

JUNIOR & JUNIOR ELITE PROGRAM 2015 OVERVIEW

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The junior and junior elite player development program is the most challenging component of the overall player development program. The goals of our committee are two-fold – to recruit and retain junior players and to develop a squad of elite juniors to participate in the Van Alen/Clothier Cup competitions. To achieve both goals will entail a long-term program.

Our current base of junior players aged 10-18 is small. Through a mix of clinics, individual lessons and tournament play, our goal has been to introduce as many juniors as possible to the game. Example of programs included partnering with local schools to offer court tennis and squash, weekly lessons, a tiny tots programs, introductory clinics and tournament/clinic weekends. While some programs were more successful than others, the level of effort put in by the pros was exemplary. The key takeaway from the past year was that the programs needed to be tailored to the individual clubs current and potential player base.

The second objective of the committee was to select a team for the upcoming Van Alen/Clothier Cup in Australia this June, while at the same time, developing an elite squad for future international junior events. The committee reached out to potential candidates for inclusion on the 2015 team. After considering handicaps, commitment to the game and age levels, the committee selected Paul Monaghan (captain), Dylan Ward, Laurenson Ward and Adrian Camacho to represent the U.S. in Australia. Alec Monaghan will accompany the team and Ivan Ronaldson is coordinating training programs.

The junior program plays an integral role in the long-run health of the game in the U.S. By introducing more juniors to the game at an early age, we hope to develop more club level players for future years. The more talented players of the group will be “fast-tracked” into the junior elite program to compete internationally and eventually into the ranks of the top amateurs.

Ivan Ronaldson and John Lumley will continue to work with the committee in the role of pro coordinators..