



U15 Canadian Prospect Team



TEAM · ÉQUIPE
CANADA



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INTRODUCTION

The U15 Canadian Prospect Team structure is designed to help track, monitor, support and develop young prospects, ages 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 Tennis Associations.

Tennis Canada's High Performance staff will help U15 players meet the revised Whole Player Develop Pathway (WPDP) training, competition, competence, and character guidelines.^{[1] [2]}

The core of the support provided through this program is based on assessing each prospect's daily training environment and identifying any gaps that can be filled with support by a National Coach at the Regional Training Centres, in their home training environment or with competition support.

[1] Please see Appendix A and B for further details on the revised WPDP.

[2] Please see Appendix C and D for further details on GRIT and character components.



U15 CANADIAN PROSPECT TEAM

OVERVIEW

The U15 Canadian Prospect Team is designed to assist identified players to transition to their next stage of development, international competition, and the National Training Centre. A group of prospect players is identified by the U15 Committee each September although additional players may be added at any time. Players are engaged for a minimum of 1 year or until they reach their second year U14.

PLAYER IDENTIFICATION

The U15 Canadian Prospect Team is identified using a combination of criteria including **player profile (technical tactical, physical, mental competencies), competitive results, and environment** including parents' and coach's collaboration and commitment. A Committee, led by the Head of U15 Development, and including national coaches will make annual decisions.

PROGRAM COMPONENTS



National camps



Touring opportunities



Player Monitoring



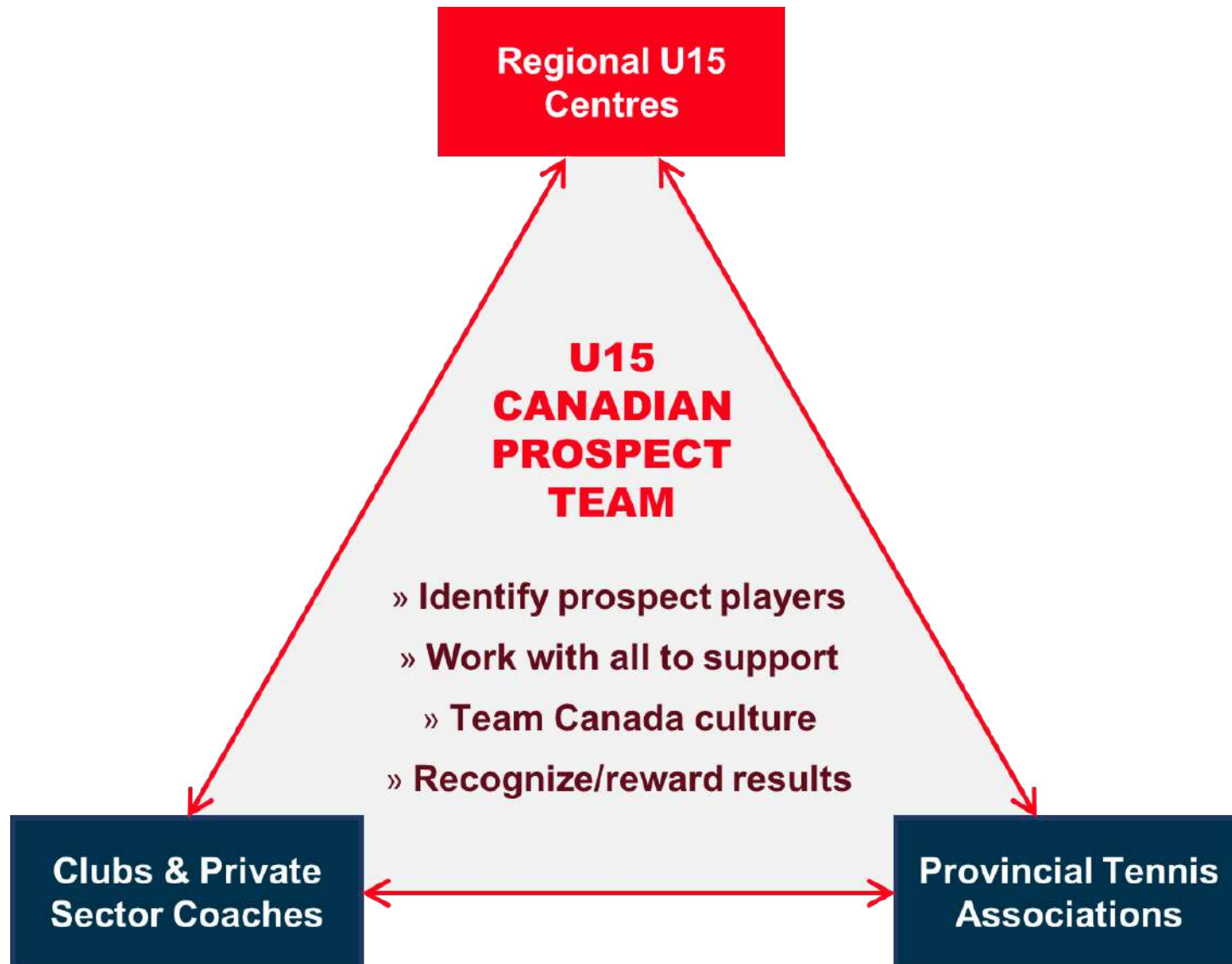
**Funding to support
international competition**

