

**2026**  
**NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM**  
**HANDBOOK**



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## INTRODUCTION

Dear National Development Athlete,

Congratulations and welcome to the 2026 National Development Program (NDP). The Handbook will provide you with the NDP details and policies. Tennis Canada is committed to assisting you to reach your development goals.

Best of luck on the courts this season.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'JPetras', with a horizontal line underneath the name.

**Janet Petras**

Director, High Performance Programs & Administration  
jpetras@tenniscanada.com

## **TENNIS CANADA STRUCTURE AND FUNDING**

### **Structure**

Founded in 1890, Tennis Canada is a non-profit, national sport federation responsible for the growth, promotion and showcasing of tennis in Canada and building a system that helps produce world-class players. It is one of the largest and oldest national sport associations in the country with membership composed of 10 provincial tennis associations and one associate member, the Northwest Territories Tennis Association.

In addition to operating all national events, Tennis Canada oversees Canada's international tennis championships as top tier tournaments on both the ATP Tour and WTA Tour. Tennis Canada is a member of the International Tennis Federation, the Canadian Olympic Association, and the Canadian Paralympic Committee. It serves to administer, sponsor and select teams for Davis Cup, Billie Jean King Cup, World Team Cup, the Olympic and Paralympic Games, and all wheelchair, junior and senior national teams.

Tennis Canada is guided by a volunteer Board of Directors, which is elected by the provincial tennis associations for a two-year term. Administration and coordination of Tennis Canada's development department and the international championships is based at the Sobeys Centre on the campus of York University in Toronto. Tennis Canada also operates an office at IGA Stadium in Montreal.

Wheelchair tennis is integrated into the Tennis Canada strategic plan and delivered via the high performance, and events departments. The development of the sport is led by the director of high-performance programs and administration.

### **Funding**

#### **Tennis Canada**

- Approximately two-thirds of Tennis Canada's development budget is derived from the National Bank Open men's and women's championships.

#### **Wheelchair Tennis/National Development-Performance Program**

- Funding for the high-performance program is derived from several sources including Sport Canada, Tennis Canada, the International Tennis Federation, sponsors, donors and fundraising initiatives

**TENNIS CANADA**

**PURPOSE, VISION, MISSION**

**Purpose**

To champion positive tennis experiences.

**Vision**

To be a world-leading tennis nation.

**Mission**

To lead the growth, development and promotion of tennis in Canada.

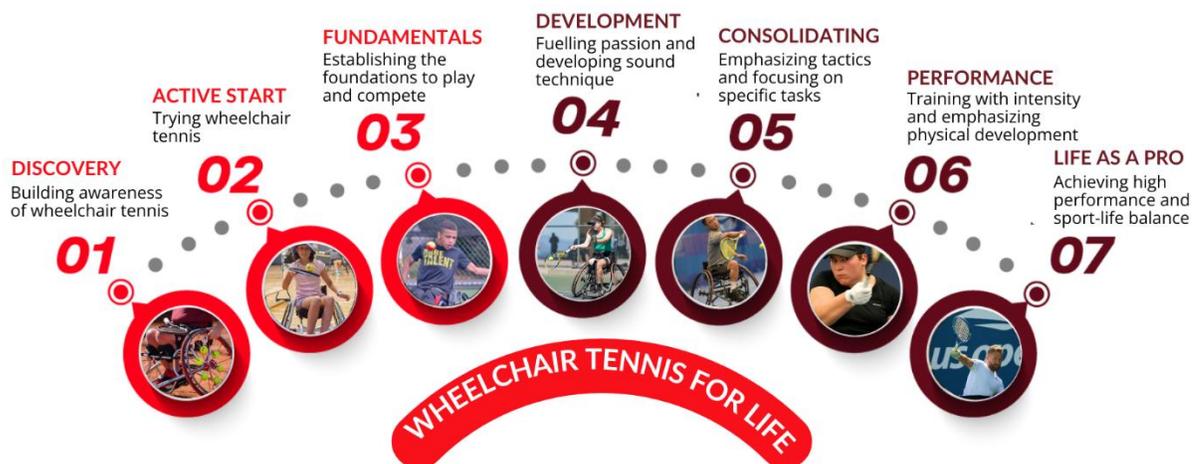
## 2026 National Development Program Overview

The NDP is a talent recruitment, development and support program for athletes who have shown potential to enter the high-performance pathway. It is linked to Tennis Canada's Wheelchair Tennis Whole Player Development Pathway (WTWPDP) and part of the vision of being a world leading nation.

