update on job descriptions and honorarium structure.” Portfolios submitted. Honorarium for previous secretary requires review. Min 9.4: Clarification needed on intended use of R17,500 development budget and responsible persons. Min 11: Confusion about “responsible persons” column. Min 14.1: Tournament administrator names should be minuted and communicated. Min 15: Regional coach progress report wording needs clarification. Structure of position to be reviewed. Min 16: Team schools outreach to be rephrased – discussions took place but no decisions were made. Min 19: Margo Morgan requested removal of her name – she was not involved in the junior squash development coordinator process. **Decision:**	Secretary, Chairman

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		Subject to the above corrections, minutes accepted as a true reflection of the previous meeting. Discussion: Future minutes must differentiate between person who raised a point and person accountable for the action. **Action:** • Secretary to action all corrections to previous minutes. • Riaan to work on new agenda and minute format so that future minutes clearly state: what was discussed, whether a decision was reached, and what action is required.	
6.	**MATTERS ARISING**	Covered under individual agenda items below.	Chairman
7.	**CORRESPONDENCE**	**Discussion:** Squash SA 16-page document on junior squash raised as urgent (see item 14.2). Communication gaps identified – community not always informed about positions and events. Pierre Venter proposed a quarterly newsletter to update the community on tournament results, league progress, and upcoming events. **Decision:** All future communication (positions, tournaments, etc.) to be sent to club representatives and posted on WhatsApp community group. Newsletter to be produced quarterly. First edition to be reviewed by executive committee before distribution. Community WhatsApp joining link and QR code to be integrated into the newsletter and all FSSA communications. **Action:** • Pierre Venter to draft first newsletter by 20 March 2026. • Pierre Venter to integrate community joining link and QR code into all communications.	Treasurer
8.	**CALENDAR**	**Discussion:** Upcoming events confirmed: • Masters Doubles: 20–22 March 2026 • North & South Junior Events: 27 & 20 March 2026 (important for junior rankings and World Juniors qualification) • Growth Point SA National Regionals (Juniors): 10–12 April 2026 • Senior Provincial Closed: Weekend of 7–10 May 2026 (first weekend unsuitable due to public holiday) Marking and refereeing training discussed. Pierre Venter proposed 1–2 sessions during weeks of 9 and 16 April (17:00–19:00), subject to Uncle Keith's availability. Margo Morgan recommended mandatory participation for league players, citing past practice of bonus points for attendance.	Treasurer, Margo

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		Decision: Tournament dates noted. Marking and refereeing training to be encouraged for all league players (particularly 3rd league downwards). Date to be selected based on majority availability. **Action:** • Margo Morgan to continue contacting players to enter North & South events. • Uncle Keith to be consulted on marking and refeering session availability.	
9.	**FINANCE**		
9.1	**Bank Signatories**	**Discussion:** Pierre Venter confirmed ABSA's requirements have been obtained. Entire committee must sign documents. New signatories: Pierre Venter, Riaan van Straaten, and Willem will then attend ABSA. Margo Morgan requested monthly balance updates. **Decision:** Monthly updates on current and investment account balances to be provided until changeover is complete. **Action:** • Pierre Venter to circulate documents for committee signatures. • Treasurer to provide monthly bank balance updates.	Treasurer
9.2	**NPO Registration**	**Discussion:** NPO status important for tax-deductible donations. Previous treasurer used the same auditor as their predecessor. **Decision:** Riaan van Straaten to follow up with previous auditors to establish status of last year's accounts. **Action:** • Pierre / Riaan to contact auditors re sign-off of accounts – report back at next meeting.	Treasurer, Chairman
9.3	**Honorarium**	**Discussion:** Covered under minute 5 corrections (Min 9.3). Uncle Keith noted that the previous secretary's honorarium requires review due to accumulated amount. **Decision:** No decision reached. To be addressed once job descriptions and honorarium structure are finalised. **Action:** *Carried forward to next meeting.*	Chairman

