

Tennis BC-Competitive Brief 2012 for Parents

December 16, 2012

We thank you for your support and participation throughout 2011. Tennis BC is committed to providing deeper and regular communications to our players and their parents. The following will describe the enhanced programming for 2012 and beyond.

Engagement & Excellence:

In October, Tennis BC hosted a roundtable for BC's "performance focused" coaches, along with introducing Oded Jacob, Tennis Canada's first national coach to be based in BC. Oded has come to us from Tel Aviv, Israel, with the reputation as one of the world's best in player development. He is focused on developing home-grown world-class players here in BC. A major goal of this roundtable was to create the best performance system possible for our BC junior competitors. From that meeting, four distinct "Task Forces" were struck to consult on **Roger Rankings, Events, Team Events and Travel Squads**. Updates for each of these areas are as follows:

Rankings:

This Task Force understood the feedback from players, parents, and coaches on the challenges of the current "head to head" ranking formula.

- **Beginning January 1, 2012**, Tennis BC will compute and post Junior Rogers Rankings based upon a "points per round" system, which is the same system in place for our BC NTRP Adult and Senior events. Please visit our [Rogers Rankings Page](#) for a description of this points table.
- The formula includes a small bonus for participation (more events) and **does not** take away points for losses.
- Players can now compete without worry that a loss will affect their standing.

Tennis Canada's national ranking system will continue to be linked on our site, with the benefit of initializing new players and recording performance in team tennis, round robin events, etc., but will not be used in Provincial Team selections.

Events:

The Events Task Force delivered a survey to all performance BC coaches to ask what is needed for an ideal provincial structure. The results were analyzed with action items for this coming year. Tennis BC is working with our member clubs to meet a goal of increased competition weekends. Please appreciate this is not a simple process. As these additional dates are confirmed, they will be posted on the [Junior Tournament page](#). Some immediate action items include:

- **Provincial Team Selections:** Increased transparent process for the Provincial Team selection that competes at the Rogers Indoor and Outdoor Nationals. As the process for the 2012 Indoor Nationals was communicated in October 2011 prior to the start of the "indoor season," that process will stay in place for the 2012 Indoor Nationals in March/April. This policy required that provincial team members needed to compete in 2 of the 4 designated events plus the indoor provincial championships. For selection to the 2012 Outdoor Nationals and beyond, selections will be based upon each player's individual provincial Junior Rogers Ranking. This requires play in only the respective Indoor and Outdoor Provincial Championships. This will give players/parents an increased opportunity to hand-pick their schedule and allow the players in regions outside the lower mainland an increased opportunity to be considered. This is similar to the ATP/WTA Tours where players determine how best to accumulate points and where they want to travel to gain these points.
- As recommended by the Task Force members and coaches across BC, to ensure fair opportunity for all to compete, players will be asked to focus on competing in their respective age division. Should a player wish

to compete in a higher age category, their coach may apply to the High Performance Committee for consideration.

- **Doubles:** Doubles provides new skill development and good preparation for collegiate play. There will be doubles for the Under 16 and Under 18 events at the [January Icebreaker Classic](#), on a trial basis. Registration for this event opens on December 15 and closes on January 10.

Team Events:

The Team Task Force is working on three event weekends to bring together the top male/female players in a team format where they will represent their own club/academy, similar to Davis/Fed Cup.

- We are finalizing details now for the first event during the lead up weekend (February 3 -5, 2012) to the Canada/France Davis Cup Tie.
- A second team event weekend is targeted for May 2012.
- Teams are planned to be co-ed with both singles and doubles matches.
- The designated coach for each team will be allowed on-court, similar to Davis/Fed Cup and NCAA University competition.
- After these weekends, we will evaluate how this will be structured for the fall 2012 and 2013 season.

Travel Squads:

With the leadership and experience of Oded Jacob, this Task Force is evaluating “travel squads” that allow high performance players to travel with top provincial coaches to designated ITF world-ranking circuits.

- Potential opportunities are ITF circuits in South America, Europe, and the United States.
- More information to be distributed as there is a significant amount of detail to be determined regarding costs, selection, and time of year.

Information Centre:

Tennis BC staff is working on a “BC Tennis Parents” website which will be accessible early in 2012.

- This site will provide deeper access into structure and planning that will help maximize a child’s playing career.
- Announcement to follow when data has been uploaded.

If you have any further question/comments, please contact me at: lois@tennisbc.org or 604-737-3087

Thank you and best of the season to you and your family

Lois Ker
Tennis BC-Director of Events