

**Sturgeon Falls Team FAQ**

New for the 2022-23 season, KTP Racquet Club will be running teams in Sturgeon Falls! We will be running two different sessions for athletes aged 7 and up. Please note, these are not just simply introductory lessons. Although it is open to all skill levels and abilities, we are treating these sessions as our Team programs, which means the focus is on training and improving (and not so much on games), so an aspect of discipline is required.

**Who can play on a KTP Racquet Club team?**

We have no tryout process for our teams, all are welcome. We seek out athletes that are motivated to learn and willing to participate in the training program. They are expected to have had badminton experience, in school and especially through KTP Racquet Club badminton programs. Prior experience is an asset but not a requirement.

**What are the age and skill requirements for the teams?**

**Sturgeon Falls Junior Development Team:** All skill levels are welcome, for athletes born from 2009-2013. Encouraged to attend NOBA (Northern Ontario Badminton Association) tournaments.

**Sturgeon Falls Development Team:** All skill levels are welcome, for athletes born from 2004-2008. Encouraged to attend NOBA tournaments.

**Additional Training:** For athletes that are looking to play more, train more, and/or compete more, there are plenty of options at our main facility in North Bay. We currently have several athletes travelling to North Bay each week, and there is potential to setup carpools if needed. We want to encourage as many people to pursue their badminton training and want to remove as many barriers as possible. If you are interested in additional training, please contact us directly to discuss potential options. We are flexible to help our out of town members.

**Who coaches these teams?**

The Head Coach is Kurt Tempelmans Plat, a trained Provincial Competition-Development Level NCCP coach (formerly known as Level 3). He has 15+ years of coaching experience and has created and developed one of the most comprehensive badminton programs north of Toronto. Kurt was the badminton coach for Team Ontario at the 2017 *Jeux de la francophonie Canadienne,* where his team brought home four medals. He was also selected to coach again at *Les Jeux,* however the event was cancelled due to the pandemic. Over the years some of Kurt’s athletes have achieved some significant results including: 2019 U15 Boys Singles Jr B Provincial Champion, dozens of medals at provincial Jr B tournaments, hundreds of regional and Northern Ontario Badminton Association medals, 40+ Northern Ontario Badminton Association junior champions, and dozens of athletes qualifying for OFSAA Badminton. Kurt has also been the NOBA President since 2016, as well as the Director of Coaching for Badminton Ontario from 2019-2022.

Kurt will be assisted by NCCP certified coaches throughout the season as needed. These may include, but are not limited to: Nicholas Babich, David Rojas Reid, Daniel Kerr, and Pierre Legrand.

**What equipment does the player need?**

Athletes are expected to have their own racquet and a pair of court shoes or clean, indoor running shoes. A pair of court shoes are recommended as they are made specifically for court surfaces and to support the movements used in badminton, such as lunging or jumping. Protective eyewear is mandatory for competitions. Our club has a fully stocked pro shop that can help you with any of your badminton needs. We will make sure to bring some products to Sturgeon Falls for the first few sessions, otherwise, please contact us to make a request to bring certain types of equipment throughout the season.

**What is the expectation of athletes on the team?**

Athletes are expected to be committed and motivated throughout their experience. This team is North Bay and area’s top badminton training program; it is for those that want to be at the top of their game, are motivated to learn, and are committed to practices and tournaments. **Respect** is the most important and fundamental value of KTP Racquet Club. We expect that all athletes respect the coaches, other players, opponents, the equipment, the venue, and themselves. We have zero tolerance for lack of respect towards any of the latter.

This team is just that, a *team*; although badminton is an individual sport, we expect that all players work and socialize with one another and are there to support one another on and off court, at practice and at tournaments. Players are expected to respect one another, and any lack of respect will not be tolerated at any time.

**Where does the team practice?**

These badminton teams practice at École secondaire catholique Franco-Cité.

