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## **HIGH PERFORMANCE HANDBOOK**

*Last updated: December 2025*

### **INTRODUCTION**

Welcome to the Tennis Canada High Performance Handbook. This resource has been designed to outline the programs and initiatives that play a key role in advancing high-performance tennis in Canada.

Founded in 1890, Tennis Canada is a non-profit, national sport association with a mission to lead the growth, development and promotion of tennis in Canada and a vision to be a world-leading tennis nation. The programs summarized in this handbook reflect our commitment to achieving this vision, offering athletes, coaches, parents, and all those who play a role in tennis development a clear path to success at every level.

For information on each program, please refer to the appropriate sections and links provided.

### **TABLE OF CONTENTS**

OUR DIRECTION: STRATEGY & VALUES.....	2
THE WHOLE PLAYER DEVELOPMENT PATHWAY.....	2
NATIONAL BANK LITTLE ACES PROGRAM.....	3
U15 CANADIAN PROSPECT TEAM.....	3
REGIONAL TRAINING CENTRES.....	3
NATIONAL TENNIS CENTRE PRESENTED BY ROGERS.....	3
INTERNATIONAL GROUP.....	4
WHEELCHAIR TENNIS.....	4
TEAM CANADA.....	4
HIGH PERFORMANCE RECOGNITION PROGRAM.....	6
PERFORMANCE STANDARDS.....	6
SPORT CANADA ATHLETE ASSISTANCE PROGRAM.....	7
JUNIOR NATIONALS PARTICIPATION POLICY.....	7
JUNIOR NATIONALS HP ALLOCATION SPOTS.....	7
ITF JUNIOR EVENT & PRO EVENT WILD CARD PROCESS.....	8
COMPETITION PATHWAY.....	8
CHANGING THE GAME.....	8
APPEAL POLICY.....	9
U15 COMMITTEE.....	9
HIGH PERFORMANCE COMMITTEE (WHEELCHAIR TENNIS).....	10
HP DEPARTMENT KEY CONTACTS.....	10
PROVINCIAL & TERRITORIAL TENNIS ASSOCIATION LINKS.....	11

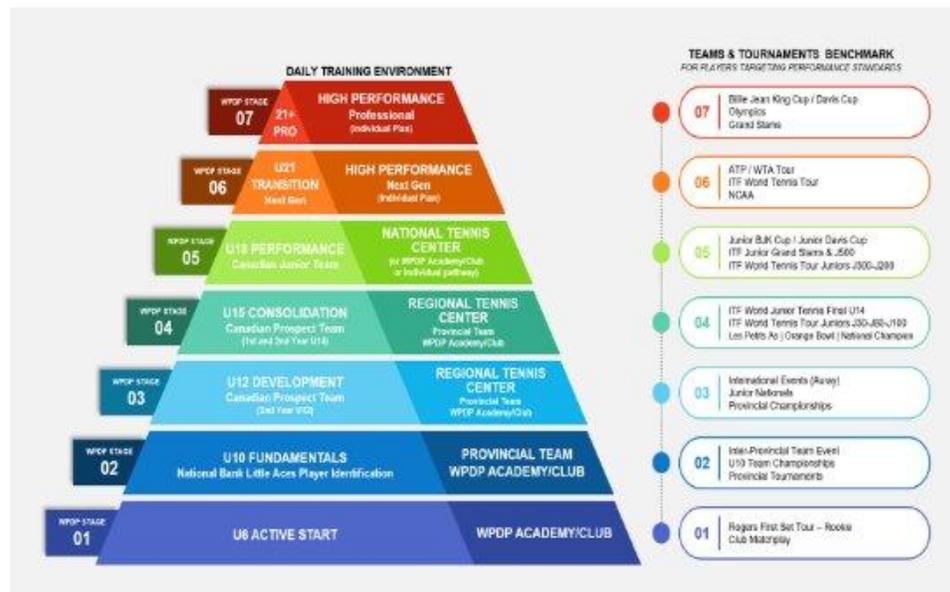


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## OUR DIRECTION: STRATEGY & VALUES

The High-Performance team is dedicated to the Raise the Bar on Winning strategy with the long-term goal of developing players capable of winning Olympic and Paralympic medals, Grand Slam titles, and the Billie Jean King Cup and Davis Cup events. Tennis Canada is committed to delivering a holistic approach to player development focused on players' skills both on and off the court. The strategy is guided by the organizational values of thriving together, embodying excellence, thinking differently and embracing challenges.



