



# The Squash ACT Junior Development Program

Squash ACT manages junior competitive squash in the Australian Capital Territory and Queanbeyan region. The association is committed to building player participation, player development and providing junior players with a range of competitive opportunities at local, interstate and national levels.


Our Junior Development Program consists of three tiers – ACT Junior Pennant, ACT Junior Pennant Training, and Representative Squash.

The following provides an overview of each tier. Further information is fully detailed in the *Squash ACT Junior Development Program* document.

Please send any questions regarding the Junior Development Program to the Squash ACT coaching staff: [juniors@squashact.asn.au](mailto:juniors@squashact.asn.au).

## ACT Junior Pennant

Junior Pennant offers young squash players the experience of timed competitive squash matches in a pool format:

- Junior Pennant matches are played within divisions\* on Saturday mornings over a school term. There are two or three pools within each division. At the end of each term (and sometimes mid-term), players are assessed and possibly regraded by the Squash ACT Coaching Team.
  - Players participate in a short coach-led skill development session before playing their pennant match.
  - Red Dot Division (Saturday 08:30 – 09:30) and Single Dot Division (Saturday 09:30 – 10:30) matches: 3 games of 8min, 8min, 8min.
  - Double Dot Division matches (Saturday 10:30 – 11:30): 3 games of 10min, 10min and 5min. (Note: Double Dot Pool A will include invited senior players.)
  - The match winner in all division round matches is determined by *accumulated points over the three games* with the winner receiving one point toward individual pool ranking.
  - Finals matches will be played in best of 5 format, first to 11 scoring.
  - There may be occasions where a player is unable to make his or her upcoming Saturday Junior Pennant match. Although not preferred, the match may be played *before* the scheduled Saturday match, e.g. at mid-week pennant training, provided:
    - ACT coaching staff have been advised in a timely fashion of the player's unavailability;
    - A coaching staff member contacts the opponent to gauge his or her willingness to reschedule the match; and,
    - Both players agree to the rescheduling.
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- Players will mark and referee their own matches unless a specific marker/referee is allocated to the match by the Squash ACT coaching staff. Coaches will be overseeing all matches and are on hand to resolve any issues. There must be no interference, comments or disputing of decisions voiced by anyone watching matches.
  - Pennant will run according to strict timing, which will allow each Division to be finished in no more than 1 hour. (Double Dot division players may continue training / playing non-competitively until 12:00noon.)
  - During the initial week of term, players will play in a series of grading matches from which two or three pools will be formed within each division. No skills-based activity will be held on the grading Saturday.
  - Doubles matches will be played on occasion during the term.
  - The cost of competing in ACT Junior Pennant has been set at \$135 per term and is paid prior to the commencement of pennant through SportyHQ.
  - General junior pennant communication to parents and carers will be by email from the Squash ACT coaching staff through the [juniors@squashact.asn.au](mailto:juniors@squashact.asn.au).
- \* Double Dot aligns to the previous Division 1 Junior Pennant; Single Dot aligns to Division 2 Pennant; Red Dot aligns to Division 3 Pennant.



## ACT Junior Pennant Training

Squash ACT offers weekday “Pennant Training” for players in each division who wish to further develop their squash skills. These are held in a group situation under the direction of a Squash ACT accredited coach. Sessions are optional and held at Squash ACT’s Woden Squash Centre as follows:

- **Red Dot:** Wednesday 4:00 – 4:45pm
- **Single Dot:** Wednesday 4:45 – 5:30pm
- **Double Dot:** Tuesday 4:30 – 5:30pm.

The cost of these sessions is \$50 per term if paid ‘up front’ with pennant fees or \$10 per session if paid ‘at the time’.

## Representative Squash

The Squash ACT Junior Representative Squash focuses on two distinct representative opportunities – the Australian Junior Championships (Individuals and Teams) and the Australian Junior Open (Individuals). While specific details of each event will be provided separately by Squash ACT, the following broadly outlines the structure:

### Selection Policies and Procedures

- The aforementioned *Squash ACT Junior Development Program* document includes detailed representative team selection policies and procedure information.

### Squash ACT Junior Representative Selection

- Only players competing in the Squash ACT Junior Pennant competition are eligible for team selection.
- Players must also compete in the following nominated ACT tournaments to be eligible for team selection:
  - i. Anthony Ricketts Classic
  - ii. ACT Junior Open
  - iii. Vikings Junior Challenge
  - iv. ACT Northside Junior Open
  - v. Canberra Cup
- Generally, player results at Squash Australia Junior Platinum events, Gold Events and Silver Events, and Squash ACT Ranking and Pennant results, will be the primary criteria for selection. In addition, players must be considered competitive in the age group of the tournament in which they will compete. The potential of a player to develop as a result of team selection may also be considered.
- An appeals process is outlined in the *Squash ACT Junior Development Program* document.

*Note: Players who have not been selected in an ACT representative team may enter independently in the AJC (Individuals) and AJO.*

### Representative Training:

- A minimum of four representative training camps will be conducted for selected players in the AJC, and a minimum of four representative training camps for selected players in the AJO.
- Players selected in representative teams are required to participate in all nominated representative training camps.

### Squash ACT Performance Pathway Squad

- Squash ACT also trains the Junior Performance Pathway Squad. Selection in this squad is determined and regularly reviewed by Squash Australia. These players are considered as having the potential for future national representation.



### Contact Squash ACT for more information

**E** [juniors@squashact.asn.au](mailto:juniors@squashact.asn.au)

**W** [www.act.squash.org.au](http://www.act.squash.org.au)

