



Country Starz

Athletes – Expression of Interest

July 2017 – June 2018



Country Starz Expression of Interest July 2017 to June 2018



Country Starz – 2017/18 Program and Desired Outcomes

Country Starz is a post junior program developed by Tennis NSW's Tennis Country Committee. The program was created due to a void in country player development for athletes aged 18-22 years. Tennis Country also acknowledges the need for financial assistance for regional athletes at tournaments and competitions, especially in this age-group.

Tennis Country, whilst assisting you, also has expectations of your help in nurturing and developing Country Juniors and acting as mentors during the year at tournaments, regional training days and events. We hope you can become the role models they not only can aspire to be, but seek your assistance, experience and advice on their journey as a developing junior country player.

As such, Tennis NSW, through the Tennis Country Committee, has invested significantly into the Country Starz program to assist a team of 12 selected regional athletes (male and female) across each of the 6 country regions, in three main areas:

1. Subsidy to cover accommodation, meals and travel
2. Management and Coaching at four (4) selected regional tournaments, including the NSW Country Tennis Championships
3. Contribution towards professional development

All applicants will be judged on the following criteria for acceptance into the 2017/18 Country Starz program:

1. Must be aged 18 – 22 years (aged 18 at 30 June 2017)
2. Ability to commit to all four proposed regional tournaments
3. Ability to undertake professional development in an area that will assist in future employment opportunities
4. Have represented a region in the past at State Teams events
5. Motivation to continue to develop as an “all round” tennis player
6. Ability to commit to participating in a Regional Tennis League where possible
7. Role model potential for aspiring young country athletes
8. Desire to mentor Juniors during Country Starz events and regional events;
9. Ability to travel to selected events
10. Willingness to participate in promotional and media events
11. Good standing within the local tennis community
12. Attendance and reporting on progress at regional meetings where appropriate

Player Benefits – Tournament Participation

- **Accommodation**
 - Accommodation will be sourced on the athletes' behalf & will be negotiated around best available rates. Athletes will be advised of the accommodation before each event.
 - Athletes must stay with the team unless approved by Management prior to the event
- **Travel Subsidy**
 - Each selected athlete will be financially subsidised for up to four (4) nominated regional events and training days with the Country Starz Coach.
 - Each athlete will be provided with up to a maximum of \$125 per approved event (a total of \$500 across the 12 month period of the agreement)
 - A travel subsidy will be provided upon receipt & only in the following areas:
 - Meal expenses incurred while participating at a nominated event
 - Transport costs incurred while travelling to/from a nominated event (eg flights, train ticket, car hire etc)
 - Fuel costs incurred while travelling to/from a nominated event



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Player Benefits – Professional Development

Each selected athlete will have a provisioned amount of money (\$500) to undertake a professional development opportunity in area of individual interest throughout the 12 months. Areas of professional development could include:

- Participation in a Tennis Australia Coaching Course
- Participation in an Officiating Course
- Short courses at University / TAFE
- Other ideas to be considered on an application basis

Player Benefits – Team Apparel

1. Country Starz players will receive an official team uniform
2. Country Starz players must wear team uniform both on and off court wherever possible during the tournament, including any formal presentations
3. Country Starz players are encouraged to wear team uniform during any TNSW sanctioned event

Player Expectations

The Country Starz program expects that all athletes will uphold the standards of fair play, sportsmanship and all areas of the Tennis Australia Code of Behavior when participating in **all** sanctioned tournaments and competitions. Please remember that you are at all times promoting Country Starz and any behavior that does not meet these standards will be dealt with in line with the Player Disciplinary process.

