

1 July 2021

Please see the clubs response below (please note that this is a response to both the Kirkwall Squash Club & Scottish Squash).

OAWLC would like to thank Kirkwall Squash Club and Scottish Squash for opening dialogue between us about this project. OAWLC can confirm that we are happy to try and take a collaborative approach with the request to ensure that the court can be accessed during the Island Games for a Squash training court. We have spoken to the gym manufacturing companies who provided us with quotes for outfitting the facility to ascertain whether a Weightlifting gym can function safely on a wooden squash court floor without damaging it. We believe that this would be possible, however this would be a case of us doing everything reasonably practicable to protect the floor. Whilst we are fairly certain that there would be no damage to the wooden flooring we could not guarantee it with certainty.

We believe that, should we be successful in taking over the building, if the club were to cover the court area with an additional 2 layers of 25mm plywood sheets on top of the rubber and wooden gym flooring, the integrity of the squash court floor would be maintained. However, this presents a considerable extra cost to the club. This cost would include purchasing and laying the extra layers of ply; uninstalling, storing and reinstalling our equipment for the Island Games; and a considerable loss of training time during Island Games (given that there is likely to be Orkney Weightlifters vying for Commonwealth Games spots in the 2026 games makes this a considerable impact). Given the aforementioned factors, the club is happy to find favourable terms, and collaborate with the Kirkwall Squash Club, and Island Games Committee, to allow the facility to be used for a training court during Island Games 2025.

Kindest regards on behalf of the Orkney Amateur Weight Lifting Club committee.