based on age/stage of development



**Support services according
to players needed**

U15 CANADIAN PROSPECT TEAM COLLABORATION



Key components of the U15 Canadian Prospect Team program:

- Supporting each player based on their current conditions
- Working with private sector coaches to evaluate their daily training, competitive and fitness environment
- Working together to help fill any gaps related to each player's development pathway and needs. This includes providing players with additional physio, court time, fitness training, coaching support etc.

Ongoing and honest communication between Tennis Canada, private sector coaches, players and families will be critical to the success of this program.

U15 CANADIAN PROSPECT TEAM IDENTIFICATION

COMMITTEE

The player identification Committee is led by Head of U15 Development and comprises of the following:

- Head of Performance
- Regional Centre National coaches
- Tennis Canada High Performance staff

TIMELINES

- Final U15 Canadian Prospect Team nominations will be made annually **following the Outdoor Junior Nationals**.
- Once selected, players will generally remain part of the U15 Canadian Prospect Team for a **minimum of one year** and likely longer subject to showing a strong commitment to development and demonstrating continual improvement.
- Each year a new cohort will be selected, and graduating players will progress to the next stage of development and access support through various other assistance programs.

It is expected for identified players and their families to work in cooperation with Tennis Canada and be good ambassadors for tennis. Any behaviour that does not align with Tennis Canada's values and Code of Conduct could result in a player being removed from the team.



EVALUATION CRITERIA

- ✓ **Competitive results**
- ✓ **Technical abilities**
- ✓ **Tactical abilities**
- ✓ **Physical abilities**
- ✓ **Mental competencies**
- ✓ **Environment**

The above criteria are evaluated by the National coaches in conjunction with feedback from provincial HP staff and from observing the prospects during competition throughout the year.

U15 CANADIAN PROSPECT TEAM NATIONAL CAMPS

KEY DETAILS

- U15 Canadian Prospect Team members will be invited to **2-3 national camps** over a 12-month window with **all expenses covered** by Tennis Canada
- Camps will be led by the **Head of U15 Development and the National coaching team**
- Camps will include additional **off-court sessions** to help players understand the importance of on and off court traits and habits required to help them reach their potential as a person and as a tennis player
- All players will be **video taped**, and this will be **shared with their private sector coaches** to help establish communication and common objectives and baselines.
- National camps will be designed to:
 - + Reinforce key fundamentals
 - + Provide stimulating training
 - + Identify areas of focus to develop
 - + Provide opportunities to compete, train and make new friends
 - + Foster a safe, welcoming and inclusive environment



TIMELINES

The first camp will be held in the Fall.

Follow-up camps will be held in the new year and/or in the Spring with benchmarks provided relative to the baselines established in the Fall.

U15 CANADIAN PROSPECT TEAM **PLAYER MONITORING**

KEY DETAILS

- Players will be tracked and monitored throughout the year
- Each player will **be under the umbrella of a U15 National Coach to help collaborate with their private sector coach** and family and provide support at the Regional Centre or in their home clubs
- Video analytics will be used to **establish objectives with private sector coaches** and will target key fundamentals and tactical objectives to maximize each player's style acknowledging strengths and weaknesses.
- Ongoing collaboration and communication between players, HP Staff, private sector coaches and families will be a priority.



U15 CANADIAN PROSPECT TEAM DEVELOPMENT & PERFORMANCE STANDARDS FUNDING

Players who are part of the U15 Canadian Prospect team are automatically a part of the development standards and will receive the funding outlined below. Older players who fall under the performance standards and are achieving age and stage results will be provided funding support to help offset costs associated with training & competition.