## THE WHOLE PLAYER DEVELOPMENT PATHWAY

From the first hit to the highest levels, the Whole Player Development Pathway (WPDP) provides recommendations for various development stages and pathways.

The WPDP also provides guidelines for training and competition to help players achieve their potential and, ultimately, enjoy tennis for life. This holistic approach, which includes four pathways, aims to develop great tennis players – and great people who can be role models and inspire future generations of tennis players, fans, supporters and Canadians.

The WPDP framework is designed around the 5Cs of skill development that helps develop a well-balanced player and individual with the following key components:

- Culture



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- Character
- Confidence
- Connection
- Competence

To learn more about the WPDP, click [here](#).

### **NATIONAL BANK LITTLE ACES PROGRAM**

National Bank Little Aces is a player identification and development program for 7- to 10-year-olds. The program aims to improve the overall development of these young participants with the goal of inspiring them to compete at the international level. This will lead to a much larger pool of young competitors, ultimately resulting in fostering a stronger U15 Canadian pipeline and increasing the number of Canadians competing internationally.

To learn more about the program, click [here](#).

### **U15 CANADIAN PROSPECT TEAM**

The U15 Canadian Prospect Team structure is designed to help track, monitor, support and develop young prospects, aged 10-14 years old, working in tandem with the private sector coaches, parents, Regional Training Centres, National Coaches part of the U15 player development team, academies, and Provincial and Territorial Tennis Associations. It serves as a stepping stone, with the aim of ultimately advancing to the National Tennis Centre presented by Rogers (NTC).

Click [here](#) to learn about the structure of the U15 Canadian Prospect Team.

### **REGIONAL TRAINING CENTRES**

In addition to the NTC in Montreal, three Regional Training Centres have been established in Montreal, Toronto, and Vancouver to act as regrouping centres for promising U14 talent in those regions. The centres are supplementary training programs designed to support club leaders, personal coaches and parents to enrich the current training and competitive environment for our top-performing athletes. These four programs act as feeder systems into the full-time NTC.

### **NATIONAL TENNIS CENTRE PRESENTED BY ROGERS**

The National Tennis Centre presented by Rogers (NTC) has been operating since 2007, identifying and developing talent in players aged 13-19. These athletes receive the training, coaching, and resources necessary to succeed at the highest levels of the sport. National



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training centres are recognized internationally as a best practice, allowing players to gather in one location to refine their technical, physical, and tactical skills, gain top-level international competitive experience, manage life on the junior circuit as a gateway to professional tours, and develop team identity and values to represent Canada on the world stage.

To learn more about the NTC and Regional Training Centres, click [here](#).

## **INTERNATIONAL GROUP**

**New for 2026:** Tennis Canada will partner with private sector coaches to offer training camps and opportunities to participate in international tournaments to players aged 15 to 17 who are being considered for the NTC.

## **WHEELCHAIR TENNIS**

The National High-Performance Program consists of players who are competing on the Uniqlo ITF World Tour and meeting specific performance benchmarks. Support is provided to assist with coaching, training, and international travel. Tennis Canada also delivers the National Development Program designed to provide next-gen players with support en route to the next stage of development.

To learn more about the programs, click [here](#).