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9.4	**Development Budget**	**Discussion:** R17,500 allocation still to be finalised. Margo Morgan reported outreach to schools and coaches received no response. Greg Bell (Grey College) who was mentioned in an email regarding his great involvement / help during the Bloem Open confirmed as part of outreach. **Decision:** No decision reached on specific allocation. Margo Morgan to follow up with schools and prepare proposals. **Action:** • Margo Morgan to re-request input from schools and coaches; prepare own proposals if no response received. • Budget allocation to be discussed at next meeting.	Margo, Treasurer
10.	**SUMMER LEAGUE**	**Discussion:** New app planned for league – only ready for next round. Barend van der Merwe confirmed all current teams are paid up. Pierre Venter raised concerns about future collection problems. Playing out of position also raised. **Decision:** Strict “no payment, no entry” policy to be enforced going forward. Notice of withdrawal to be issued by halfway mark for non-paying teams. Playing out of position to be formalised for the next round of competition. Summer League prize giving confirmed for 19 March – will not be moved. **Action:** • Barend van der Merwe to implement payment enforcement for next round. • Committee to formalise playing-out-of-position rules before next round.	Chairman, League Secretary
11.	**WINTER LEAGUE**	**Discussion:** Start date, rule amendments, league night scheduling, development leagues, fees, and prize giving were all discussed. **Decisions:** Start date: Week of 13–18 April 2026. Rule amendments: • Rule 1 (Ball Choice for 1st League players): Simplified – home team player decides which ball to use. • Rule 7 (Promotion/Relegation): Changed from mandatory to committee discretion. Forced moves only for teams winning by a significant margin, case by case. • Rule 10 (Match Card Submission): Aligned with Summer League – results within 1 week. Available	League Secretary

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		player must enter walkover on Sporty HQ if match cannot be arranged. • Playing for Multiple Clubs: Already prohibited; penalties (zero points) applied. Rule to be better communicated to clubs. Development Leagues (7th & 8th): Players not penalised for non-registration on Sporty HQ. Leagues to remain on Sporty HQ (subject to Squash SA approval) for player history and admin benefits. League fees: No increase. Private clubs R1,100; school teams R880 (R480 returned to junior squash). Prize giving: No decision reached. Separate standalone function being considered. Final decision subject to community poll. 3rd League night scheduling: No decision reached. Poll to be conducted. **Action:** • Barend van der Merwe to rewrite Rules 1, 7, and 10 and circulate to committee for confirmation. • Committee to share updated rules with community and club reps for feedback / approval. • Pierre Venter to create Google poll re moving 3rd league to Wednesday nights. • Pierre Venter to poll community on prize giving format preferences.	
12.	**MASTERS**	**Discussion:** Masters Doubles date corrected by Pierre Venter. **Decision:** Noted: Masters Doubles 20–22 March 2026. **Action:** *None.*	
13.	**SQUASH 57**	*No update.*	
14.	**JUNIOR SQUASH**		
14.1	**Bloem Open Report**	**Discussion:** 174 entries, 15 withdrawals. Frustration noted that Squash SA permitted Northerns to hold event on the same weekend. Sponsor Technifibre provided vouchers but stock unavailable until May. Prize money to be distributed instead of vouchers. Finances to be finalised once Sporty HQ payout received and invoices from UFS and Grey obtained. **Action:** • Margo Morgan to finalise Bloem Open finances once all payments and invoices are received.	Margo

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14.2	**Squash SA Junior Document**	**Discussion:** Margo Morgan raised serious concerns about 16-page document from Squash on Africa regarding junior squash: • Timelines for team submissions, deposits and payments are impractical and unworkable. • Non-refundable deposit requirements contradict previous practice (previously refundable). • Team orders cannot be finalised by expected dates – provincial closed tournaments run as late as 20 May. • Document mirrors adult (Jarvis) timelines, unsuitable for juniors. • Previously: provinces submitted team visions with refundable deposits; full payment due only in June. **Decision:** Formal communication to be sent to Squash SA highlighting all concerns. Other provinces to be approached to co-sign for collective pressure. **Action:** • Margo Morgan to compile detailed list of contradictions and concerns (by 10 March). • Pierre Venter to draft formal communication to Squash SA (week of 10 March). • Margo Morgan to reach out to peers in other provinces for collective response (week of 10 March). • Riaan van Straaten to review final communication before sending (11 March).	Margo, Pierre, Chairman
15.	**REGIONAL COACH**	**Discussion:** Covered under minute 5 corrections (Min 15). Structure of the regional coach position restricts the committee – it is voted on by clubs and is not currently an employee of Free State Squash. **Decision:** No decision reached. Structure of position to be reviewed. **Action:** *Carried forward to next meeting.*	Chairman
16.	**DEVELOPMENT SQUASH**	**Discussion:** Covered under minute 5 corrections (Min 16) and item 9.4. Schools outreach has received no response to date. **Decision:** No decision reached. Awaiting input from schools and coaches. **Action:** • See item 9.4 actions.	Pierre Margo

