



WA Squash Academy Program

It is proposed that a High Performance Player Development Program be created called WA Squash Academy (WASA) that provides opportunities for Western Australia's squash players to optimise their potential in open squash competition.

This paper provides an outline of the proposal and suggests the following:

- It is in the interests of WA Squash to establish a development program for players who aspire to success at higher levels of open (senior) competition. The absence of such a program has reduced the incentive for players to continue playing after juniors and this has resulted in the progressive lowering of the standard of local competition.
- The WASA would be a supplement to current development programs being conducted for players; it would add to and form the top level of the State player development pathway.
- The WASA will commence in a limited fashion on 11 October 2020 but will be implemented in full over a period of some years; initially it is envisaged that a limited number of players be selected in the program
- The main objective of the WASA is:
 - Maintain and develop a pathway to support players after leaving junior competition. Assistance with access to expert specialist guidance in squash performance will be available.
- The underlying framework of all development activities should be the provision of *incentive*, *access* and *opportunity* for all players; a high priority must be that when a player leaves the WASA, for whatever reason and at whatever development stage, he/she must feel a strong sense of *achievement* and *success*.
- The WASA will be player-focused.
- The WASA Committee will consist of three (or four) members, with vast experience of HP programs. The full committee will deal with all general matters of policy, procedures, management and administration as per WA Squash guidelines.
- For the WASA players' development activities should be designed individually with the player, his/her personal coach, the player's parents and/or selected experts in relevant areas (e.g.: sports medicine, science and psychology, physical training, etc.).
- There will be a WASA Manager/Coach who will work closely with the WASA committee.