## **TEAM CANADA**

### **Davis Cup**

The [Davis Cup](#) is the premier international team competition in men's tennis, organized by the International Tennis Federation (ITF). Held annually, it brings together teams from over 150 countries, each selecting 4 to 5 of their top players to represent their nation, making it the largest annual team sports competition in the world. Known as the "World Cup of Tennis," the winning team is crowned world champion. The Canadian men's national tennis team has competed in the Davis Cup since 1913. In 2022, Team Canada claimed their first-ever Davis Cup title, defeating Australia 2–0 in the final. The current captain of the Canadian Davis Cup team is Frank Dancevic.

### **Billie Jean King Cup**

The [Billie Jean King Cup](#) – formerly known as Federation Cup (1963-1995) and Fed Cup (1995-2020) – was launched in 1963 to celebrate the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the International Tennis Federation (ITF). It is now the world's largest annual international team competition in women's sport, with a record 132 nations participating in 2023, each selecting 4 to 5 of their top players to



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represent their country. It is known as the World Cup of Tennis. Canada has made history by winning their first Billie Jean King Cup title after defeating Italy in the 2023 final in Seville. The current captain of the Canadian Billie Jean King Cup team is Heidi El Tabakh.

### **Junior Davis Cup, Billie Jean King Cup, and World Junior Team Championships**

In addition, Canada fields teams to the Junior Davis Cup, Junior Billie Jean King Cup, and Under 14 World Junior Team Championships each year. Launched by the ITF as the 'World Youth Cup' in 1985, the International Team Competition for players aged 16 & Under was re-branded as the 'Davis Cup Juniors and Billie Jean King Cup Juniors'. The Finals will see the top 16 boys' and girls' teams from regional qualifying compete for the title. The International Team Competition for players aged 14 & Under was launched by the ITF in 1991. The top 16 boys' and girls' teams from regional qualifying will compete for the title, with over 100 countries represented in the opening stages of the competition.

### **World Team Cup**

The [BNP Paribas World Team Cup](#) is considered to be the Davis Cup and Billie Jean King Cup of wheelchair tennis, the flagship international team event in the sport. Following regional qualifying, World Team Cup is held over a one-week period in a different host city each year, bringing together nations from around the world to compete in four categories: men, women, quad, and junior.

### **Pan American & Para Pan American Games**

The Pan American Games and Para Pan American Games are major multi-sport events for countries in the Americas, held every four years, one year before the Summer Olympics and Paralympics. They feature a wide range of sports and disciplines, and serve as an important qualifying event for the Olympic Games and Paralympic Games.

### **Olympic & Paralympic Games**

Team Canada competes with pride and determination in both the [Olympic and Paralympic Games](#), showcasing the very best that Canadian tennis has to offer. From world-class able-bodied athletes to wheelchair tennis champions, our athletes inspire fans across the globe with their dedication, skill, and resilience. These events represent the pinnacle of international sport, and Team Canada's athletes rise to the occasion every four years, bringing the spirit of excellence to the court.



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## HIGH PERFORMANCE RECOGNITION PROGRAM

The High Performance Recognition Program replaced the Tennis Development Centre Program and is designed to reward the key areas that contribute to the development of a strong high-performance pipeline. The program consists of five core pillars that stand alone and reward clubs, players and coaches at the Platinum, Gold, Silver and Bronze levels:

- Hosting Competitions
- WPDP Training Environment
- Player Results
- National Bank Little Aces – Player Identification
- Coach Results

To learn more, click [here](#).

## PERFORMANCE STANDARDS

The Player Results pillar provides funding support directly to players to help offset the costs associated with training and competition. Players are awarded funding based on achieving specific standards. Through extensive research, Tennis Canada has developed two sets of standards with corresponding criteria for players to unlock funding:

### Development standards:

- To receive funding under the Development Standards, players are assessed by the U15 Coaching Development Committee on a specified set of evaluation criteria.
- The criteria evaluate a player's technical, tactical, physical, and mental competencies. Criteria were developed based on the corresponding Whole Player Development Pathway guidelines for that age and stage.
- Development Standards funding is the funding available for U15 Canadian Prospect Team players.

