

Dear Parent

We are writing to let you know our Junior Player Development Strategy for the next 3-years.

### **National Landscape**

The LTA recently released their national player pathway aiming to support players aspiring to win Grand Slam titles. To find out more see the website which has videos outlining the new pathway at: <https://www.lta.org.uk/player-pathway/>

### **Where we fit within the strategy?**

We feel that we have one of the most important roles in tennis, which sits underneath the national player pathway, to attract junior players into tennis and inspire them to love the game. We believe in giving opportunities to as many junior players as possible and see our role in Nottinghamshire as helping to boost the numbers of players who play the game competitively, not just receive coaching.

We have a great deal of respect for young athletes who aspire to win Grand Slam titles in the future and we are fully aware of the commitment levels required. This sacrifice, dedication and financial investment is not for everyone. Our focus is on helping juniors to enjoy playing competitive tennis.

### **Where we are now?**

In 2018, we set the target of entering 20 Junior Teams in the summer leagues across the clubs we work with and are proud to have reached this goal. We will continue to invest time into this goal, as we believe team tennis is an excellent experience for junior tennis players who want to play.

Over 100 juniors have played in our teams this summer.

We also set the target of supporting 20 players to reach the Top 20 in the county rankings. We currently have 11 players who have achieved this. We are nine players off target and our analysis of why this has happened is that we have a low number of players accessing external competitions, which offer rankings points from Grade 5. We want to encourage more players to play in both internal and external competitions and will work with you to help make this easier.

Congratulations to these 11 players who have found external competitions and have worked hard to improve their ranking. Also, congratulations to another 10 players who are ranked in the Top 75. We care about this metric because it is a great indication of whether they can handle adult tennis, which is where we would like them to progress when they are ready.

### **Where we want to be?**

As a team we want to offer a world-class competition support system that helps players get into competitive tennis. The competition support system aims are:

- To inspire players to play competitions
- To offer all players the opportunity to play competitive tennis.

Playing tennis matches will give your child a challenge; our role in coaching sessions is to support their development. We are setting these targets for the next 3-years:

1. Every player to have the opportunity to leave the base-level of tennis within one year of playing (i.e. to move from the start rating position to the next one)
2. Entering a minimum of 20 junior teams each year into the summer leagues
3. To support 30 players to reach the Top 20 in the county rankings

**What we have done to make this happen?**

We have reviewed our internal competitions and we want to improve our offer. We will run a new series of 'Tennis Play Days' for players to access as part of their package. We have planned these dates as full days, 9am - 3pm during the holiday periods, to be more convenient from a childcare perspective for you. We hope they will also inspire your child to want to play more competitive tennis. These are all on our website and booking is made online:  
<http://www.ontheballcoaching.com/junior-competition-days.html>

We will continue to work closely with clubs to support the development of their junior and adult teams and will encourage players to play in adult tennis when they are ready to do so. We are also planning to run junior club championships at every club. The dates will be confirmed once we hear back from clubs about court availability.

We will improve our communication around competitions with monthly texts to parents from your child's coach. This will be followed up with a monthly email about the competitions on offer across the region.

We will reintroduce competition week into our coaching. This will take the form of competitions in coaching lessons to help build children's confidence in playing the game. Where relevant, we will send the result data into the LTA.

We see competition and additional playing time away from lessons as a core component in player development.

Thank you for supporting your child's tennis. We are aware that there are a great number of sports and activities that children can choose to play. We started the company to help players go further into tennis and feel privileged to continue supporting your child along their tennis journey.

Kind regards,

The Coaching Team  
On The Ball Coaching