

Staying with or getting back into SQUASH - FIVERS

Malibu Squash club in Lockleys is appropriately wedged between a child care centre and funeral home at Lockleys (closer to the funeral home). Like many squash clubs around Adelaide, the number of members had been falling as players got older or injured and as other interests started to take precedence. Over the last few years however, the club has seen number starting to rise again with a growing group of players turning up on Tuesday and Thursday nights to play a new form of the game known as “FIVERS”.

SO, WHAT IS IT?

FIVERS consists of two teams of two players (yes, doubles) taking turns at playing the ball which is constrained by the Rules restricting play to the back half of the court. Points can only be won on service and each game is played to FIVE points but with an advantage of two points required if the game gets to 4 all. A set of rules have evolved (and continue to evolve) roughly aligned with current generation squash but with some major changes. The primary change is that the ball must be played behind a new (green) line placed on the court parallel with and one- and one-half racquet lengths in front of the service box line. Failure to play the ball past this line is referred to as playing a “Shitter” and the line is referred to as the “Shitter line”. Each side is allowed one “shitter” per point before losing the point on a second shitter being played. There are some other nuance which are detailed in the attached rules.

The generally slower pace, sharing of hitting between team members and restriction of play to the back half of the court all lead to the game being significantly less stressful on players compared with normal squash while still providing a challenge and a level of exercise that (it is argued by many of them) compensates for the pizza and beer that is consumed after the game!

More importantly, it provides an opportunity for staying in the game and part of a club for many years longer than might have been advisable in the past.

Malibu Squash club would welcome any players that would like to give FIVERS a go to come and have a look.

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FIVERS – WHERE LUNGING IS FORBIDDEN!

International Rules of Fivers Squash

1. Game is to be played with 2 teams of 2 players taking turns in fixed order to return the ball.
2. The first game does not count. Never has and never will.
3. If a player serves or returns the ball out of order, that player shall lose the point
4. An advantage of 1 shall be required to win the game if and only if there is someone else waiting to come on, otherwise an advantage of 2 shall be required
5. There shall be no talking in any language during a rally with talkers being deemed to have lost the point
6. Shitters: A shitter will be called when the ball fails to bounce past the shitter line (with on the line being called a shitter) or is seen to be a boast hitting the side wall first
 - 6.1.1 The receiving player can elect to hit a shitter extending the rally and shall be encouraged to do so in order to enhance the flow of the game.
 - 6.1.2 On hitting a second shitter, a team will lose the current point except in the event that the point is being played to determine the game (you can not win a game on a shitter)
 - 6.1.3 The deliberate hitting of shitters by the receiving player (known as "Smudging") at the end of a game to gain a tactical or strategic advantage is allowed however it is customary in these cases for the serving players to deride and mock the Smudger.
7. The last game is always deemed to be "winner takes all". If another game is played after the last game then this will become winner takes all including the winner takes all game.
8. In the event that a serve is attempted out of order, the server shall lose the point.
9. In the event that the receiver returns a serve out of order then the receiver shall lose the point.

Conventions

1. On winning any point following a dispute related to the preceding point, a member of the winning team should declare that "He knows" to the other players.
2. On winning a point as a result of a drop shot, a player on the winning side should declare that "you do not have to hit it hard".
3. At the beginning of the game, the oldest player should be determined and that player will be responsible for disputing 9 out of 10 points (particularly any let call) and for saying at the end of any rally that they lose to the other team that they should "get out of the way"
4. Any player that stops during a game to tie their shoelace shall be given a gentle nudge by an opposition player such that they lose balance and end up rolling on the floor
5. The breaking of wind (otherwise known as "a silent pardon" or an "End of Days") will be frowned upon and discouraged however it will be acknowledged that it is an inevitable part of fivers tradition.
6. The tactic of crotching, where a player purposely hits the ball away from the upcoming server between points, shall be overtly discouraged (however it is acceptable for players to laugh on the inside at this occurring)
7. In any game of fivers (particularly close games) it will be expected that any independent referee shall be expected to make one or more "startling calls" (also known as "Riganos") with the aim of disrupting and challenging those players with any sense of natural justice or fairness. It is expected that the response to these calls will be an opportunity for older players to recover from previous points

Glossary

“Shitter” first	A ball that fails to land over the shitter line or is a boast hitting the side wall
“Noodling”	The deliberate act of missing an otherwise hittable shitter
“Peacocking”	The performance of a flourish while noodling the ball
“Smudging”	The deliberate hitting of shitters at the end of a game
“End of days”	The breaking of wind on court in an overt and socially unacceptable manner
“Silent pardon”	The breaking of wind in a discrete manner before or during play
“Rigano”	A deliberately wrong and disruptive call by the referee
“Mexican eye roll”	Knowingly shaping up to receive a ball from an out of order server
“Crotching”	Th act of purposefully hitting the ball away from the new server

Approved by the International Committee for FIVERS Squash