### Performance standards:

- Performance Standards have been established for players tracking Top 250 (Bronze), Top 100 (Silver), Top 50 (Gold), and Top 10 (Platinum).
- For each age category, multiple results and ranking standards have been identified for the corresponding bands (Bronze, Silver, Gold, Platinum).
- To receive funding players must meet a combination of one result standard and one ranking standard.



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- Girls and Boys Performance Standards funding begins at age 13 or 14 and is available until age 25.
- If an athlete achieves the Performance Standards throughout the year, it is their responsibility to submit an application to let us know they have done so (see the Application section in the below link).

Click [here](#) to view the Performance Standards.

### **SPORT CANADA ATHLETE ASSISTANCE PROGRAM**

The Athlete Assistance Program (AAP) is a sport funding program that contributes to the pursuit of excellence. AAP support seeks to relieve some of the financial pressures associated with preparing for and participating in international sport and assists high-performance Canadian athletes to combine their sport and academic or working careers while training intensively in pursuit of world-class performances.

More information is available [here](#).

### **JUNIOR NATIONALS PARTICIPATION POLICY**

Tennis Canada provides programs and benefits for high-performance athletes who participate in the Fischer Junior Nationals and meet designated performance standards. Adhering to the Junior Nationals Participation policy is a requirement to be eligible for the programs and benefits listed below:

- Wild Card Assistance
- Sponsorship Assistance
- International Tours
- International Team Event Selections
- National Training Camps
- Full-time Montreal NTC or RTC Programs in the regions
- Sport Canada Carding Program

For more information, click [here](#).

### **JUNIOR NATIONALS HP ALLOCATIONS SPOTS**

Tennis Canada delivers the U12, U14, U16, and U18 Indoor and Fischer Outdoor Junior Nationals each spring and summer with the goal of providing a quality competitive opportunity for the best junior players in the country. All players are encouraged to participate in their



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respective Provincial qualifying processes/events, and the National Junior Open Series events, which provide additional opportunities to qualify for the Junior Nationals.

To ensure the top players can compete in the Junior Nationals, Tennis Canada has reserved a limited number of main draw direct entry spots in each age division. Tennis Canada direct entry spots are for top players who are unable to qualify through their provincial qualifying process. To apply for direct entry, complete and submit a request four weeks prior to the Indoor and Outdoor Junior Nationals using the official form, [here](#).

### **ITF JUNIOR EVENT & PRO EVENT WILD CARD PROCESS**

All players entered in ITF Junior, ITF Pro, WTA/ATP events in Canada are automatically considered for a wild card allocation spot into the qualifying or main draws of those events. In case of a specific request, please contact one of the members of the HP Department, listed at the end of this document.

The Tennis Canada wild card selection committee will communicate wild card allocation spots to the ITF Supervisor or Referee and to the selected players approximately 2-3 days prior to each tournament. Note: Submitting a formal wild card request to Tennis Canada is not required. A detailed explanation of the criteria can be found [here](#).

### **COMPETITION PATHWAY**

Tennis Canada delivers a comprehensive calendar of competitions of junior, wheelchair, ITF and Pro events aligned with the stages of the Whole Player Development Pathway. To learn more, click on the following links:

Tennis Canada: [www.tenniscanada.com/tournaments](http://www.tenniscanada.com/tournaments)

ITF: [www.itftennis.com](http://www.itftennis.com)

ATP: [www.atptour.com](http://www.atptour.com)

WTA: [www.wtatennis.com](http://www.wtatennis.com)

### **Rankings**

Click [here](#) to access the National Bank Canadian rankings, which are compiled for the Junior, Open, Adult, Masters and Wheelchair Tennis divisions.

