



ITF / OTF REGIONAL TENNIS CENTRE FIJI INFORMATION FOR PROSPECTIVE APPLICANTS



Created over 20 years ago, the ITF/OTF Regional Tennis Centre has offered tremendous opportunities for junior players from all over the Oceania Region. Since it has been in operation over 30 players have received scholarships colleges in the USA, many of these players have gone onto full four year degree courses in American Universities.



The ITF/OTF Regional Training Centre is located in Lautoka, Fiji, 40 minutes away from Nadi International Airport.

Regional Tennis Centre scholarships are sponsored by the ITF in collaboration with Olympic Solidarity funding through the Oceania National Olympic Committee and the Oceania Tennis Federation.



FACILITIES

The Centre has the following facilities:

- Accommodation for 24 players
- 6 hard courts, 3 under floodlight
- A gymnasium with tennis specific strength and conditioning equipment



OBJECTIVES

- A) To help young Pacific tennis players reach their full potential both on the court and academically.
- B) Gain and improve a players ITF Junior World Ranking by winning local and international junior events.
- C) To be offered a US college scholarship and possibly play full time professional tennis.
- D) To educate Pacific coaches working closely with their National Associations.





Director: Darran Wrighton (United Kingdom).

Darran is the ITF Development Officer for Pacific Oceania.

He holds the Tennis Australia Master Club Pro certification as well as qualifications from the LTA and the RPT. He holds a diploma in management from Deakin University, Australia.

COACHING STAFF



Head Coach - Andrew Mailorok (Vanuatu)

Andrew holds a ITF level 2 certification and is a graduate of the New Mexico Military Institute in the USA. Andrew has previously held an ITF junior world ranking and was a previous scholarship holder at the RTC. Andrew has also been the coach for the Pacific Oceania Junior Fed Cup Team.



Assistant Coach – Ian Honila (Solomon Islands)

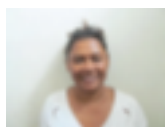
Ian holds an ITF Level 1 certification and is also a graduate of the New Mexico Military Institute and a previous scholarship holder at the RTC. He has held an ITF junior world ranking.

HOUSE STAFF



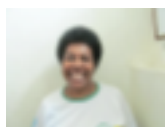
House Manger – Naga Reddy (Fiji)

Naga is in charge of the progression of the players' academic studies and the overall well-being of the players residing at the Centre. He has the responsibility for the transportation of the players and maintenance of the house.



House Matron / Cook - Wanseini Vilomen (Fiji)

Filo is in charge of all the shopping and the housewares for the centre as well as provision of all meals for the players. She also takes responsibility for the overall well-being of the residential players.



House Lady - Makelesi Brown (Fiji)

Ma takes care of the housekeeping and the laundry needs of the house.



PLAYERS ELIGIBLE TO PARTICIPATE

Any ITF member nation in Oceania can nominate one or more junior players aged 13 and 14 to attend the Training Centre on a trial basis for up to one month. These players should represent the best players within the Nation.

Applications will be considered on a "space available" basis.

Every effort will be made to give as many countries as possible the opportunity to participate.

This trial period is advised to occur during one of the National level tennis events in Fiji or during RTC training camps that will be held each year.

After a total of one month at the Centre, players may be invited to remain for extended stays of up to eleven months. To be considered for long-term residence at the Centre, players must:

- 1) Show excellent potential.
- 2) Demonstrate a positive attitude in training and matches, giving 100% effort at all times.
- 3) Maintain a high level of physical fitness.
- 4) Achieve good results in the Regional Championships and Pacific Oceania Junior Championships. (Top 3)
- 5) Have an academic background that would allow entry into the Fijian school system.
- 6) Have a good level of comprehension of spoken and written English.
- 7) Have the financial ability to be able to provide a return ticket to Fiji (through their Association/parents or sponsorship)

Academic schooling can be arranged for students invited on a full time scholarship.

Any costs related to schooling (i.e. fees, books) are part of the annual scholarship on offer.

It is advisable to arrive in excellent physical condition as the players will be required to train daily, six days a week. Periodic fitness tests are also given.

SUMMER SCHOLARSHIPS: JUNE – SEPTEMBER.

The RTC is open to applications from Associations for their players to be considered to come for a "Summer Scholarship."

The premise of this program is that players will come to live and train at the Centre and enter into high level Pacific events whilst at the centre. It is hoped that by doing so they may gain an ITF Junior World Ranking or improve an existing one. By being placed into a full time performance structure combined with the opportunity to play high level events it is hoped that every participant coming to the centre as part of the above program will return to their Association a more complete and focused player.

Events –

June – ITF Grade 4 South Pacific Open Junior Championships

July – Nadi Open Tennis Championships

August – ITF Grade 5 Oceania Open Championships

August – ITF Grade B2 Oceania Junior Closed Championships

Finishing with participation in the Pacific Oceania Junior Championships.



Players would be invited to be involved in the program based on having an existing or potential to gain an ITF junior world ranking, results in the under 16 POJC the previous year, ongoing commitment to playing tournaments and an application endorsed by their National Federation. In exceptional circumstances a 14 and under player may be invited but they would have to show that they are attending high level training year round and have significant results to back their application.

COACHES ELIGIBLE TO PARTICIPATE

National Associations may nominate coaches working closely with their National Associations to attend the Training Centre for periods of one or more months. Stays of more than one month are by invitation only.

Coaches will be working with the Director in the daily program of the Training Centre.

They will primarily be "learning by doing" which has proven to be an extremely practical method of coach education. Theoretical sessions are also scheduled for coaches.

It is likely that these stays would be combined with the "trial" scholarship program or the "Summer Scholarship" program.

FINANCIAL INFORMATION

The ITF, through the Grand Slam Development Fund, is able to subsidise the cost for participants to attend the programs listed above at the centre. There is no cost for a player or coach to attend the Centre if the Association arranges the airfare.

The trial scholarship and Summer Scholarship program includes all coaching fees, lodging, meals and local transportation.

MONTHS OF OPERATION

The Centre operates from the end of January until December (unless Training Camp held in December)

MEDICAL CARE/INSURANCE

Players attending for one month should have adequate insurance before departure to Fiji.

Players must be thoroughly fit before leaving their home country. Please do not send players who are injured or in need of medical attention, since this is a waste of time and resources at the Centre.

Players living in Malaria areas are advised to have booster injections of anti Malaria vaccines before leaving for the Centre.

TRAVEL/VISAS

All travel costs should be met by the National Association except in exceptional circumstances. Travel should be organised for arrival at Nadi International Airport.

There is no visa required for Pacific Nations for travel to Fiji.

EQUIPMENT

All players and coaches must come equipped with a minimum of two strung rackets of the same make, two pairs of tennis shoes, one pair of cross training shoes, tennis attire, casual wear and towels. For scholarship players only: Strings (as many as required) and tennis shoes will also be bought for players.

FURTHER INFORMATION

All enquiries regarding the programme should be directed to Mr Darran Wrighton

Tel : +679 379 8812

E-mail: itfpacificdev@gmail.com