

Tennis School Guidelines

Introduction

Tennis Victoria is the peak representative body for the sport of tennis in Victoria.

As part of Goal 4 of Tennis Victoria's 2010 – 2015 Strategic Plan, *"In partnership with our stakeholders, support and deliver progressive pathways for the development of champions at all levels,*" Tennis Victoria undertook a review of 'tennis schools' in the Victorian tennis community, including their profile, program structure and role as a player program deliverer within the player pathway.

Furthermore, within Goal 4, Strategy 4.1 is to *"Identify and engage with player program deliverers to ensure the tennis community is linked to a progressive pathway within the National framework."*

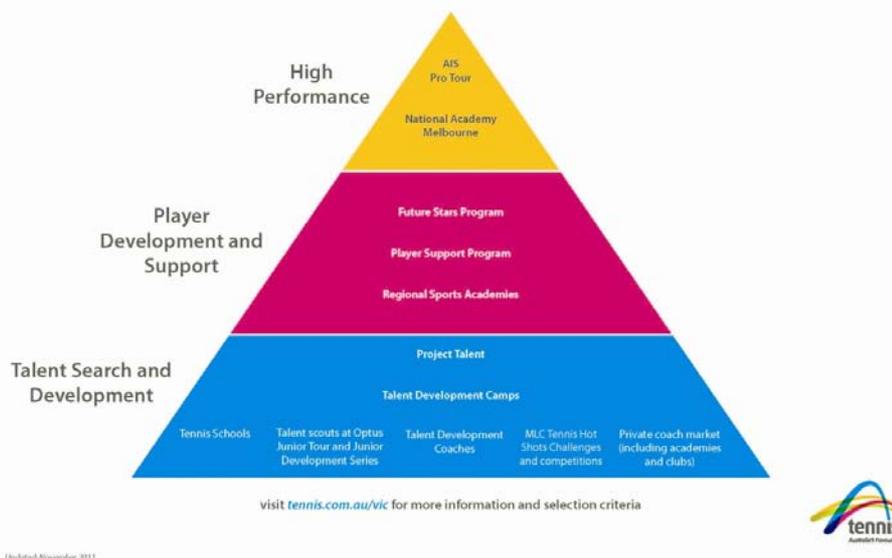
This strategy refers to Tennis Victoria linking with player program deliverers such as tennis schools and educating the tennis community about the various player pathways that are supported by Tennis Victoria and our various delivery partners.

In partnership with our stakeholders, including the Department of Education and Early Childhood Learning, Tennis Victoria has developed this resource to highlight a range of relevant considerations that may be used by the tennis community to assist with understanding the opportunities that tennis schools can provide as a player program deliverer and to the player pathway.

The Tennis School guidelines seek to support and explain the operation and role of tennis schools as player program deliverers, including accounting for the many different types of tennis school programs that exist across the state. Therefore, these guidelines are designed to:

- Educate and assist the tennis community on the many considerations that should be undertaken regarding the selection of a tennis school as a player development provider
- Profile tennis schools as a player development provider and stakeholder in the sport
- Create closer links between Tennis Victoria and tennis schools as partners in the provision of player programs and supporters of the player pathway

Victorian Player Development Pathway



The Tennis Victoria tennis school guidelines are set out below and structured under appropriate headings supported by an explanatory introduction. They are not in any particular order or priority and individual circumstances may give rise to more importance or priority placed on some element(s) more so than compared with others given an individual's circumstances.

1. Level of integration with school curriculum

This section is crucial to determine what level of program integration or specialisation exists between the tennis training and the education program, whether the tennis training and education programs operate independently of each other or to what degree they are integrated.

- Students involved in the tennis program should be enrolled as students at the school.
- Daily tennis program (including on-court and off-court sports science material) should be integrated into the school curriculum and timetabled into the student's school day around their elective subject blocks (up to and including Year 10), rather than delivered exclusively outside school hours.
- For Year 11 and 12, the tennis program is offered in parallel with the school term curriculum (therefore a year long program) with set minimum hours per week built around the required subject units.

2. Education program

The points raised in this section can be applied to any educational program and what the program provides.

- A tennis school may support a variety of year levels (primary and / or secondary) that may or may not include co-educational classes with male and female students.
- Year level intakes and to what year levels the program extends.
- A range of subjects and extra-curricular activities on offer.
- Teacher qualifications, experience and professional development as well as teacher and student class ratios.

3. Coaching program

The points raised in this section can be applied to any tennis coaching program and what the training program provides.

- The head and assistant coaches should be a Tennis Australia Qualified Coach with a preferred level of Club Professional or higher. Also, consider the coaching staff relevance experience training and their on-going professional development
- A coaching program should provide an on and off court training program including appropriate player to coach ratios and ensure a challenging environment for each athlete's stage of development. The program should cater holistically for the student's technical, tactical, psychological and physical development
- A coaching program should provide an appropriate strength and conditioning program based on the student's individual requirements.
- A tennis school should be affiliated with School Sport Victoria ("SSV") and staff should be in attendance at SSV tennis events (primary and secondary) where applicable.

4. Tennis training facility

Similar in nature to point 3, the points raised in this section can be applied to any tennis coaching program and what the training program provides.

- A tennis school should provide access to the appropriate number of courts and court surface (depending on program scale and competition schedule) including lights.
- The tennis school should have its primary courts, gym and / or other relevant training facility including suitable wet weather options located on-site.

5. Financial model

This section highlights the relative annual cost and value for money of the tennis school program.

- A tennis school program may be user pays, partially subsidised or fully funded by internal or external resources (e.g. government or private sector) or can be any combination of these.
- Fees for a tennis school may vary depending on the program schedule, benefits and additional services offered (such as the number of tournament tours, provision of uniforms and equipment, additional sport science support etc).

6. Other considerations

- Players have access to specialised sports science providers when appropriate
- A tennis school program should provide tournament support and full duty of care tours that cater for a range of tournaments and competitive opportunities based upon the students' stage of development.
- A tennis school program should provide a periodised annual plan for all training and competition phases to each student in the program. This plan should be reviewed and updated regularly to reflect the students stage of development

Ultimately, the selection of a tennis school as a player program provider will be largely determined by the particular circumstances of each individual and their long-term tennis goals.

The above information was produced by Tennis Victoria as an overall guide to assist the tennis community in making a decision as to whether a tennis school will best suit their needs and best help support them to achieve their desired player development goals.