The NDP focuses on the Podium Pathway which encompasses stages 4 and 5: Development and Consolidating.

The detailed WTWPDP can be found here:

<https://www.tenniscanada.com/compete-perform/wheelchair-tennis-whole-player-development-pathway>



### NDP Description, Benefits and Services

Players nominated to the program are eligible to receive support for the cost of training (coaching and court fees), competition, sport science, and equipment. In addition, they will be invited to training camps, have access to national coaches at tournaments and home training environment visits, and receive ongoing monitoring throughout the year. National coaches will support personal coaches with the players' development.

The amount and level of services provided will be determined on a case-by-case basis. All funding and coaching decisions are reviewed and approved by the High-Performance Committee.

### **Identification and Selection Process**

Tennis Canada will consider athletes for nomination based on a series of indicators. These will include a player assessment by the National Coach, Development Coaches and High-Performance Committee based on criteria including but not limited to age, previous tennis or sport experience, general physical and movement skills, disability level, psycho-social factors, and environment.

In addition, performance indicators will be taken into consideration as follows:

- ITF singles ranking progression
- ITF & Birmingham Nationals tournament results
- Provincial Tournament results

Following the player assessment nominated athletes will be notified by Tennis Canada.

### **Yearly Assessment Process**

Throughout the year the national development players will be monitored at regular intervals at training camps, in their home training environment, and at tournaments. Following the Birmingham Nationals, Tennis Canada will meet with the players to evaluate their progress. Based on the meeting outcome Tennis Canada will determine whether the player requalifies for support in the following year and communicate the decision no later than January 15, 2026.

### **Athlete Responsibilities**

Members of the program must fulfil the following requirements:

- Sign the Tennis Canada Code of Conduct
- Attend an individual meeting including the athlete, personal coach to develop the annual training and competitive plan and performance indicators. When juniors are involved, parents will be included in the meeting process.
- Attend training camps when selected
- Participate in physical testing protocols and mental performance training as required
- Represent Canada at the World Team Cup if selected
- Compete in the 2026 Birmingham National Championships unless an exemption is approved by the High-Performance Committee. To apply for an exemption a written request must be submitted to the Director of Wheelchair Tennis by the Birmingham Nationals by October 1, 2026
- Be in good standing with Tennis Canada
- Participate in a minimum number of ITF tournaments as agreed between athlete and Tennis Canada

## TENNIS CANADA POLICIES

Being selected to the NDP is an honor and privilege and comes with certain responsibilities. The primary rights and obligations for Program members are outlined in the Tennis Canada/Athlete Agreement.

The following outlines the roles and responsibilities of National Development Program members while:

- travelling as part of a Tennis Canada/Canadian Paralympic Committee team
- travelling individually on the ITF Uniqllo Wheelchair Tennis Tour
- participating in designated program events (training camps, Birmingham Nationals, development or promotion events).

### **REPRESENTATION**

#### While representing Canada

(as defined by the roles and responsibilities of a National Development Program member above):

- Act as an ambassador for Tennis Canada, Canada and the sport.
- Act always in a manner that will enhance the reputation, image, character and presence of Tennis Canada and the national program.

While attending competitions athletes will abide by the following guidelines as well as the responsibilities laid out in the 2026 athletes' agreement. The competition is considered to include all activities from the commencement of travel to the competition site until the completion of travel home from the competition.

