KEY RULES OF SQUASH 57

SINGLES

COURT
The version of squash called 57 is played on a normal squash court.

KEY EQUIPMENT DIFFERENCES, 57 TO SQUASH
Rackets: the 57 racket is about 20% shorter than a squash racket
Balls: the 57 ball is larger than a squash ball, 57mm in diameter as opposed to 40mm, and bouncier. The blue 57 ball is bouncier than the black 57 ball

THE GAME, HOW PLAYED
Played by two players using 57 rackets and a 57 ball

SCORE
A match is usually best of 5 games, though best of 3 can be played too. Each game uses point-a-rally scoring up to 11 or 15 points. When the game score is tied, at 10-10 or 14-14 respectively, a player/team must win by two clear points

POINTS, HOW SCORED
The winner of each rally scores a point
A ball that hits a line is ‘out’, unlike in tennis when a ball hitting a line is ‘in’

SERVER
The server, or doubles team to serve, is decided on the ‘spin of the racket’

GOOD RETURN
A return is good if the serve is returned by volley or after the ball has bounced once onto the front wall without going out of play or hitting the tin. The good return does not need to hit the front wall directly, it could hit side and/or back walls before hitting the front wall

LET
A Let is an undecided rally which is re-played. Each player must make every effort to get out of their opponent’s way. If a player is inadvertently prevented from playing the ball it is a LET unless if the hinderance is the result of a ‘poor’ shot with the ball rebounding back at/through the striker

HITTING OPPONENT WITH THE BALL
If an otherwise good return, before reaching the front wall, hits the opponent then:
¬ If the ball would have struck the front wall directly then the striker wins the rally
¬ If the return would have been good, the striker loses the rally
¬ Otherwise it’s a Let and the point is replayed
If the ball hits the opponent after hitting the front wall then the player who has been hit loses the point

SERVE
¬ The server
  - has the choice of serving first from either service box and then alternates for as long as the server is winning consecutive points
  - continues serving until losing a point, after which the server, or server’s team in the case of doubles, becomes the receiver
  - when striking the serve must have at least 1 foot inside the service box
[Note: unlike squash, the serve is not required to hit the front wall above the service line]
¬ The ball
  1. before being served, must be dropped so that it bounces once
  2. must be served directly onto the front wall between the tin and the out of court (top) line. Failure to directly hit the front wall results in the server losing the point immediately
  3. on its return from the front wall the ball must, unless volleyed by the receiver, fall to the floor within the back quarter of the court opposite to the service box before hitting the back wall. If the served ball hits the back wall and the floor in the appropriate back quarter at the same time, ie a ‘nick’, then the serve is good

RETURN OF SERVICE & SUBSEQUENT PLAY
After a good service has been delivered, the players strike the ball

THE GAME, HOW PLAYED
Played by two teams of 2 players

SERVER
Each team nominates its server for the first game. That player serves for the whole of game one and game three in a five-game match. The other player serves for game two and game four (if played).
In the final game (3rd or 5th) when the first side’s score reaches 5 if playing up to 11, or “7” if playing up to 15, the server changes for both teams

RETURN OF SERVICE & SUBSEQUENT PLAY
At the beginning of each game, each team decides which one of its players to receive service in the right-hand service court and which in the left-hand service court for the whole of that game. When the ball is being served, only the Receiver may stand in the service court opposite the server. The order of striking shall be: Server, Receiver, Server’s partner, the Receiver’s partner and so on

LET
If a player is hindered by their own partner, there is no let and the rally is lost