

Quality Standards for Kids Tennis Programs

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

1. WHAT IS THE QUALITY STANDARDS FOR KIDS TENNIS PROGRAMS?

The Quality Standards for Kids Tennis Programs is a joint initiative between Tennis Canada and the Provincial Tennis Associations (TC/PTA) and supported by the Tennis Professionals Association (TPA).

TC/PTA have developed recommendations and evaluation tools aimed at raising the quality and consistency of tennis programs serving children aged 6-12. The materials and evaluation tools can be used by all Deliverers to assess their program quality, achieve continuous improvement and deliver quality programming that promotes life-long participation in tennis.

2. WHY HAVE THE QUALITY STANDARDS FOR KIDS TENNIS PROGRAMS BEEN DEVELOPED?

This initiative was developed to improve retention rates and achieve broader participation by ensuring that children are exposed to quality programming that ensures positive early experiences in tennis.

It has been well documented that a child's early experience in sport will heavily influence their continued participation well into adulthood. By ensuring that tennis programs meet children's needs and foster positive associations with tennis, we can make sure that kids who start tennis, stay in tennis.

As tennis programs adopt the Quality Standards, we hope that all tennis programs, regardless of facility type or location, can deliver positive experiences that will inspire kids to keep playing. Further, parents can enroll their kids in tennis, with confidence, knowing that their children will receive high quality programming.

3. HOW CAN MY FACILITY IMPLEMENT THE QUALITY STANDARDS FOR KIDS TENNIS PROGRAMS?

Make Your Commitment

Use the 6 Key Characteristics and Communication tools to make your commitment to quality programming for kids' tennis by:

- Integrating the Six Key Characteristics into program delivery

- Communicating the program's commitment to *Quality Standards for Kids Tennis Programs* by:
 - displaying the *Quality Standards for Kids Tennis Programs* poster in a visible location at your facility
 - providing a link to the TC/PTA & TPA quality standards informational pages on your facility's website
 - including information about the quality standards in all program communications (i.e. brochures, flyers, websites etc)
 - introducing your staff to the quality standards using the **Powerpoint for Head Deliverers** (includes embedded videos highlighting the 6 Key Characteristics to make it easy to introduce the *Quality Standards for Kids Tennis Programs* to your staff)

Continue your Commitment

Commit to continuous improvement by pursuing the following:

- hire TPA certified coaches
- conduct background checks for coaches, volunteers and staff
- engage in on-going periodic evaluation of your programs using the Self-Assessment Check List
- consider the *Quality Standards for Kids Tennis Programs* professional development training

4. HOW DO I DELIVER OUR COMMITMENT TO QUALITY STANDARDS FOR KIDS TENNIS PROGRAMS DURING MY PROGRAM?

Learn about the Six Key Characteristics of quality programs and strive to incorporate these characteristics into your program delivery. Specific behaviours and actions that lead to the Six Key Characteristics can be found here ([link](#)) and on the Self-Assessment Checklist ([link](#)).

Use the remaining components of the framework (Communication tools, Self-Assessment, Training/Education) to support your program's delivery of the Six Key Characteristics.

5. WHAT CAN I DO TO HELP DEVELOP MY COACHES SO THAT THEY MEET THE QUALITY STANDARDS FOR KIDS TENNIS PROGRAMS?

- a. Use the Self-Assessment Checklist to facilitate discussions with your coaches about improving program quality. Through these discussions, you may consider:
 - Encouraging your staff to assess their own performance using the Self-Assessment Checklist
 - Reviewing the specific behaviours and actions that will help achieve each of the 6 Key Characteristic
 - Engaging in regular program assessment to monitor improvement
 - Facilitating discussions amongst staff to share experiences about delivering the quality standards

- b. Encourage staff to register for training in the Quality Standards for Kids Tennis Programs through the Instructor Course, Professional Development workshop or Online Development Workshop
- c. Encourage staff to take advantage of informational resources on the TPA website (link)

6. WHAT RESOURCES ARE AVAILABLE TO SUPPORT OUR DELIVERY OF THE QUALITY STANDARDS FOR KIDS TENNIS PROGRAMS?

Available resources include:

- Assessment Tool
 - Self-Assessment Checklist
- Promotional materials
 - Poster outlining the Quality Standards for Kids Tennis Programs
 - Other printed materials (i.e. pamphlet) to communicate the 6 Key Characteristics of Quality Standards for Kids Tennis Programs are under development
- Information Tools
 - Powerpoint presentation with embedded videos to share with staff
 - Reference materials on the TC/PTA and TPA websites to outline the Quality Standards initiative and support learning about the quality standards
- Training/ Education
 - Tennis Canada Certification Program
 - Professional Development Workshops
 - Professional Development Online education

7. IS THERE A TENNIS CANADA QUALITY STANDARDS ACCREDITATION AVAILABLE?

No. The Quality Standards for Kids Tennis Programs is a self-guided pledge to meet the quality standards. By declaring your commitment to the quality standards, you are telling parents and participants that you will prioritize the Six Key characteristics in your program delivery and use the Self-Assessment Checklist and other available resources to achieve continuous improvement.

8. HOW DID YOU DETERMINE THE SIX KEY CHARACTERISTICS?

The Six Key Characteristics are based on the latest research in child health & development, the High Five National Curriculum, the Tennis Canada Certification Program and best practices in sport programs across Canada. We are confident that the Six Key Characteristics are consistently evident in successful, high quality tennis programs that service children aged 6-12.

