

FREE STATE SQUASH ASSOCIATION
MINUTES OF A GENERAL MEETING HELD ON 03 AUGUST 2026
VENUE: VIRTUAL
TIME: 17H15

1	WELCOME	Chairman welcomed all to the meeting and noted that no meeting was held in July owing to the school holidays and other commitments.	Chairman
2	PRESENT	Attendance: Riaan, Margo, Willem, Pierre, Barend	Secretary
3	APOLOGIES	Keith	Secretary
4	FINALISATION OF AGENDA	Points to be discussed added in matters arising. The agenda was shared and accepted; no further items were added.	Chairman
5 5.1	MINUTES Confirmation of Minutes	Previous minutes were circulated on the WhatsApp executive group. The minutes of the meeting held on 9 June 2026 were reviewed and approved as final.	Chairman
6	MATTERS ARISING	Bank account access for the new committee: the committee now has access to the bank accounts and can facilitate payments directly. (See Finance.) Car rental: an account has been opened with Avis. Booking requires an 80% deposit, but the arrangement is more cost-effective than the methods used previously.	Pierre Margo
7	CORRESPONDENCE	Correspondence received from Squash SA regarding the SA Junior Convention on 29 August 2026 at the Country Club Johannesburg (Auckland Park). The 2026 Junior IPT final standings were received on 30 July 2026. Chairman to review correspondence for any items not yet dealt with and to communicate these to the committee.	Riaan
8	CALENDAR	AGM – early November 2026 (date to be confirmed). Finalising the date is imperative to ensure the financial statements are signed off in time. SA Junior Convention – 29 August 2026, Country Club Johannesburg (Auckland Park). Southern Free State Closed – registration on SportyHQ. Summer League – projected start 15 October 2026; entry fees payable by 7 October 2026.	All Reps
9	FINANCE	The committee now has access to the bank accounts, allowing payments to be facilitated directly. Agreed: bank balances and financial statements are to be reported at every future committee meeting for the record. Balances reported: R16 620.16 in the cheque account and R145 895.92 in the investment account. Chairman to consult the accountant on the requirements and lead time for the financial statements and audit, ahead of the AGM. Treasurer and Barend to reconcile the bank accounts for tournament payments and upcoming invoices.	Treasurer
10	WINTER LEAGUE	The Winter League is progressing well, with results updated on SportyHQ. Results are checked weekly and match-related queries are addressed as they arise.	Barend

		Penalties: instances where penalties were incorrectly applied to the 7th and 8th (development) leagues to be audited and rectified – Barend. Scheduling exception: a first-league match could not be played within the standard timeframe owing to a player's conflicting commitment to a national event. Following discussion on maintaining the league schedule versus accommodating valid excuses, the committee agreed to grant a one-week extension for this match only, to be coordinated through Barend.	
11	SUMMER LEAGUE	Ranking formulas: Barend presented the current ranking and scoring system, explaining the weighted averages used to determine player positions based on performance in both the winter and summer leagues. The committee acknowledged the formulas and confirmed that they are applied consistently across all participants. Player positioning: concern was raised that players are entered at positions that do not reflect their playing strength, which harms development and discourages new players. It was also noted that, for some participants, the Summer League is intended to be social and that over-regulation should be avoided. Resolved: stricter measures will be adopted to preserve the integrity of the league – the ranking / player list will be published in advance, a formal appeal process will be established, and teams playing participants out of position will face harsher consequences, including negative points and possible suspension from the league. Barend to reformulate the rules for the committee to finalise. Rules and team lists to be published well in advance prior to starting. The league app will be updated to require players to acknowledge that they have read and understood the rules before access is granted. Clear communication of the changes is important, as many participants are accustomed to the previous rules. Appeals: once teams have enrolled for the projected start date, appeals will be managed by the committee. The committee will decide whether appeals are handled internally or referred to a wider forum. The process is to be finalised by the end of August, with final approval at the September meeting. Scheduling: no matches to be played after the scheduled time, with a one-week catch-up period allowed for missed matches. Entry fees: to remain at the current rates. Riaan, Pierre and Barend to manage the accounts. Payment: invoices or pro-forma invoices will be issued on approval of a team, with payment due by 7 October 2026 to align with the start of the season. Captains experiencing sponsor difficulties may pay the entry fee directly and be reimbursed later. No payment, no entry.	Barend
12	MASTERS	Feedback received from Zelna on the Masters Nationals (12–16 June 2026) was positive, with good finishes for the men's B and D teams and the ladies' team. The Masters players expressed their appreciation for the financial assistance provided by the association.	Zelna
13	SQUASH 57	Nothing to report at present.	
14	JUNIOR SQUASH	Junior IPT (20–26 June 2026) – feedback: managers reported a number of operational failures, including	Margo