**When does the team practice?**

**All practices begin the week on Sunday, September 25th and run until Sunday, March 12th. If there is interest, we may look to extend the season until the end of April next season. There will be a few Sundays without practices at certain times of the year, you will be notified when this is the case.**

**Sturgeon Falls Junior Development Team:** This team practices from 6:00PM-7:30PM every Sunday.

**Sturgeon Falls Development Team:** This team practices from 7:30PM-9:00PM every Sunday.

**What are the team fees?**

The program fees are $398.23+tax. These fees include all the team training sessions, a club shirt, and coaching at tournaments.

**Team fees may be paid by cash, cheque, or e-transfer.**

**In addition to the team fees there are tournament fees (for those that decide to do tournaments). Every tournament has a $40-60 entry fee, as well as travel and accommodations that must be covered by the athlete.**

**Is there any team clothing available?**

Players may purchase the following items (all include the last name on the back):

Additional Jerseys - $35.40+tax

Hoodie (without last name on the back) - $53.10+tax

Hoodie - $57.52+tax

“We The North” Long Sleeve - $39.82+tax

Samples will be available in our store.

**How do tournaments work?**

Athletes are not required to attend every tournament; however, it is encouraged to attend them. There are usually three Northern Ontario Badminton Association (NOBA) tournaments in North Bay, Sudbury and Timmins, as well as a season-end championship held in a different northern city each year.

Tournaments typically begin on Fridays and end on Saturdays.

**What events do the players participate in?**

Every tournament includes entry to U11/U13/U15/U17/U19 in the following events: singles, doubles and mixed doubles for every team member.

**How do players get to tournaments?**

Parents are more than welcome to attend and transport their athlete. We have relied on coaches and parents in the past to help in bringing athletes, and we hope to continue in this manner this season!

**What is the 2022-23 tournament schedule?**

**November 4-5 – Sudbury Jr**

**December 16-17 - KTP Racquet Club Jr #1**

**January 27-28 – KTP Racquet Club Jr #2**

**February 24-25 – NOBA Jr Championships, Sudbury**

**\*New this season\* Junior Match Night**

Starting in September of 2022 we are adding a new Junior Match Night. This is different than a normal drop-in night as there will be at least one coach there for the entire session. Throughout the 2-hour session athletes will be organized into singles and doubles matches and will receive active coaching by the coach(es) working that evening. Our professional, certified coaches will provide a variety of advice from technical changes to strategic improvements throughout the session. This is a great way to implement what you learn in training in a match scenario before competing at tournaments. This session is also open to non-team members; anyone can come for Junior Match Night! The age limit for the junior match night is 9-16. The session runs from 5:00PM-7:00PM and participants can come from 4:00PM-5:00PM to have some free time and warm-up beforehand (this is optional and is at no extra cost to the match night fee. This session will run every Friday evening unless there is a cancellation due to an upcoming event. All shuttles are supplied by the club for the match night session (5:00PM-7:00PM), anyone coming early to play, or warm-up must supply their own shuttles.

The fee per session is $12.39+tax for members and $17.70+tax for non-members. We also have 10-pass cards valued at $106.19+tax for members and $159.29 for non-members that can be purchased.

**The first Junior Match Night will be on Friday, September 23rd and is being run at our facility in North Bay.**

**Financial Assistance is now available to help cover team fees!**

There are two organizations that support families put their kids into sport

KidSport will provide up to $300 to families that qualify (residing in North Bay only), to help cover team fees for the badminton season! For more information, please send us an email or reach out to the North Bay chapter of KidSport by dropping in to the 2nd floor of City Hall or giving them a call at 705-474-0400 X2328.

If you live outside of North Bay, or did not meet the KidSport requirements, please visit [http://jumpstart.canadiantire.ca](http://kidsportcanada.us8.list-manage.com/track/click?u=1df2b33283f4acfbc2350a23e&id=a9c26d0215&e=265cf647ea). This is another great alternative to help reduce costs for families.

Take advantage of this exciting opportunity to help grow the sport and allow anyone to play badminton regardless of any barriers!