

ITF J200 SYDNEY
OCEANIA CLOSED JUNIOR CHAMPIONSHIPS

LOCATION: SYDNEY, AUSTRALIA

DATES: 16TH AUGUST – 25TH AUGUST

COACHES: ABIGAIL TERE-APISAH, YANNI HONILA, TARANI KAMOE



Main Draw Players	Qualifying Players
Junhyuk Seo (DE)	Mia Chang (DE)
Hiva Kelley (WC)	Alalito Tapa (WC)
Fintan Molbaleh (WC)	Raetea Rongo (WC)
Josephine Debalevu	La Hunn Lam (WC)
Colita Hakena (WC)	Uraia Biauniceva

Travel & Accommodation

All players and coaches arrived on the 16th of August with airport transport organised by the tournament director David Boyes. Upon arrival to the Mercure Parramatta, all players and

coaches were informed that there were no hotel reservations in place, which resulted in significant logistical challenges. Temporary accommodation had to be arranged for the night at an alternative hotel. The following day, we were required to return to the original hotel; however, due to the unavailability of maxi taxis in Parramatta, Emily Burns kindly assisted by transporting the luggage for all 14 individuals and helping coordinate transport to the tennis venue.

The week began with persistent rain, which significantly impacted the tournament schedule. As a result, main draw matches were forced to be played on only two available indoor courts, causing considerable delays. Doubles matches, originally scheduled earlier in the week, had to be pushed back to a Saturday start.

MATCHES

All our qualifying players managed to complete their first round matches on Monday and Tuesday whilst the rain only came about in patches. La Hunn and Alalilo showed some strong and solid tennis on court but unfortunately just could not convert their opportunities.

As the week progressed, the rain only intensified, forcing many matches to be moved indoors and resulting in a change to the match format — Fast4 sets with a third-set match tiebreak. In response, David Boyes made the decision to push back all doubles matches in an effort to prioritize the completion of singles play.

It wasn't until Wednesday evening that our main draw players were finally able to get on court for their matches. Unfortunately, the results did not go our way, and it felt as though each match passed us by far too quickly. A recurring pattern became apparent: many of our players started their matches slowly, often taking an entire set to find their rhythm.

In a shortened format like Fast4, this approach simply doesn't work. There is no time to ease into the match; every point matters from the very first ball. It was disappointing to see a lack of urgency and adaptability from the outset, as this ultimately cost us valuable opportunities in a format that demands immediate focus and intensity.

We held a comprehensive team meeting to assess where our players currently stand. We spoke with the players about the importance of taking initiative and making the most of their downtime, particularly during the rain delays. Rather than viewing the weather interruptions as lost time, we encouraged them to use those periods productively — whether it be through stretching, recovery sessions, reviewing match footage, hitting indoors when possible, or engaging in mental preparation and strategy discussions.

It was also an opportunity for them to reflect on their performances, identify areas for improvement, and stay mentally engaged despite the disruptions. Emphasizing personal responsibility and a proactive mindset is essential, especially in tournament environments where conditions can be unpredictable.



Fortunately, the sun came out on Saturday, allowing the scheduled doubles matches to proceed as planned. The energy and intensity was a lot better from everyone and we had our two first wins from our girls doubles pairings.

EXPENSES

The most significant expenses were attributed to dinner meals and Uber trips during the first two days. Official tournament transport services did not commence until Monday, so we had to rely on Uber on both Saturday and Sunday. This was particularly challenging due to a last-minute hotel change, and the situation was further complicated by the unavailability of maxi taxis in the area where we were staying.

CONCLUSION

Overall, it was a challenging and eventful week, with persistent rain causing delays and logistical issues adding further complexity. While results in both singles and doubles were below expectations, the team showed resilience and adaptability under difficult circumstances. The experience provided valuable learning opportunities and will no doubt contribute to stronger performances in future events.