		breakfast times that were too early, insufficient manager meetings, and the expectation that children use their own devices and data for scoring. Further concerns were raised regarding poor food quality and inadequate bathroom facilities, the latter noted as a potential safeguarding issue. Seeding: the seeding was done without consultation, which negatively affected the performance of the U19 and U17 teams. The U11 festival atmosphere was compromised by a change to championship scoring and the absence of participation certificates. Top Schools tournament: the seeding is illogical, with schools that have proven performance records placed disadvantageously. Resolved: Margo and Calvin to compile the manager reports and feedback into a formal written document for committee review, so that the association can take the matters up formally with the relevant bodies. SA Junior Convention – 29 August 2026, Country Club Johannesburg. Delegates: Squash SA caters for one representative per province. It was proposed that the two level-two coaches, Calvin and Michael Deutschmann, attend given their history and involvement. Resolved that Calvin and Michael attend as the association's delegates, with the cost of the second delegate to be covered by FS Squash.	
15	REGIONAL COACH	Nothing further to report.	Calvin
16	DEVELOPMENT SQUASH	Nothing to report at present. (Penalties incorrectly applied in the 7th and 8th development leagues are dealt with under Winter League.)	
17	OTHER TOURNAMENTS	Growthpoint (19 June 2026) – feedback: the participation and spirit at the tournament were commended, with thanks to Barend and Pierre for their organisational efforts. A player withdrew from the tournament after the first evening, which was viewed as poor sportsmanship. The committee noted the difficulty of formulating rules for withdrawals, as health-related excuses cannot be verified, but emphasised that players must be accountable for their commitments and that such matters should be addressed immediately rather than after the event. Chairman to request a formal explanation from the player concerned and to assess whether further action is required. Jarvis – feedback: the tournament went well. The B team performed admirably despite team changes and the junior players showed strong development. The event was well organised, although only a limited number of teams could play on the glass court. The feasibility of Free State hosting a Jarvis was discussed: it is technically possible given the court availability at local institutions, but the social infrastructure and spectator facilities are a limitation. Southern Free State Closed: registration on SportyHQ.; Barend to register the tournament on SportyHQ and publish the conditions of entry.	Pierre Margo Barend
18	LOTTO FUNDING	Paused.	
19	SQUASH SA	Correspondence with Squash SA is dealt with under Correspondence and Junior Squash. The junior tournament and seeding concerns are to be submitted to Squash SA in writing once documented.	Riaan

20	FS ACADEMY OF SPORT	Nothing to report at present.	
21	FS SPORT CONFEDERATION	The application has been submitted and acknowledged, but no further communication has been received from FS Sport. Treasurer to follow up.	Pierre
22	FREE STATE SQUASH FEDERATION	Nothing to report at present.	Riaan
23	SASCOC	Nothing to report at present.	Riaan
24	GENERAL	Alcohol policy: the strict rules regarding alcohol consumption at squash events are mandates of the Free State Department of Education and not of the schools themselves. The committee must adhere to these regulations to avoid consequences for the organisers.	Margo
25	MEETING DATES 2026	The AGM is to be held in early November 2026, subject to the constitutional requirement on the production of financial statements. Chairman to confirm the audit timeline with the accountant and then post possible dates as a poll on the executive group for members to vote on.	Secretary
26	NEXT MEETING	GENERAL MEETING 15 SEPTEMBER 2026 VIRTUAL 17H30	Secretary

Free State Squash/SQ MIN 03 August 2026