- Program members will always conduct themselves in accordance with the principles of fair play and cooperation.
- Program members will obey all rules established by the host committee and Tennis Canada.
- Program members will always act in accordance with the laws of the host country and the laws of Canada.
- Program members will always inform the coach of their whereabouts. Team members will not leave the competition site without first consulting the coach or team manager.

## **POLICY #1: ENTRY PROCEDURES**

Tennis Canada, as a member of the International Tennis Federation (ITF) and the Canadian Paralympic Committee (CPC), is the sole body that enters a team into the World Team Cup, Parapan American Games and Paralympic Games.

## **POLICY #2: BEHAVIOUR GUIDELINES**

### **Guiding Principle**

The opportunity to train and compete internationally for Canada is a privilege. Therefore, at any time at any event, athletes must maintain the highest standards of personal behaviour in all activities and relationships both on and off the court.

### **General Tour Guidelines**

Athletes are expected to comply with the rules that are set up in the best interest of the entire team or touring group.

### **GROUP ONE INFRACTIONS**

#### **Off Court Guidelines**

- Create and maintain an environment that is conducive to high performance training and competing in a team context.
- Attend all team meetings and activities.
- Respect each other's space.
- Always behave in an appropriate manner when in public areas.

#### **Competitive Guidelines**

Participate in a fitness maintenance program, provided by either the personal coach or by Tennis Canada.

Participate in pre- and post-match preparation routines:

- (a) Warm-up off court, on court, plus stretching routines.
- (b) Match plans.
- (c) Pre- and post-match talk with the coach.
- (d) Be prepared for matches.
- (e) Be dressed in proper tennis attire.

Group One Infractions will result in the following disciplinary action:

1. Written warning.
2. Written reprimand and the potential for a suspension from the National Development Program (for up to one year).

## **GROUP TWO INFRACTIONS**

### Performance Level:

An athlete is expected to put forth best efforts in trying to win a match. The coach will make the decision as to whether an athlete has competed to optimum performance level after consulting with the athlete.

### Failure to Complete a Match

An athlete must complete a match in progress unless unable to do so due to a personal illness or injury, as confirmed by the tournament doctor.

### Inappropriate/Unacceptable Behavior

- Uncooperative or disrespectful behavior with the coach, team members or tournament officials, organizers or other stakeholders
- Unsportsmanlike conduct
- Breaking curfew (when applicable)

### Alcohol

World Team Cup: Team members and coaches are prohibited from consuming alcohol from the time of departure for competition to the completion of entire competition, unless otherwise advised by the World Team Cup Captain and/or Team Manager.

Other NDP Events / Tours / Training Camps: Athletes and coaches may not consume alcohol to the point of visible intoxication (as determined by the Director or coaching staff).

Violations of the alcohol policy at World Team Cup or other NDP events will be penalized as a Group Two infraction.

### Group Two Infractions will result in the following disciplinary action:

A written reprimand and the potential for a suspension from the NDP (for up to one year).

## **GROUP THREE INFRACTIONS**

- Use of illegal drugs.
- Unlawful behavior.

- Flagrant or repeated disregard of the curfew guidelines.

Group Three Infractions will result in:

- 1) Athlete sent home immediately at own expense.
- 2) Automatic suspension or dismissal from the NDP

Tour coaches have the latitude to change these guidelines given certain circumstances. This information will be communicated to the athletes as applicable.

### **DISCIPLINARY GUIDELINES**

A suspension, as indicated above, may affect an athlete's carded status, or national program status for the following year.

### **APPEALS PROCEDURE**

If disciplinary action is taken against an athlete, that athlete has the right to appeal in writing to the Director-High Performance Programs and Administration within 7 days of receiving the discipline letter. -Please refer to the Appeals Policies below for further details.

[Tennis Canada High Performance Appeal Policy Final July 2023.pdf](#)

<b>POLICY #3: NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM ELIGIBILITY</b>
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To maintain eligibility for the NDP athletes must adhere to the eligibility requirements outlined in the Program Overview and Tennis Canada/Athlete Agreement, and sign/abide by the Tennis Canada Code of Conduct.