### **CHANGING THE GAME**

### **Sport Safety**



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Tennis Canada's mission is to lead the growth, development, and promotion of tennis in Canada by promoting an environment that is free from all forms of neglect and maltreatment, and that reflects its core values of thriving together, thinking differently, embracing challenges and embodying excellence. Click [here](#) for more information.

### **Mental Health Strategy**

Tennis Canada's mission is to provide a safe and inclusive environment while recognizing mental health as a crucial part of a tennis player's performance journey. The initiatives aim to foster awareness, promote healthy habits, and ensure everyone has access to the mental health support they need. To discover the strategy, click [here](#).

### **Games. Set. Equity.**

Tennis Canada partnered with National Bank on our Game. Set. Equity. strategy beginning in 2023. This initiative is dedicated to advancing equity for women and girls at all levels of the tennis ecosystem in Canada, from the playground to the pro tours. To find out more about the initiative, click [here](#).

### **APPEAL POLICY**

A fair and efficient process for athletes to appeal decisions related to the National High Performance Program and Sport Canada carding nominations. To learn about the appeal policy, click [here](#).

### **U15 COMMITTEE**

The U15 committee is responsible for advising and making decisions related to Tennis Canada's high-performance U15 player development related matters.

- The committee is expected to lead and make recommendations on U15:
  - Player selections for the prospect team (evaluations at Outdoor Nationals in August)
  - Prospect team camp selection
  - U15 tournament or tour selections
  - U15 player selections for tour and tournaments
  - Policies related to U15 programs
  - Tennis Canada's spots and seeding at Nationals U12, U14
  - U14 World Cup selection



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## HIGH PERFORMANCE COMMITTEE (WHEELCHAIR TENNIS)

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 recommendations to Tennis Canada regarding National High Performance Program selections, carding, policies and programs.

The committee consists of five members, including:

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

## HP DEPARTMENT KEY CONTACTS

If you have a question for the High Performance department, please contact one of the team members below.

- Guillaume Marx, Vice-President, High Performance: [gmarx@tenniscanada.com](mailto:gmarx@tenniscanada.com)
- Melissa Lacroix, Senior Director, High Performance: [mlacroix@tenniscanada.com](mailto:mlacroix@tenniscanada.com)
- Noelle van Lottum, Head of Women's Tennis: [nvanlottum@tenniscanada.com](mailto:nvanlottum@tenniscanada.com)
- Frank Dancevic, Head of Men's Tennis: [fdancevic@tenniscanada.com](mailto:fdancevic@tenniscanada.com)
- Jocelyn Robichaud, Head of U15 Development: [jrobichaud@tenniscanada.com](mailto:jrobichaud@tenniscanada.com)
- Janet Petras, Director, High Performance Programs: [jpetras@tenniscanada.com](mailto:jpetras@tenniscanada.com)
- Haginaa Sivapunniyan: Manager, Performance Services:  
[hsivapunniyan@tenniscanada.com](mailto:hsivapunniyan@tenniscanada.com)
- Kai Schrameyer, National Coach, Wheelchair Tennis: [kschrameyer@tenniscanada.com](mailto:kschrameyer@tenniscanada.com)
- Gabrielle Bouffard, Administrative Coordinator: [gbouffard@tenniscanada.com](mailto:gbouffard@tenniscanada.com)

## PROVINCIAL & TERRITORIAL TENNIS ASSOCIATION LINKS

Tennis Canada works closely in partnership with the Provincial and Territorial Tennis Associations (PTTAs) to grow the sport across the country. The PTTAs are crucial to the development of tennis at the grassroots level and the competitive pipeline.

Below is a list of the PTTAs:



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- [Tennis British Columbia](#)
- [Tennis Manitoba](#)
- [Tennis New Brunswick](#)
- [Tennis Newfoundland & Labrador](#)
- [Tennis Northwest Territories](#)
- [Tennis Nova Scotia](#)
- [Tennis Ontario](#)
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- [Tennis Quebec](#)
- [Tennis Saskatchewan](#)
- [Tennis Yukon](#)