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AFFILIATION LEVIES EXPLAINED

As new personnel join Club Committee's and at the time when affiliation levies are invoiced, the question often arises as to what value clubs receive through affiliation.

Affiliation is often seen as a cost, but it should also be regarded as an investment in the future of the game. Levies bring some direct benefits to your club and players and, in common with most sporting organisations, funds are also used for the development of our sport as a whole. While these benefits are less tangible to the average club member they are enormously important for the future growth of squash.

What are affiliation levies?

Levies are paid by clubs affiliated to Squash NZ and Squash Waikato based on squash related income and subscriptions.

How are levies set?

Levies are agreed at the AGM's of each body. This provides an opportunity for all members to be involved in the process. Both bodies present a budget and programme for the forthcoming year, and forecast levy income as part of their total income. For Squash NZ, they move that a total amount of levy income be agreed, with the precise levy to be calculated once SEM figures are available. Squash Waikato generally agrees the precise levy at its AGM.

Who sets Levies?

Your representatives do. The respective Boards of each organisation recommend a levy at their AGM, which must be passed by the members present.

What is the SEM Declaration?

This declaration must be completed by each Club before 31 October each year. It calculates total subscription and other 'squash related' income, and divides by the senior squash subscription amount to provide a 'Senior Equivalent Member' calculation.

Eg. Sportsville Squash Income	\$15000
Sportsville Adult Subscription	<u>\$ 150</u>
SEM's	100
Squash Waikato Levy @\$20/SEM	\$ 2000

Does each member pay a levy?

No. The levy is paid by the club. Individuals do not affiliate to Squash Waikato and Squash New Zealand, the club does.

Do we pay levies for the previous season?

No. The SEM calculation uses financial information from the preceding season, but levies are charged for the current season in March/April each year.

What are the benefits of affiliation?

- Player access and involvement in the National Grading System – which enables players to measure their progress and matches them with players at a similar level
- Eligibility to play in tournaments around NZ (approx 520 tournaments and 33 National events)
- Provision of a Tournament Schedule so clubs can advertise their tournaments and players can plan their entries
- Eligibility to play in junior, senior and/or masters interclub competition
- Eligibility to play in District and National Superchamps Events
- Eligibility to be selected for district and national squad and representative teams – Junior, Senior and Masters teams are sent to National Events
- Coaching programmes for promising juniors. Up to 100 juniors are selected for the Regional Academy Programme in which they receive expert group and individual coaching and support. Top juniors are selected for National programmes.
- 'Coach the Coaches' programmes
- Refereeing programmes to support and train referees.
- Provision and development of playing, coaching and refereeing resources
- All players, referees and coaches have a clear pathway to becoming a top squash representative in their areas – right through to international level.
- Employment of a Squash Development Officer (SDO) whose primary role is to encourage growth of the game, provide practical advice and support to clubs, organise key events and facilitate club's access to funding. Our SDO coordinates the Microcourt in Schools programme with a focus on delivering new junior players to clubs.
- Employment of a manager (part time) at district level who generates additional income, coordinates the interclub and superchamps events, arranges district representative teams, manages the finances, leads policy and planning activities, and deals with day to day administration.
- Sponsorship of the Waikato Open enabling it to be part of the National programme for elite players.
- Access to technical information in regard to court construction and maintenance.
- Access to Squash Waikato and Squash NZ websites to view grading information and a wide range of other resources. The Squash Waikato website will be upgraded to improve its value to players and clubs.
- Promotion and marketing of the game generally.
- Access to Charitable trust funding – most Trusts require evidence of affiliation to a regional and/or national body.
- Access to SPARC and other national funding used for development of the game, or for high performance programmes.

What is the connection with the grading list?

For Squash NZ administrative and affiliation levy purposes, ALL players appearing on the grading list will be deemed to be full financial members of the club on whose grading list they appear. While Squash NZ fees are levied on an SEM basis, player numbers on the grading list will be taken into account when verifying or determining affiliation fees.

What is the purpose of the membership list?

Membership Lists must be returned in July each year. The membership return is used to gauge actual player numbers across New Zealand. Membership numbers are published in the Squash NZ annual report – these figures are used primarily by funding organisations like SPARC and charitable trusts to assess their contribution to our sport (and/or to your club). Squash NZ is constitutionally bound to collect these, and member clubs are bound to provide this information.

Is the membership information used for commercial purposes?

No. This information is only used for Squash NZ business and cannot be used for any other purpose, commercial or otherwise. Personal contact information supplied in these returns is not accessible by Squash Waikato.

Need more information?

Please contact Karina Ormsby or Sharon Hema if you would like to know more.