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ITF Level 1 Coaching Course 27th July – 7th August, 2018

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SVGTA

President – Brian Nash

Secretary – Janelle Humphrey

"We must become the change we want to see." – Mahatma Gandhi

Course overview

The St. Vincent and the Grenadines Tennis Association (SVGTA), along with the International Tennis Federation (ITF) and the National Olympic Committee (NOC), with funding from the Olympic Solidarity, organized a Coaching Beginners and Intermediates (CBI) course, formerly known as the Level 1, in St. Vincent and the Grenadines on 27th July – 7th August, 2018. The ITF CBI was developed for those persons who are interested in coaching and promoting tennis at the grassroots levels up to the initial competition stage. This course catered to 24 participants, from islands such as Antigua and Barbuda, Bahamas, Barbados, Guyana, St. Lucia and St. Vincent and the Grenadines.



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Way forward for tennis in St. Vincent

For the last two days of the course, the participants tended to 60+ children (beginner and intermediate players) who came out ready to learn and play tennis. The overwhelming support from these children, their parents and coaches, showed that tennis in St. Vincent and the Grenadines is promising and has great potential for growth. With these junior players, and newly certified local coaches, tennis has a bright future in SVG. These coaches will now be given the opportunity to demonstrate their knowledge of tennis, skills and tactics to these budding players, as well as mold them into players who love the game and stay in the sport for a very long time.





Above is a picture showing some of the coaching participants, who despite the rain and wet courts, improvised and had a beginner's tennis lesson in a parking lot. Tennis is not, nor will it ever be, limited to a tennis court.



These new coaches will be expected to work along with other seasoned coaches, as well as the SVG Tennis Association in promoting more tennis on the island of St. Vincent and the Grenadines. It is the hope that with this newly concluded course, the sport of tennis will improve in every area possible, and that more tournaments will be prominent, giving these players, both new and old, more avenues to showcase and improve their talents.

Proposed calendar of events for the remainder of the year: September to December 2018

In the month of September

September	October	November	December
<p>Red Ball tournament</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Red ball 3 • Red ball 2 • Red ball 1 <p>(Can be used as a way to get kids ready for the Christmas tournament)</p> <p>Coaches Tennis ball tournament -coaches play all levels, starting with red ball, who completes that level will advance to orange, then green then yellow ball</p>	<p>SVGCup Wild Card Tennis tournament – 18th – 20th Oct, 2018</p> <p>SVGCup – 29th Oct– 3rd Nov, 2018</p>	<p>Skills test – Players from each colour Ball category, will have the opportunity to progress and move to the most appropriate category.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Red ball 3 → Red ball 2 • Red ball 2 → Red ball 1 • Red ball 1 → Orange ball 3 • Orange ball 3 → Orange ball 2 • Orange ball 2 → Orange ball 1 • Orange ball 1 → Green ball 3 • Green ball 3 → Green ball 2 • Green ball 2 → Green ball 1 • Green ball 1 → Yellow ball <p>Orange ball tournament</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Orange ball 3 • Orange ball 2 • Orange ball 1 	<p>Christmas tournament</p>

Moreover, in September 19th – 21st, there is a 3rd ITF Caribbean Regional Coaches Conference 2018 by BNP Paribas in Trinidad and Tobago, where some coaches and officials from St. Vincent and the Grenadines will be attending as a follow up to CBI. Kevin Huggins, one of the coaches who participated in the CBI course, was specially invited by ITF to attend this conference. This conference is expected to add to the coaches and players' existing knowledge, as well as provide another avenue for fostering new connections with other coaches around the Caribbean.

Written by Jennell Adams
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