

Alicia Haneine encourages recreational play to keep kids and parents engaged in the sport

Squash has been a lifelong passion of Alicia Haneine. She started playing when she was only six years old on squash courts in a facility her father built on the family's property in Mexico City. She says it was a very informal place: no coaches, no professionals, just children and adults coming together to play and have fun. Nevertheless, with her older brother as a role model, she was playing on Mexico's national junior team by the time she was twelve years old.

After earning a degree in marketing, she worked as an industrial marketing consultant and then in purchasing and marketing. She, her husband (a squash player she met on her family's courts), and her first child immigrated to North Vancouver in 1998. There, she continued to work in marketing for various organizations, and in 2006 she and her husband began managing their own business renting furnished apartments for short or long-term accommodation.

Purely coincidentally, their first place in Canada was only several blocks from the Evergreen Squash Club. Warmly embraced by the squash community there, she soon began playing both singles and doubles squash competitively. In 2008, she also began a very successful coaching career at the club for the next eight years, during which time she also obtained NCCP Levels I and II certifications. At 50 years of age, she is coaching three days a week at the Delbrook Community Recreation Centre in North Vancouver.



She has been successful in many national tournaments. While on the national team in Mexico, she was a U13 winner and finalist and a U15 semi-finalist. Since coming to Canada, she was part of the B.C. provincial singles squash teams that won bronze in 2000 and silver in 2008 and was the Women's 40+ singles champion in 2009. With her doubles partner, Melissa Troll, she won Squash Canada's 2018 Doubles Championship in the Women's 45+ category and in the same category at the 2018 Can-Am Cup in Toronto.

She acknowledges that she is naturally very competitive but believes that getting and keeping both children and adults interested in the game is achieved by encouraging the recreational aspects of it. She has organized numerous single-day and micro-events (as opposed to 'tournaments') for all ages and sometimes with looser rules (e.g., more than one serve allowed).

Alicia is a great role model as a female coach and player, with the skills and knowledge to train and retain squash players in our community.