**NOTE: *If an athlete is unable to fulfill the required components of the National Development Program, then this will be considered a Group Two Infraction as per the Discipline Guidelines.***

<b>POLICY #4: ARRIVAL AND DEPARTURE DATES</b>
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Tennis Canada will determine the arrival date for all NDP events (i.e. tours, training camps, development and promotional events, etc). Departure dates for training camps will be at the end the camp and set by Tennis Canada. Departure dates for tournaments are flexible and players may leave once out of the competition. However, flights are to

be booked for the end of the tournament. If a player loses before the end of the tournament, then the flight can be changed to accommodate an early departure. Competition includes singles, singles consolation, and doubles. Any exceptions to this policy are to be approved by Tennis Canada prior to departure.

The World Team Cup is a team event and will have both required arrival and departure dates. If athletes are unable to meet the arrival dates, then they are welcome to participate, however may not be eligible for Tennis Canada funding for that event.

#### **POLICY #5: FUNDING**

##### **Assistance Packages**

Specific assistance packages will be determined and communicated by Tennis Canada. The Director has the discretion to adjust the assistance package throughout the year based on performance, injuries, or changes in annual plan priorities.

Tennis Canada will cover airfare, hotel, coaching services, and most meals for training camps and the World Team Cup. If the location of residence is outside of the country, then partial funding may be provided.

#### **POLICY #6: SELECTIONS**

The High-Performance Committee makes final decisions on NDP selections. The High-Performance Committee consists of the Director, High Performance Programs & Administration, National Coach or Designate, Senior Director-High Performance, Head of U15 Development, National Development Coach. Please refer to Appendix 1 for more detail on the High-Performance Committee.

#### **POLICY #7: ILLNESS, INJURY OR PREGNANCY**

##### **Short-Term Curtailment of Training and Competition for Health-Related Reasons**

NDP athletes who are unable to train or compete because of a health-related reason (injury, illness, pregnancy) for a relatively short period (i.e. less than four months) may maintain their national program status if the following are met:

1. Athletes contact the National Coach in writing at the time of any health issue, and submit the medical certificate as required.

2. Athletes provide a revised annual training plan to the National Coach within 30 days of the start of the health issue.

#### **Long-Term Curtailment of Training and Competition for Health-Related Reasons**

NDP athletes who are unable to maintain full training and competition commitments for periods longer than four months because of injury, illness or pregnancy will continue to receive the support to which they would otherwise be entitled, provided the following conditions are met:

1. Athlete to provide the National Coach the following in writing:
  - (a) An agreement to train or rehabilitate or both under the supervision of Tennis Canada for the period for which the athlete is unable to fulfill the training and competitive commitments, and at a level that minimizes risk to the athlete's personal health and ensures optimal return to full training and competition as soon as possible.
  - (b) A plan showing a return to full high-performance training and competition at the earliest date possible following the illness, injury or pregnancy.
  - (c) A positive prognosis for a return to training and competition at the high-performance level within 8-12 months from the Tennis Canada medical team or other appropriate medical personnel.
  - (d) A fully documented rehabilitation plan from the athlete's personal physician.
  - (e) A revised annual training and competitive plan to meet the national team program goals and standards.
  - (f) Monthly progress reports.

#### **Failure to Meet Renewal Criteria for Health-Related Reasons**

At the end of a NDP cycle during which an athlete has, strictly for health-related reasons, not achieved the standards required for renewal of National Development Program status, he or she may be considered for re-nomination for the upcoming season under the following conditions:

- The athlete has fulfilled all reasonable training and rehabilitation requirements aimed at a speedy return to full high performance training and competition during the period of his or her injury, illness or pregnancy and, despite making every reasonable effort to attain the applicable National Development Program standards during the year in which the injury, illness or pregnancy occurred, failed to do so, in

the view of Tennis Canada, for reasons strictly related to the injury, illness or pregnancy.

