



WHEELCHAIR TENNIS WHOLE PLAYER DEVELOPMENT PATHWAY

Stage 1: Discovery

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INTRODUCTIONS

LAND ACKNOWLEDGMENT

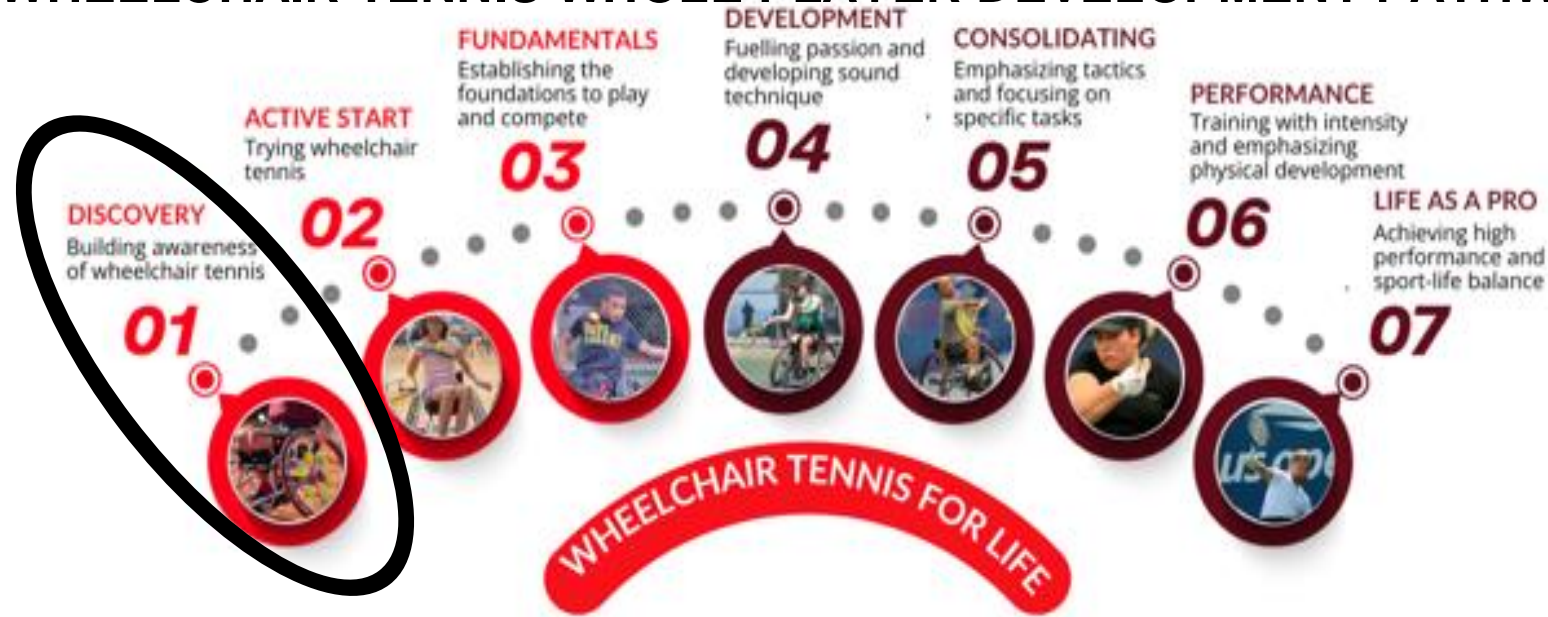


We recognize that Surrey, BC is situated on the unceded traditional territories of the Coast Salish peoples, including the Katzie, Kwantlen and Semiahmoo First Nations.