Inappropriate behaviour could include but is not limited to:

1. Drinking alcohol at the team's accommodation or tournament venue
2. Failing to clean accommodation each day; and
3. Failing to leave accommodation clean and tidy, upon departure

Country Starz Manager

The Tennis Country Committee will appoint a Manager to organize:

1. Tournament accommodation
2. Tournament player attendance – all absences should be advised in writing 2 weeks before tournament entry cutoff
3. Facilitate any issues, concerns or problems or if necessary bring these issues to the TCMC
4. Assist with claim approval and processing
5. Player safety and welfare, education facilitator and assist with Junior mentoring
6. Work with TNSW Participation Manager, Country Delegates and Country Starz Coach to create a Country Junior training session before each Tournament

Country Starz Coach

1. A coach will appointed to oversee the team across all four (4) selected events
2. Each event will include a written training program that needs to be followed
3. The coach will work with local Country Delegates and Country Starz Manager to create a Country Junior training session before each Tournament
4. Country Starz sub-committee welcomes and invites personal coaches to be involved in all activities, however individual coaches will not receive any subsidies for their involvement
5. Athletes are responsible for informing coaches of potential problems including injury concerns.



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Entry Fees & Prize money

1. Country Starz athletes will be responsible for paying all their entry fees.
2. Country Starz athletes will be able to collect all prize monies from tournament winnings.
3. Athletes in presentations should thank Tennis Country for their support.

Incentive programs

As part of the Country Starz program, athletes will have the opportunity to assist local tennis clubs, tournament organisers and Regional Committees with a variety of programmes throughout the year.

1. Country Starz athletes can access additional funding from their local region (upon application) to assist with local road shows, regional training sessions and Regional Committee approved activities. This is not in addition to existing payments in place for paid events such as State Teams events where regions are already paying for services
2. To receive this allowance Country Starz athletes may be expected to arrive early to the event to assist with promotional activities including Regional Junior Training sessions
3. All additional events must be prior approved by Country Starz sub-committee & your Regional Delegates before the Region supplies any subsidy.

2017/18 Country Starz Code of Conduct

1. You should plan to arrive at the tournament venue in plenty of time enabling you to be able to participate in the pre tournament training program.
2. Being a team player is of the utmost importance to enable the Country Starz program to generate comradeship amongst the group and supporting each other during matches is essential.
3. You must act in an appropriate manner at all times. The Country Starz program operates under the Tennis Australia Code of Behaviour.
4. Failure to adhere to any on this agreements guidelines or Code of Behaviour will result in disciplinary action by the Country Starz sub-committee and may result in loss of subsidy or removal from the program

Tournament Expectations

1. Each athlete will be responsible for entering and paying fees as required for each event
2. Players are expected to be engaged in extra on court & physical training sessions at each event
3. Country Starz will be housed as a group promoting team bonding and friendship are vital components of the program. Athletes may stay at home if a local event with prior approval from the Country Starz Manager.
4. Athletes will be under team rules at each event and will be subject to a code of conduct contract at all
5. Athletes are expected to remain in camp for the duration of the tournament unless a special circumstance arises. This requirement is in place to promote the junior mentoring component of the program and also to assist the tournament or region with promotional activities

Safety & Compliance

1. Country Starz athletes are to provide a current working with children's check
2. Country Starz athletes are not to partake in unsafe practices during events

Dispute Resolution

If any athlete has any concern or issue with another individual, program rules and expectations, manager, coach, parent or any other circumstance, the following procedure is recommended

1. The issue is brought to the attention of either or both Manager and Coach



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2. If not satisfied the issue has suitably been resolved, then your concern should be referred to the Chair of the TCMC for further determination and action.

Junior Mentor Expectations

Tennis Country, whilst assisting you, also has expectations of your help in nurturing and developing Country Juniors and acting as mentors during the year at tournaments, regional training days and events. We hope you can become the role models they not only can aspire to be, but seek your assistance, experience and advice on their journey as a developing junior country player.

You will be expected to mentor a junior at each Tournament (where possible) with the following assistance:

1. Including in warm ups
2. Watching and supporting matches
3. Giving some time for match analysis and support after matches complete

It is your responsibility to advise the Country Starz Coach and / or Country Starz Manager whom you wish to assist and report back as to how they have performed.

