



SQUASH ACT HEAD COACH: DEVELOPMENT and PARTICIPATION (Canberra, Australia)

Located in the Australian Capital Territory, Canberra is Australia's capital city and, by all accounts, a great place to live with excellent public and private schools, several top universities, comfortable travel times, and high-quality services and facilities. Canberra is also close to national parks and the Kosciusko snowfields, two hours from the south coast, and a three-hour trip to Sydney.

As well as the region producing a good number of top squash players, including Heather McKay (Queanbeyan) and Stewart Boswell (current national coach), in recent years our junior program has a solid record of junior players competing at national championships. With a keen local sporting community, the region boasts the Brumbies, Canberra Capitals, NRL Raiders, Canberra Knights and Canberra Cavalry, and has been the home of many fine international sporting champions including Lauren Jackson, Nick Kyrgios, Patrick Mills and Caroline Buchanan.

SQUASH ACT ORGANISATIONAL PROFILE

As the peak body representing four locally-based clubs and their members in the Canberra / Queanbeyan region, Squash ACT plays an important role in supporting participation in, and development of, the sport across the wider community.

Squash ACT is positioned to continue supporting a suitably-qualified squash coach capable of building the sport across the region, developing our current crop of junior players and enhancing the profile of squash across the broader community. Focusing on the development of individual players and particular groups, the head coach will be mainly located at the Squash ACT-owned and centrally located Woden Squash Centre, comprising eight good quality hard-backed courts, a good-sized clubroom and ample viewing space.

The right person will have the flexibility and opportunity to build the role into a successful and manageable full-time enterprise. Essential will be a willingness to spend the time working with the Squash ACT Board and local clubs; building connections with local schools, colleges and universities; conducting a range of squash programs that engage particular sectors of the community and/or local community groups (e.g. school holiday, pre-school, seniors programs); conducting junior training sessions and day camps; and coaching and managing junior teams and individuals at local and interstate competitions.

Squash ACT is committed to working constructively with the successful applicant and open to exploring ways to ensure her or his success in coming years. In the initial stages of an individual's engagement, the goal will be to build links, be present and plan what needs to be done to achieve successful programs and participation.

Squash ACT sees that there are five key groups with which to link initially, ranging across 5-75 years of age:

1. Current registered players – juniors, pennant, Masters
2. Social players who currently have limited involvement with ACT or club structures.
3. Schools, Colleges, and Universities (ANU and Uni of Canberra)
4. Other sports (The Woden Squash Centre is located in a sporting precinct next to a major AFL and cricket ground, Phillip Olympic Swimming Pool and a number of gyms.)
5. Community groups (including cultural and ethnic community groups, people with disabilities, and early childhood organisations)

THE ROLE

Working across a range of areas, the **Head Coach: Development and Participation** is a self-starter who has the energy and capacity to work independently and with others to initiate and deliver quality individual and group coaching; deliver targeted squash programs to a wide range of participants; and, build a collaborative network of support both locally and nationally.

Given the independent nature of coaching and working in an indoor sporting facility, the successful applicant will bring the skills and insights necessary to manage a wide range of responsibilities with efficiency, calmness and an eye for detail. On the court, she or he will be an active and energetic coach willing to work with all levels, from beginning juniors to older seniors. Off the court, the coach will be organised in maintaining accurate records, and be punctual, pleasant and engaging. Squash ACT sees this position as one which also develops in the individual a wide range of personal, professional and business skills.

KEY RESPONSIBILITIES

Squash ACT recognises that this is a position that offers unique opportunities to the right person and is a role that will develop and grow over time. With this in mind, there are ten key responsibilities:

Primarily based at the Woden Squash Centre, the appointee is engaged to:

1. Plan, coordinate and deliver a high-quality junior training program. This may include after school or weekend hours where required.
2. Develop and implement all junior state-based activities, including ACT junior squads, and be present in the Head Coach position at junior state and national events.
3. Develop quality school student programs that can be delivered to school groups during the school day at Woden Squash centre or on school premises. Liaise with key school personnel to ensure they know what's available for their school.
4. Organise and run, with volunteer support, events that give 'squash' opportunities to current and potential squash players e.g. Come and Try Days, Women in Squash Activities, and grassroot activities including squash festivals.
5. Support the development of local ACT coaches and direct qualified volunteer coaches working in the junior training program.
6. Contribute to administration tasks related to pennant competition committee and junior committee, and contribute positively to the management of the Woden Squash Centre (negotiated)
7. Working with the Squash ACT Junior's Board and the Competition Committee to assist running the junior pennant.
8. Liaise with Squash Australia about initiatives on Sports Development, attend conferences, attend regular zoom meetings on initiatives, competitions and things happening.
9. Establish good communication with club presidents and committees to encourage opportunities for wider player involvement and higher participation levels at all clubs and facilities.
10. Work with the Squash ACT board to develop a coaching program in line with broader strategic plans. Provide regular succinct verbal and written reports to the Squash ACT Board detailing activities and future action.

ELIGIBILITY / OTHER REQUIREMENTS

- Relevant coaching qualifications (tertiary qualifications in sports science or coaching would be ideal)
- Eligible to work within Australia and hold an ACT Working With Vulnerable People Card
- Present and act professionally at all times.
- Enjoy, and be capable of, working independently.
- Willingness to undertake after-school and weekend hours and occasional interstate travel.
- Entrepreneurial attitude, with experience working within and building upon a successful squash program.
- Be able to commence in the role by October 2023 or as negotiated.

PACKAGE

- Part-time or full-time employment options depending on applicant suitability.
- AU\$70k – AU\$75k base for approximately 37.5 hours per week.

TO APPLY

Applicants should send their resume with a covering letter or any questions by **12 August 2023** to Harrison Barnett, Squash ACT President, at: president@squashact.asn.au.