





# QUALITY STANDARDS FOR KIDS TENNIS PROGRAMS

*For Youth Aged 6 - 12*



**We are striving to meet the**  
**QUALITY STANDARDS FOR KIDS**  
**TENNIS PROGRAMS**



# Why Quality Matters

## Be known as a high quality program

- Gain recognition in our community as a quality program
- Be professional and deliver the highest level of customer service
- Grow & retain participants in our programs
- Be proud of the programs we deliver

## Give kids the best start in tennis

- Deliver programming that meets children's needs
- Promote a love for tennis that encourages kids to stay in the game

## Have great relationships with parents

- Improve communication with parents through clear program expectations
- Educate parents on characteristics of a quality program so that everyone's goals are aligned



# When Quality Happens

## We provide relevant programming

- Child-focused tennis programming inspires learning and enjoyment of the game

## We ensure positive experiences

- An experience in sport can be positive or negative
- When children have positive experiences they are motivated to stay involved in tennis

## We create tennis players for life!

- A child's early experience in sport will heavily influence their decision to participate in that sport as an adult



# Getting to Quality

## Components of the Quality Standards for Kids Tennis Programs

- 1. Incorporate the 6 Key Characteristics**
- 2. Communicate Commitment to Quality**
- 3. Self Assessment**
- 4. Training & Education**



**Use the components of the Quality Standards for Kids Tennis Programs to ensure a quality program**

# The 6 Key Characteristics of Quality Programs



**1. Caring Instructor**



**2. Making Friends**



**3. Active Participation**



**4. Appropriate Challenge**



**5. Improvement**



**6. FUN!**

**Many factors influence a child's experience in sport but the 6 Key Characteristics are always evident in quality programs**

# Quality Characteristic #1 - Caring Instructor

Caring  
Instructor

Make  
Friends

Active  
Participation

Appropriate  
Challenge

Improvement

FUN

## A Caring Instructor is the biggest influence on a child's experience

- Knows and uses player's names
- Provides individual attention/feedback
- Is supportive, positive, and enthusiastic
- Professional demeanour and appropriate attire
- Prepares activities with care
- Leads group and communicates clearly





# Quality Characteristic #2 – Making Friends

Caring  
Instructor

**Make  
Friends**

Active  
Participation

Appropriate  
Challenge

Improvement

FUN

**Making friends helps children feel welcome and confident - one of the main reasons kids start (and continue) playing sports is to be with friends**

- Encourages cooperation & friendship
- Actively encourages teamwork during play & practice
- Promotes team responsibilities & cooperation
- Facilitates supportive relationships and proper social interaction



# Quality Characteristic #3 – Active Participation



Caring  
Instructor

Make  
Friends

Active  
Participation

Appropriate  
Challenge

Improvement

FUN

**Ensuring a child actively participates throughout the program or lesson keeps kids engaged and gives them the greatest opportunity to practice and develop skill**

- Play-practice-play organization promotes active participation
- Maintains a safe & controlled environment
- Maintains a minimum of 45min of activity out of 60 min session
- Limit time in lines, maximize opportunities to engage in practice & skill development



# Quality Characteristic #4 – Appropriate Challenge



Caring  
Instructor

Make  
Friends

Active  
Participation

Appropriate  
Challenge

Improvement

FUN

**An appropriate challenge allows children to be successful while learning skills, fueling their belief that they can learn new things**

- Challenge is at own skill level (adjust as needed)
- Players are grouped appropriately
- Ensures use of proper size equipment & adequate rules
- Demonstrates skills & drills



# Quality Characteristic #5 – Improvement

Caring  
Instructor

Make  
Friends

Active  
Participation

Appropriate  
Challenge

Improve-  
ment

FUN

**Improvement inspires further learning and participation while improving self-esteem and confidence**

- Practice activities improve point play
- Organization provides skill repetition
- Play-practice-play balance (drills lead to improved point play)
- The program follows a plan



# Quality Characteristic #6 – FUN!

Caring  
Instructor

Make  
Friends

Active  
Participation

Appropriate  
Challenge

Improvement

**FUN!**

**The number #1 reason that kids start (and stay) playing sports is to have fun!**

*Incorporating Quality Characteristics*

*#1-5 will lead to **FUN!***

- Caring Instructor
- Make Friends
- Challenging
- Active Participation
- Improvement
- Maintains a high student retention rate
- Promotes tennis as a sport for life



# Communicating our Commitment to Quality



We will share our commitment to meet the  
*Quality Standards for Kids Tennis Programs* by:

- Displaying the *Quality Standards for Kids Tennis Programs* poster at our Facility
- Providing a link to the TC/PTA informational website that outlines Quality Standards for Kids Tennis Programs
- Including details about *Quality Standards for Kids Tennis Programs* in all of our printed program materials (i.e. program brochures, flyers etc)



# Using the Self-Assessment Checklist

- Assess programs based on the 6 Key Characteristics
- Instructors can evaluate themselves/ Supervisors can evaluate staff and overall programs
- Identify strengths and areas for improvement
- Assessments should be done periodically to continually monitor program quality
- Facilitates discussions with peers & Supervisors to improve program delivery