Applications close 18 June 2017

All enquiries and expressions of interest are to be directed to:

Wendy Saville
Chairperson - Tennis Country Committee
Mobile: 0419 681 781
Email: wsaville@bigpond.net.au



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Frequently Asked Questions

How will the Country Starz athletes be selected?

Tennis Country has appointed a Country Starz sub Committee, which consists of three current country delegates. They are: Wendy Saville (Tennis Country Chair), Ellen Gordon (Northumberland) and Justin Sherriff (North West)

Tennis Country has elected to open the applications to all Tennis NSW Registered Players affiliated with a Tennis NSW registered club or association in any of the six country regions of NSW. Each regions selectors will recommend candidates which will then be considered by the Country Starz sub-committee and ratified by Tennis Country.

Entry guidelines/requirements

Country Starz Athletes must be aged 18- 22 years (Must be 18 by the 30th June 2017). Other requirements include:

1. Ability to commit to all four (4) nominated regional tournaments
2. Ability to undertake a professional development opportunity in an area that will assist with future employment opportunities
3. Past regional representation at State Teams events
4. Regional or Academy representation as a junior where appropriate
5. Current Australian Ranking
6. Previous Australian Ranking
7. Motivation to continue to develop as an “all round” tennis player
8. Involvement in a Regional Tennis League where possible
9. Role model potential for aspiring young country athletes
10. Junior mentoring potential
11. Ability to travel to selected events
12. Willingness to participation in promotional and media events
13. Willingness to gain entry level coaching qualifications with Tennis Australia
14. Good standing within the local tennis community
15. Attendance and reporting on progress at regional meetings where appropriate

Why did a player get in that wasn't ranked as high as another?

The Australian Ranking (AR), although considered in selection, is only one of the guidelines used by Country Starz selection panel. The program will support players accumulating AR points, however, some players may be selected because they have supported country tennis but have had the inability to accumulate AR points over the current 12 months. Also players who demonstrate high levels of sportsmanship and good behavior will be considered highly.



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Country Starz - Expression of Interest Form

Full Name: _____

My Tennis Player ID Number: _____

Place of Residence: _____

Country Region: _____

Date of Birth: _____ Gender: _____ Age (at 30 June 2017): _____

Mobile Number: _____ Email Address: _____

Current Occupation: _____

Current Australian Ranking (AR): _____

Current Coach: _____

Current Club: _____

2017/18 Tournament Plan - Level and Number of tournaments you intend to play:

2017/18 Training Plan – Days and Hours per week you intend to train in 2017/18:

Examples of where you have mentored Juniors:



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Coaching experience – please outline your coaching experience to date and/or any coaching courses that you have completed:

Are you currently studying at university/tafe (or other)? & if so, what are you studying?

Are you considering or have you applied for international study (eg US College) in the next 12 months?

Checklist

- I am older than 18 years as of 30 June 2017
- I have an interest in continuing to develop my game to the best of my ability
- I am able to commit to all four (4) regional tournaments, including the NSW Country Championships
- I can organise my own transport to tournaments as required
- I can work in a team environment
- I am able to negotiate time-off to participate in tennis tournaments and events
- I want to assist in the development of Country Junior players
- I want to be part of the promotion of tennis across Country NSW
- I am available to act as team manager at State Teams events for my region if required
- I have prior regional representation at State Teams events
- I have represented at either Regional or higher Academy as a junior
- I have a current or previous Australian Ranking
- I am motivated to continue to develop as an “all round” tennis player
- I am willing to be involved in a Regional Tennis League where possible
- I am willing to be role model for aspiring young country athletes
- I am willing to participate in promotional and media events
- I have a good standing within the local tennis community
- I am committed to attending and reporting on progress at regional meetings where appropriate

I agree that all of information that I have provided is true and correct at the time of writing.



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Signed

Date

Please send all expression of interest to Wendy Saville: wsaville@bigpond.net.au

Applications will close 18 June 2017.