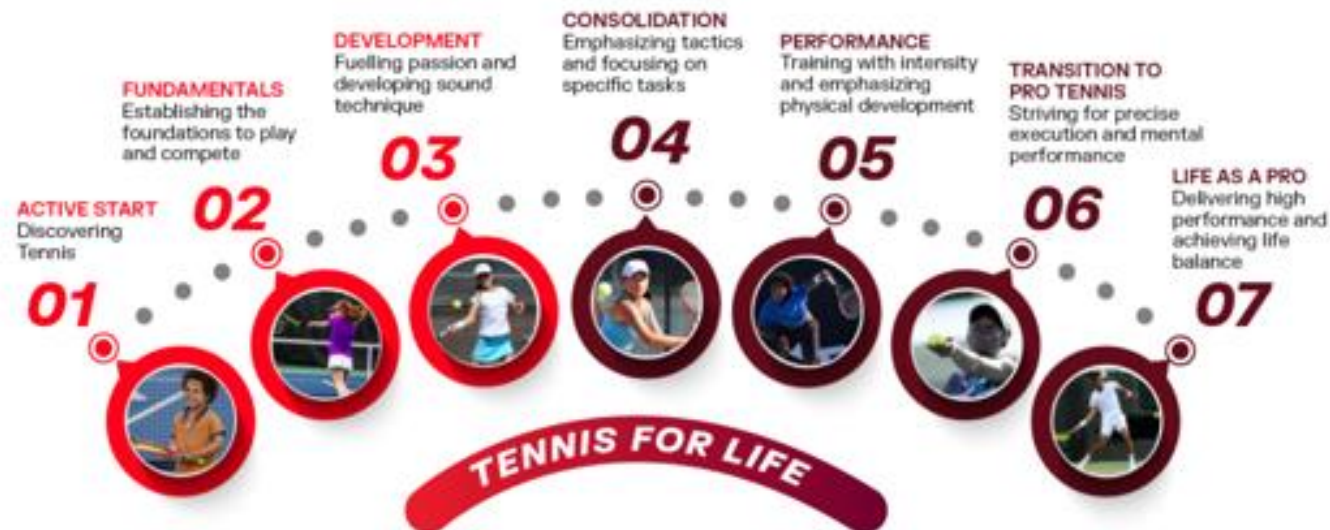
We also respectfully acknowledge the many other Indigenous nations that are represented among Surrey's population.

WHY A DISCOVERY STAGE?

WHEELCHAIR TENNIS WHOLE PLAYER DEVELOPMENT PATHWAY



WHOLE PLAYER DEVELOPMENT PATHWAY



TENNIS POPULARITY



Tennis is the

4th most popular sport
in terms of interest
in Canada...

HOCKEY
SOCCER
BASKETBALL
TENNIS
GOLF
BADMINTON
CURLING
PICKLEBALL
SQUASH

SOCCER
BASKETBALL
GOLF
HOCKEY
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and **5th in participation**

Survey conducted by YouGov
Canada online in English and
French (October 12-23, 2023)

BC Wheelchair Sports Association

Executive Director Michelle McDonell

Mission: advocates for & delivers quality wheelchair sport programs, services & events that build community, support holistic development & provide the opportunity to strive for excellence.

Aim to reduce barriers to participants for athletes with a disability of all ages in 3 sports: wheelchair tennis, wheelchair rugby, wheelchair athletics.

- Wheelchair Loan Program
- Low and no cost programming
- Athlete Assistance Program
- Access to coaching support
- Event hosting



**BC WHEELCHAIR
S P O R T S**

BCWSA PROGRAMS & EVENTS

- ❑ Beginner to advanced programming across BC
- ❑ Junior camps
- ❑ Targeted HP coaching
- ❑ Provincial Team Program
 - HP Camps
 - IST
 - Yearly Planning
 - Travel Support
- ❑ Host ITF Futures Vancouver International & Kamloops Legacy Games
- ❑ Support for Instructor's Course



WHO IS THE AUDIENCE

1. General Public
2. Tennis Community
3. Disability Community
4. Prospective Participants



GENERAL PUBLIC

Increasing awareness of wheelchair tennis

- Media outlets
- Social media
- Promotion of adaptations within schools programs
- Inclusive imagery
- Demonstrations at NBO and other major events



TENNIS COMMUNITY

Increasing knowledge about wheelchair tennis

- Club events
- WC Tennis Instructor's Course
- TPA Club Professionals Course
- Community Champions – board members, volunteers, organizers
- Officials
- Junior players



DISABILITY COMMUNITY

Recruiting support from those who serve people with disabilities

- ❑ Community Partnerships
 - Provincial Wheelchair Sport Associations
 - WorkSafe
 - CPC
 - Amputee Coalitions
- ❑ Allied Health Professionals – Physiotherapy, Occupational Therapy, Recreation Therapy (Colleges), Orthotist & Prosthetist Clinics
- ❑ Rehabilitation Centres
- ❑ Children’s Hospitals
- ❑ Child Development Centres



PROSPECTIVE PARTICIPANTS

Direct recruitment of persons living with a disability

- ❑ All of the above
- ❑ Peers
- ❑ Community partnerships
 - SCI Action Canada, Neil Squire Society
- ❑ Other adaptive sports
- ❑ Targeted events – Have a Go Days



BCWSA AWARENESS INITIATIVES

- Have a Go Days
- Teacher training
- Community partnerships
- Community events
- Allied Health Professional Education – students & professionals
- Promotional materials – postcards, posters, brochures
- Social media

Recent News



BCWSA to host 2025 and 2026 Birmingham National Wheelchair Tennis Championships

[Birmingham Nationals](#) | [Wheelchair Tennis](#)