## Quality Standards for Kids Tennis Programs

PROGRAM SELF-ASSESSMENT CHECKLIST

<b>PROGRAM/COACH NAME:</b>	<b>ASSESSMENT DATE:</b>
<p>Use this checklist to highlight program strengths and identify areas for improvement. If you can answer 'yes' to the main question in each of the six categories then you are delivering a quality program. Otherwise, use the Follow Up Suggestions at the bottom of this page to improve the areas identified.</p>	
<p>For each category, place a '✓' beside the actions/ behaviours you observe during the program</p>	
<p>CARING INSTRUCTOR</p>	<p>CHALLENGE</p>
<p><b>IS THE INSTRUCTOR CARING/ PROFESSIONAL?</b> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Knows and uses player names  <input type="checkbox"/> Provides individual attention/ feedback  <input type="checkbox"/> Supportive, positive &amp; enthusiastic  <input type="checkbox"/> Professional demeanour &amp; appropriate attire  <input type="checkbox"/> Prepares activities with care  <input type="checkbox"/> Displays fairness  <input type="checkbox"/> Leads group and communicates clearly</p>	<p><b>IS THE CHALLENGE LEVEL APPROPRIATE?</b> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Challenge is at player's level  <input type="checkbox"/> Challenge level adjusted when needed  <input type="checkbox"/> Players are grouped appropriately  <input type="checkbox"/> Ensures proper size equipment and adequate rules  <input type="checkbox"/> Demonstrates all skills and drills correctly</p>
<p>MAKE FRIENDS</p>	<p>IMPROVEMENT</p>
<p><b>ARE PLAYERS MAKING SOCIAL CONNECTIONS?</b> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Encourages cooperation &amp; friendship  <input type="checkbox"/> Actively encourages teamwork during play &amp; practice  <input type="checkbox"/> Promotes team responsibilities &amp; cooperation  <input type="checkbox"/> Facilitates supportive relationships and proper social interaction</p>	<p><b>ARE PLAYERS IMPROVING?</b> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Practice activities improve point play  <input type="checkbox"/> Organization provides repetition of skill being developed  <input type="checkbox"/> Play-Practice-Play format (drills lead to better play)  <input type="checkbox"/> The program follows a plan</p>
<p>ACTIVE PARTICIPATION</p>	<p>FUN</p>
<p><b>ARE PLAYERS ACTIVELY PARTICIPATING?</b> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Play/ Practice organization promotes active participation  <small>* limit wait times, maximize number of opportunities to engage in practice &amp; skill development</small>  <input type="checkbox"/> Coach maintains a safe &amp; controlled environment  <input type="checkbox"/> Players actively participate at least 45 min out of 60 min session  <small>* inactivity = picking up balls, waiting in lines, water breaks, listening to instructions etc.</small></p>	<p><b>ARE PLAYERS DEVELOPING A LOVE FOR THE SPORT?</b> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Caring Instructor  <input type="checkbox"/> Make Friends  <input type="checkbox"/> Challenging  <input type="checkbox"/> Active Participation  <input type="checkbox"/> Improvement  <input type="checkbox"/> Maintains a high student retention rate - helps 'grow the game'  <input type="checkbox"/> Promotes tennis as a sport for life</p>
<p><b>ADDITIONAL COMMENTS</b></p> <div style="border: 1px solid black; height: 40px;"></div>	<p><b>AREAS FOR IMPROVEMENT</b></p> <p>Priority #1:          Priority #2:          Priority #3:</p>
<p><b>FOLLOW-UP SUGGESTIONS</b></p> <p><i>If you can answer 'yes' to the main question in each of the six categories then you are delivering a quality program. If you cannot answer 'yes' to the main question in each of the six categories then :</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- If you are an Instructor conducting a self-assessment, consider how you might improve the area identified.</li> <li>- Perhaps seek feedback/ suggestions from your peers or your program leader.</li> <li>- If you are a Program Leader or Supervisor conducting the assessment for one of your Instructors, open a dialogue to offer support and strategies to improve the areas identified.</li> </ul>	

# Opportunities to Learn More



**Training, education and informational resources are available through the following:**

- Tennis Canada Certification Program
- Professional Development Workshops
- Professional Development Online Education
- Reference materials on the TC/PTA and TPA websites to provide information and support learning ([www.tenniscanada.com/qualitystandards](http://www.tenniscanada.com/qualitystandards) and [www.tpacanada.com](http://www.tpacanada.com) )





# Our Pledge to be a Quality Standards for Kids Tennis Program



1. INCORPORATE  
THE SIX KEY  
CHARACTERISTICS

2. COMMUNICATE  
COMMITMENT TO  
QUALITY

3. USE SELF-  
ASSESSMENT  
CHECKLIST

4. UTILISE TRAINING &  
EDUCATION  
RESOURCES

Caring Instructor

Make Friends

Active  
Participation

Appropriate  
Challenge

Improvement

**FUN!**



For more information about the

# Quality Standards for Kids Tennis Programs

please visit

[www.tenniscanada.com/qualitystandards](http://www.tenniscanada.com/qualitystandards) or  
[www.tpacanada.com](http://www.tpacanada.com)



***Quality and consistency lead to positive experiences that can create  
TENNIS PLAYERS FOR LIFE!***