- Tennis Canada, based on its technical judgement and that of the Tennis Canada medical team or equivalent, indicates in writing the expectation that the athlete will achieve at least the minimum standards required for the national program during the upcoming period.
- The athlete has demonstrated and continues to demonstrate his or her long-term commitment to high performance training and competitive goals, as well as his or her intention to pursue full high-performance training and competition throughout the period for which he or she wishes to be renewed despite not having met the National Development Program criteria.

**POLICY #8: MEDICAL**

NDP athletes will ensure that they are medically fit to train, travel and compete. In the event of any change in medical status from the time they are selected for the program, they shall immediately inform the National Coach in writing.

If an athlete is injured to the extent that they are unable to train, travel and compete as part of the National Development Program, Tennis Canada may require that the athlete's injury be examined by a Tennis Canada designated doctor. It will be the National Coach discretion whether the athlete is eligible for benefits and services during period of injury and rehabilitation.

**POLICY #9: COMMUNICATION**

Tennis Canada values open, honest and ongoing positive communication. Therefore, specific and effective communication channels are in place for all athletes, coaches and Provincial Associations.

Tennis Canada currently provides the following communication channels in both official languages:

- NDP handbook and supplements
- Ongoing email updates
- Website and social media
- Pre-season meetings, and communication at trainings and tours
- Ongoing communication with the National Coach
- Athlete representative

- High Performance Committee
- Tennis Canada staff

If you have a concern, please note the following chain of communication to be used by all athletes:

1.Contact the National Coach

Contact Kai Schrameyer at [kschrameyer@tenniscanada.com](mailto:kschrameyer@tenniscanada.com) for overall program or selection matters. If unable to find a solution, then...

2. Contact the Director

Contact Janet Petras at [jpetras@tenniscanada.com](mailto:jpetras@tenniscanada.com). If you are unable to find a solution, then....

3.Contact Senior Director, High Performance

Contact Melissa Lacroix at [mlacroix@tenniscanada.com](mailto:mlacroix@tenniscanada.com)

Should individuals choose to communicate outside of the channels listed above or in ways that are disrespectful or damaging to others or the sport, it will be considered a Group Two Infraction and penalized as per the Discipline Policies as follows:

**Group Two Infractions**

A written reprimand and the potential for a suspension from the NDP (for up to one year).

**CONTACTS**

**Tennis Canada Staff**

**Director, High Performance Programs & Administration: Janet Petras**  
jpetras@tenniscanada.com  
(604)562-5667

**National Coach: Kai Schrameyer**  
[kschrameyer@tenniscanada.com](mailto:kschrameyer@tenniscanada.com)  
(778) 995-4613

## APPENDIX

### HIGH PERFORMANCE COMMITTEE

#### TERMS OF REFERENCE

The High-Performance Committee (HPC) for wheelchair tennis is an advisory body to Tennis Canada for high performance related matters. The HPC mandate is to make decisions regarding NDP selections, policies and programs.

The committee consists of 5 members including:

- Director, High Performance Programs & Administration
- Senior Director, High Performance
- Head of U15 Development
- National Development Coach
- National Coach

The HPC may meet annually in a workshop setting and via conference call two to four times per year for program development, policy administration and selection purposes. The Director, High Performance Programs & Administration chairs all meetings and the committee's goal is to administer the selection policies and procedures in a fair and unbiased manner.

#### Decision-making Process:

Each member must exercise one vote when required. A recommendation based on the majority vote is forwarded to Tennis Canada for consideration. The Tennis Canada Vice-President High Performance, Director, High Performance Programs & Administration, and Senior Director-High Performance make all final decisions and have the authority to overturn or accept the recommendation.

#### High Performance Committee

<b>Janet Petras</b>	Chairperson Director, High Performance Programs & Administration
<b>Melissa Lacroix</b>	Senior Director, High Performance
<b>Jocelyn Robichaud</b>	Head of U15 Development
<b>Christian Gingras</b>	National Development Coach
<b>Kai Schrameyer</b>	National Coach