

Squash and the 2020 Olympic and Paralympic Games

SQUASH- SPORT AT ITS BEST.



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SQUASH**

WSF

Professional squash players pledge their support for Squash 2020 Olympic campaign

Participating in the Olympic Games would be the absolute pinnacle of our careers. Quite simply, there is no greater honour in sport than to represent your country at the Olympic Games.

This is why we are united behind the World Squash Federation's campaign for Squash to become an Olympic medal sport in 2020.

We also believe that Squash can bring something special to the Olympic Games.

Squash is growing and global. It is played in 185 countries by 20 million people across all ages with genuine legends from every corner of the world – from Egypt, Malaysia, New Zealand, England to Canada. All five continents have produced both male and female world champions; our sport has thriving and well established men's and women's tours and there are World Junior Championships and well supported World Masters Championships up to age 80. Squash also has a first class anti-doping record.

Squash embodies the essence of Olympic sport; gladiatorial in nature, it is the only racket sport where players share the same space. This ensures a unique rhythm, flow and competitiveness while teaching young players about tactics and movement. And spectators are right on top of the action and they can see and hear everything up close.

Our sport is not afraid of change. The WSF and professional tours are utilising the latest HD and slow-mo technology to ensure the broadcast viewer has an even richer experience. Electronic refereeing decisions have speeded up games, and all glass show courts make the fans feel even closer to the action. In terms of development, the WSF is helping to ensure the next generation of players by rolling out courts in urban areas.

Our sport, with its glass courts and a small footprint, also has a unique ability to showcase a host city – after all, what other sport has been played in settings as diverse as the Pyramids, Hong Kong Harbour and Grand Central Station. With just 64 athletes, two competition courts and a five day tournament schedule Squash would be easy and cost-effective to integrate into the Olympic Games. This is one of the reasons why Squash is already played in multi-sport tournaments such as the Commonwealth, Pan Am, Asian and World Games.

Just as any athlete has to earn their place in sporting history, we know that Squash must demonstrate to the International Olympic Committee that it is ready to take its place on the world's greatest sporting stage.

On behalf of squash players the world over, we hope that the IOC sees the potential of our wonderful sport and what it could bring to the Olympic Family.

Madeline Perry

