



THE DAY RELEASE SCHOOLS' PROGRAMME



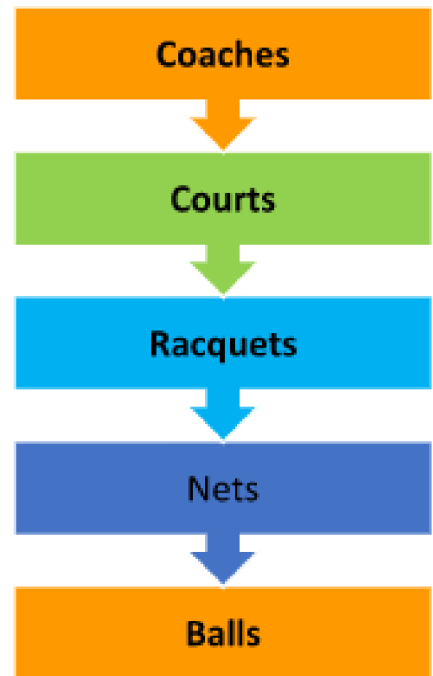


Message from the President

The Day Release Schools' Programme is our initiative to expand Tennis in Barbados, primarily for players aged 10 and Under. It is structured as a feed into the International Tennis Federation's Play and Stay campaign. One of the key objectives is for children to develop a love for the sport and to continue playing tennis competitively or socially as they mature.

*Dr. Raymond Forde
President*

The Barbados Tennis Association Inc (BTA) firmly believes that tennis is the sport for a lifetime for all and continuously seeks to develop and promote tennis in Barbados. It is dedicated to facilitating greater access to tennis by a wider group of children, at a younger age.



One key way to do so has been via the BTA's Day Release Schools' Programme, a structured junior tennis programme where children from different schools in Barbados are taught the rudiments of the game in a developmental manner.



The genesis of the programme benchmarked the International Tennis Federation's Play and Stay Campaign, a global campaign designed to grow worldwide participation and "...to promote tennis as easy, fun, and healthy, and to ensure all starter players can serve, rally and score from their first lesson."



A National Junior Tennis Initiative (JTI) Coordinator is responsible for coordinating activities of the Programme and throughout the years the JTI Coordinator role has been filled by Sydney Lopez, Julian Baird and Andrew Thornton. Damien Applewhaite presently performs these functions.



International
Tennis
Federation



Tennis equipment such as racquets, nets and balls are provided through the International Tennis Federation (ITF) and the other costs associated with Programme are heavily subsidised by sponsors and silent donors, including

1. US Embassy
2. Sol Barbados Ltd
3. Mega Power
4. Barbados Olympic Association



The BTA also receives subventions from the National Sports Council (NSC) to aid us with developing tennis in Barbados.



The Programme is closely aligned with the three Public School Terms. During the term students typically benefit from at least one (1) hour of group coaching a week. In the beginning, a key objective is to increase the coordination level of all the students through the medium of tennis. As their levels of coordination increase over time, they will be better able to rally. The time within which this happens depends on a number of factors, including natural ability.



Over the years many schools have benefited from having students in the programme, schools like Blackman Gollop Primary, Grantley Prescod Memorial and Luther Thorne Memorial.



Thanks to the donation from the Maria Holder Memorial Trust, the facility of the National Tennis Centre (NTC) was expanded in October 2021 to include three (3) new tennis courts, an enhanced Clubhouse and a dedicated and expanded car park. Now, with a total of seven (7) tennis courts, the BTA is better able to offer tennis to a more schools across Barbados. The School House for Special Needs and the Gabriel's School joined the programme last year and effective May 2023 three new schools were onboarded –

Christ Church Girls, Wesley Hall Junior School and Wesley Hall Infants School.

Given the need to increase the number of girls playing the sport the BTA started a new initiative under the Schools' Programme – *the Ignition Girls Programme*, to ignite the passion of girls for tennis.

Please look out for more from us on the BTA's Day Release Schools' Programme and its new *Ignition Girls Programme!!*







The Maria Holder  Memorial Trust



The Junior Tennis Initiative of Barbados

The BTA's Day Release Schools' Programme is part of the overall Junior Tennis Initiative of Barbados. Other components include satellite tennis programmes at various schools, Tennis10s Competitions held at the NTC, Red Ball Competitions brought to the schools, the BTA's After School Programme held at the NTC, Schools Programme Saturday sessions, and tennis lessons facilitated by tennis coaches through private tennis hubs across Barbados.

To find out more about the BTA's Day Release Schools' Programme or the Junior Tennis Initiative of Barbados, please contact us at btaschools@tennisbarbados.org.



2023