



Squash New Zealand Report 2014

To: Oceania Squash Federation

High Performance

2014 has been a particularly busy year for our High Performance Programme. With the Commonwealth Games in Glasgow, the World Junior Men's Championships in Namibia and the upcoming World Women's Team Championships in Canada there is considerable pressure on personnel and resources. Combined with that are our junior development programmes and talent development centres which operate throughout the year and round the country. In April 2015 the Oceania Junior Championships and Trans-Tasman Test series will be held in Invercargill. Next year SNZ will be establishing regional high performance hubs that will mirror the centralised base in Auckland and act as feeders to the national programme utilising a number of other coaches to assist with the delivery of the programme.

Development

This year SNZ has focused on the development of two major programmes for the sport. Kiwi Squash was launched earlier in the year and is designed as an introductory programme for young players from 5-12 years of age. It is particularly suited to schools and clubs and can easily be delivered with a minimal amount of training. More than forty clubs and schools have purchased the resource kit and feedback has been very encouraging. The second programme is called Squash Start and is aimed at young people and adult beginners and will be launched in November. It comprises a number of programmes that are targeted at various sectors within this wider group. Complimenting these two initiatives are coaching resources which have been specifically design to align with Kiwi Squash and Squash Start.

In 2013 we introduced a secondary schools grading list and this has now grown to more than 1400 young people around the country who play squash at secondary schools. There are around 3000 students who play competitive squash and our goal is get the majority of those onto this list.

Technology

We continue to develop additional features for iSquash, the IT platform that supports most of our squash activity. Throughout the year we have improved many of the features of our online booking module and there are now more than 40 clubs throughout the country using this system. We now have 4 clubs using our access and security module which provides them with a full Pay2Play option.

The tournament modules has been enhanced with additional draw options and the interclub module is now fully featured with a draw engine which can complete a full interclub draw with online entry and online results. In January 2014 we introduced a combined grading list with females and males now on the same list. This was one of the most significant changes to our long standing grading system and it enables male v female matches to take place seamlessly allowing more mixed competitions both in interclub and tournaments.

Coaching

The focus this year has been on the development of resources that complement the Kiwi Squash and Squash Start programmes. Facilitators have been trained in each of our 11 districts who in turn can train their district coaches to deliver these programmes. Over 930 coaches are now in the framework, 52 facilitators have been trained and over 2300 coaching modules have now been completed.

Operations

In 2013 we introduced an online club referee qualification and which has been very successful. It is mandatory for players to complete this qualification prior to competing in our national Superchamps series and this has proven to be a good educational exercise. Glenn Carson, a WSF Regional Referee and Assessor, was appointed to officiate at the Commonwealth Games in Glasgow, a nice reward for his hard work and dedication.

Our national events remain strong with an increase in participation numbers throughout the year. There are more than 400 events on the national calendar and our domestic competition structure is one of the best anywhere in the world. There were three very successful PSA events held in 2014 and in 2015 these will be boosted with the addition of 3 WSA events.

Masters squash is in good health with both our national master's events being well supported. A strong kiwi contingent headed to Hong Kong this year for the World Masters and next year we are looking forward the Trans-Tasman test series to be held in Napier. 2017 will see the World Masters Games in Auckland and squash has been confirmed as one of the sports for this event.

The Next Twelve Months

The Youth Commonwealth Games will be held in Samoa in 2015 and New Zealand is planning to send a small team as a development opportunity. A strong mini junior circuit has been created with the OJC, NZ Junior Open and the Australian Junior Open back to back in 2015.

A number of clubs around the country are planning new courts either as additions or new facilities. It is an encouraging sign for our sport and there is no doubt that new facilities attract new members and hopefully this will be good for the growth of the game.

Jim O'Grady



Chief Executive

Squash New Zealand

Clubs	195
Members	19,112
Courts	588