Vancouver International Wheelchair Tennis Tournament – Women’s Division Preview

[Vancouver International Wheelchair Tennis Tournament](#)

[Wheelchair Tennis](#)



Vancouver International Wheelchair Tennis Tournament – Quad Division Preview

[Vancouver International Wheelchair Tennis Tournament](#)

[Wheelchair Tennis](#)



New Champions Crowned in Kamloops

[Kamloops Legacy Wheelchair Tennis Tournament](#)

[Wheelchair Tennis](#)

RECRUITMENT TIPS

- Recruitment is **difficult** but **important**
 - Limited athlete pool
 - 27+ paralympic sports
- Putting in the initial work will lead to longer term success
- Collect participant information
- Treat every new participant as a win!
- Tailor communications to your audience
- Be ok with small numbers
- Be prepared to follow-up often



DISCOVERY - HAVE A GO DAY

- **Essentials:** sport chairs, racquets, balls, accessible facility
- **Good to have:** straps, athletic tape, pump (for tires), mini nets

Plan for:

- Volunteers or extra help to pick up balls
- Supporting people to transfer between chairs
- Extra time to get everyone set up in their equipment
- Cooling or shade options if outdoors, breaks, water



HAVE A GO DAY

- Focus on **FUN** & hitting balls – not technical or mobility skills
- Be aware of individual motivations
- Provide **Opportunities for Success** but do not oversimplify
- Provide information about the next opportunity to play, where to get a chair, how to book a court etc.

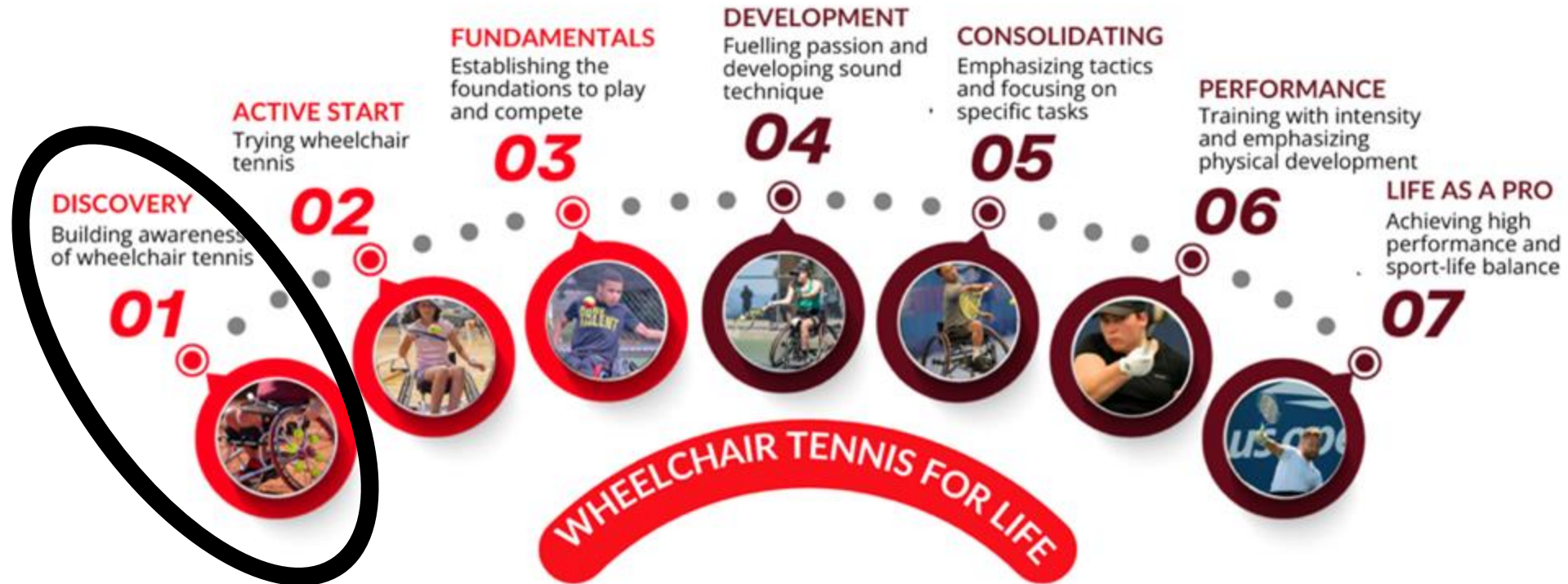


ENGAGING YOUR PWSA

- Connect with your PWSA
- Build a partnership



Q & A



Join us for the next webinar!
Stage 2: Active Start
Tuesday, March 18th, 12pm EST



Featuring:

Robert Shaw, Paralympian, Para Pan AM
Games gold medalist, world #7 quad player