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17.	**OTHER TOURNAMENTS**	**Discussion:** Pierre Venter raised a request from Kiran for financial assistance for the USSA competition (national university event). Margo Morgan noted squash is not a priority sport at the university, leaving students to self-fund. **Decision:** Players to submit formal application to the committee with full cost details before any assistance is considered. **Action:** • Pierre Venter to advise Kiran to submit formal application.	Pierre
18.	**LOTTO FUNDING**	**Discussion:** Linked to NPO status. **Decision:** No decision reached. Dependent on NPO registration progress (see item 9.2). **Action:** *See item 9.2 actions.*	Treasurer
19.	**SQUASH SA**	**Discussion:** Registration of development squash players raised. Junior squash concerns covered under item 14.2. **Decision:** No decision reached pending review of Squash SA email. **Action:** • Riaan van Straaten to review Squash SA email re registration of development players – report back at next meeting.	Chairman
20.	**FS ACADEMY OF SPORT**	*No update.*	Treasurer
21.	**FS SPORT CONFEDERATION**	*No update.*	Chairman
22.	**FREE STATE SQUASH FEDERATION**	*No update.*	Chairman
23.	**SASCOC**	*No update.*	Chairman
24.	**GENERAL**	**Discussion:** Communication to community discussed. Safeguarding requirement from Squash SA noted in junior squash document concerns. **Decision:** All announcements to go via club reps and WhatsApp community group (see item 7).	Treasurer, Chairman

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		Action: *See item 7 actions.*	
25.	**MEETING DATES 2026**	**Discussion:** Next meeting date discussed. Easter and public holidays noted. **Decision:** Scheduled for 13 April 2026. •	Secretary
26.	**NEXT MEETING**	GENERAL MEETING 13 April 2026 Venue TBC 17:00	Secretary

ACTION ITEMS REGISTER

#	Responsible Person	Action Item	Due Date
1	**Pierre Venter**	Draft and distribute first quarterly newsletter	20 March 2026
2	**Pierre Venter**	Integrate community WhatsApp link and QR code into newsletter and all communications	Ongoing
3	**Riaan van Straaten**	Action corrections to previous minutes;	20 March 2026
4	**Riaan / Pierre**	Follow up with previous auditors on sign-off of accounts	Next meeting
5	**Riaan van Straaten**	Review Squash SA email re registration of development players	Next meeting
6	**Riaan van Straaten**	Review Squash SA letters drafted by Pierre and Margo before sending if letter is ready.	20 March 2026
7	**Margo Morgan**	Re-request development input from schools/coaches; prepare proposals if no response	Next meeting
8	**Margo / Pierre**	Compile list of concerns in Junior Squash document and send to Pierre Venter	20 March 2026
9	**Margo Morgan**	Reach out to other provinces to co-sign Junior Squash concerns	Before 20 March 2026
10	**Margo Morgan**	Finalise Bloem Open finances once payments and invoices received	Next meeting
11	**Pierre / Margo**	Draft formal communication to Squash SA on Junior Squash concerns	20 March 2026
12	**Pierre Venter**	Create Google poll for club reps: moving 3rd league to Wednesday nights	ASAP
13	**Pierre Venter**	Poll community on Winter League prize giving format	ASAP

#	Responsible Person	Action Item	Due Date
14	**Pierre Venter**	Confirm and communicate next meeting date (tentatively 13 April 2026)	ASAP
15	**Barend van der Merwe**	Rewrite Rules 1, 7, and 10; circulate to committee for confirmation	Before Winter League
16	**Barend van der Merwe**	Share updated Winter League rules with community and club reps	Before Winter League
17	**Treasurer**	Provide monthly bank balance updates (current and investment accounts)	Monthly

Chairperson: Riaan van Straaten

16 March 2026

Date