GIRLS	DEVELOPMENT STANDARDS		PERFORMANCE STANDARDS		
	1ST YEAR GU12	2ND YEAR GU12	1ST YEAR GU14	2ND YEAR GU14	1ST YEAR GU16
	Up to \$3,000	Up to \$3,000	Up to \$10,000 +	Up to \$12,500 +	Up to \$17,500
BOYS	DEVELOPMENT STANDARDS			PERFORMANCE STANDARDS	
	1ST YEAR BU12	2ND YEAR BU12	1ST YEAR BU14	2ND YEAR BU14	1ST YEAR BU16
	Up to \$3,000	Up to \$3,000	Up to \$5,000	Up to \$10,000 +	Up to \$15,000

[CLICK HERE](#) TO VIEW FULL DEVELOPMENT AND PERFORMANCE STANDARDS.

DEVELOPMENT STANDARDS

- Standards were established for 10-to-14-year-olds, knowing the more depth we have in these age groups the better it is for increasing the odds to convert these players from stage to stage.

PERFORMANCE STANDARDS

- Standards were set based on the corresponding ITF Study and analyzing 10 years of ATP/WTA ranking data. 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 corresponding bands (bronze, silver, gold, platinum). **To receive funding players must meet a combination of 1 result standard and 1 ranking standard.**
- Girls Performance Standards funding begins one earlier than boys (to align with progression trends). Boys Performance Standards funding ends one year later than girls. Overall, both boys and girls are eligible to receive Performance Standards funding for a period of 9 years.

+ **1ST YEAR GU14:** Combined year with U15 Canadian Prospect Team tournament subsidy. In addition to Performance Standards funding, players are eligible to receive \$5,000 tournament subsidy.

U15 CANADIAN PROSPECT TEAM INTERNATIONAL TOURS, CAMPS AND MATCHPLAY ABROAD

KEY DETAILS

- The U15 Canadian Prospect Team Committee will develop an annual touring schedule for various ages, stages and genders.
- These opportunities will always have a limited number of spots. To align with our priority and philosophy to be as competitive as possible, spots will be extended to players who have earned their invitation. For players who do not earn a spot, we are working with Provincial Associations to provide opportunities – this is in addition to the Development Standards funding available to access international tournaments.
- International Tour, Camp and Matchplay opportunities will:
 - + **Be led by Tennis Canada** National and touring coaches
 - + Provide **subsidized competitive opportunities** that are matched with various skills and readiness levels
 - + Be designed to help **foster the development of the players, test their competencies at the international level, develop their professionalism, autonomy and build character (GRIT), on and off the court.**



THANK YOU

The years of hard work invested in by many have led to historic success.

Thank you for all your work and support as you are the backbone of our development system and we are all grateful as we strive to work together, support each other, and maximize our collective resources.



APPENDIX A: WHOLE PLAYER DEVELOPMENT PATHWAY

The Whole Player Development Pathway (WPDP) educates players on the various stages and pathways available to help them to achieve their full potential on and off the court and enjoy tennis for life.



APPENDIX B: FOUR VIABLE PATHWAYS

The new WPDP highlights 4 viable pathways to achieving success. The 4 pathways are based on historic results from male and female athletes that have made it to the highest levels and by taking various routes based on their stage, age, and environmental conditions.

PATHWAY		REACHED TOP 100
A	Early specializing ages 5-6	19 to 21 years-old
B	Early initiation, multi-sport, specialize age 12	19 to 21 years-old
C	Initiation ages 9-11, multi-sport, specialize ages 13-15	19 to 21 years-old
D	Combination of above pathways, late bloomers	22 to 25 years-old

APPENDIX C: GRIT

GRIT is a component in the selection process for the U15 Canadian Prospect Team and is a key focus in the WPDP.

Experts in sport psychology and science have GRIT as a foundation of greatness. Dr. Kevin Willis has identified five key elements of GRIT that are critical to athletic and life success:

- Burning passion
- Accurate self-perception/self-awareness
- Resolute purpose, clear vision, goal-setting
- Deliberate practice
Challenging abilities, pushing out of comfort zone and into learning zone
- Unwavering perseverance

APPENDIX D: FIVE Cs

The five Cs have been incorporated into the WPDP and U15 Canadian Prospect Team program as learning off court skills are critical to develop the whole player and person.

