

**Team FAQ**

**KTP Racquet Club badminton teams are the next step for athletes that are looking to become competitive badminton players. Our Team programs are what helped build KTP Racquet Club up to what it is today and offers the most competitive badminton program north of Toronto. The purpose of our teams is to take athletes of all skill levels and train them to achieve their personal goals and reach the highest level of play that their potential has to offer. We have five different teams, offering something for all ages and skill levels.**

**NEW FOR THE 2023-24 SEASON**

**1. Jr Match Night Changes:** The fee for Jr Match Night has been reduced to encourage more athletes to participate in this program.

**2. HP Drop-in:** A special drop-in has been added on Tuesdays from 9-10PM reserved only for the athletes of the High-Performance Team to get more match play together.

**3. Junior Development Change:** As a result of the success of the Development level program, all Junior Development practices will be 2-hours moving forward instead of 1-hour.

**4. Shuttle Change:** All Development programs will now train using feather shuttles instead of plastic shuttles. As more of our athletes seek the competitive pathway, this change is necessary to remain as competitive as possible.

**5. Team Fee increases:** Most teams have seen a small increase in fees (approximately $25-40) to help us maintain a quality program, including providing feather shuttles to all teams, hiring of more coaches, and covering fees to attend tournaments.

**6. Bootcamps:** Late last season we launched our new Bootcamp Series of programs. The Bootcamps are a 1-day training clinic that encourage growth in a compact day of training. We intend to continue Bootcamps at both the Development and HP level as they were very successful.

**7. Hire a Coach:** New this year, if you athletes are planning to attend a Provincial tournament that is not on the KTP schedule, for a small fee athletes can pay to have a coach from the club attend the tournament.

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

One of the best parts about our teams is that there are no tryouts, and there is no cap to the number of participants! Each team has specific requirements to be eligible for that specific team based on prior training experience. Having a strong work ethic and focus are key assets that help with competitive badminton development.

**Team Descriptions & Minimum Requirements**

The **Pre-Competition Team (ages 7-10)** trains twice per week and is intended for athletes with a little badminton experience. This team focuses on developing a strong foundation while learning proper footwork, technique, and match play. Athletes looking to join this team **must** have participated in a prior KTP badminton program (lessons or summer camps) to be eligible to register for this team.

The **Junior Development Team (ages 11-14)** trains twice per week and focuses on developing techniques for beginner-intermediate badminton players. This team attends Northern Ontario Badminton Association tournaments and championships. Athletes looking to join this team **must** have participated in a prior KTP badminton program (group/private lessons or summer camps) to be eligible to register for this team.

The **Development Team (ages 14-18)** trains twice per week and focuses on developing techniques for intermediate level athletes. Athletes on this team must have prior badminton experience. This team attends Northern Ontario Badminton Association tournaments and championships, and for some Provincial Junior C tournament as well. Athletes looking to join this team **must** have participated in a prior KTP badminton program (group/private lessons, team, or summer camp) to be eligible for this team.

The **Junior High-Performance Team (ages 11-14)** trains twice per week (in addition to one fitness session) and is intended for intermediate-advanced athletes. This group focuses on solidifying base skills, and developing advanced movement, technique, and match play for the athlete. This team attends a combination of Badminton Ontario Jr B /C, Northern Ontario Badminton Association tournaments and championships. Athletes looking to join this team **must** have prior experience training on one of our teams. In addition, athletes **must** meet a certain standard/quality of play, have a strong understanding of all foundational badminton skills, and have an appropriate training mindset and work ethic to be eligible to join this team.

The **High-Performance Team (14-18)** trains twice per week (in addition to one fitness session) and is for experienced, advanced athletes. This group focuses on maintaining and improving the skills and fitness levels required to be competitive on the provincial circuit and beyond. This team attends a combination of Badminton Ontario Jr A/B/C tournaments and championships. Athletes looking to join this team **must** have prior experience training on one of our teams. In addition, athletes **must** meet a certain standard/quality of play, have a strong understanding of all foundational badminton skills, and have an appropriate training mindset and work ethic to be eligible to join this team.

**Not sure where you or your athlete fits in? Contact us directly and we can help sort you on to the right team for you.**

A diagram of a team

Description automatically generated

**Who coaches these teams?**

The Head Coach is Kurt Tempelmans Plat, a certified 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. In 2022, he was selected to coach Team Northern Ontario at the Ontario Winter Games, where his team earned the bronze medal, its first medal in 30 years. Over the years some of Kurt’s athletes have achieved some significant results including: 2019 U15 Boys Singles & 2023 U19 Boys Doubles 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.

The club’s primary assistant coach is Daniel Kerr, a certified Regional Level NCCP Coach (formerly known as Level 1). He has been coaching at the club since 2022 and has quickly become an asset to our club’s programming. Dan’s outgoing personality, professional demeanor, and willingness to learn and improve are what make him a great coach at KTP.

Kurt will be assisted by other NCCP certified coaches throughout the season as needed. These may include, but are not limited to: Nicholas Babich, David Rojas Reid, Shyam Pradeepan, Oba Alabi, and Rory Corbeil.

**What equipment does the player need?**

Athletes are expected to have their own racquet and a pair of court shoes or non-marking 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.

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

Athletes are expected to be committed and motivated throughout their experience. This team is Northern Ontario’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, teammates, 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. We have built a defining team culture at KTP that resonates with the team members and is often regarded by parents and others as a unique and wonderful experience.

**When does the team practice?**

**All practices begin the week of September 11 and run until the end of April.** Additional training options are available throughout the season (in the form of bootcamps, training camps, and private lessons), as well as opportunities post-season, including group and private lessons, bootcamps, and summer camps.

**Pre-Competition Team:** Tuesdays from 5:30-7:00PM and Sundays from 11:00AM-12:30PM

**Junior Development Team:** Wednesdays from 6:00-8:00PM and Sundays from 9:00-11:00AM

**Development Team:** Thursdays from 7:00-9:00PM and Sundays from 2:30-4:30PM

**Junior High-Performance Team:** Thursdays from 5:00-7:00PM and Sundays from 1:00-3:00PM. There is also a mandatory team fitness session from 3:30-4:15PM on Sundays.

**High-Performance Team:** Tuesdays from 7:00-9:00PM and Sundays from 11:00AM-1:00PM. There is also a mandatory team fitness session from 1:30-2:15PM on Sundays. There is also an optional HP drop-in that is limited to players from this team from 9:00-10:00PM on Tuesdays that we highly encourage HP Team members to participate in. There is no charge for this drop-in.

**Membership and Team Fees**

Memberships are **NOT** required to join a team. That said, we encourage all team players to join a team, especially those on the **Junior High-Performance Team** and the **High-Performance Team.** A half year junior membership is valued at $287.61+tax, and a full-year junior membership is $509.73+tax. As a **special offer to our team members this season** – **we will give you 1 month free**, on any 6-month junior or 12-month junior membership that you purchase. (If you purchased a 6-month or 12-month membership prior to the season, we will extend it by 1 month if you join a team).

**Team Fees**

**Pre-Competition Team:** $575.22+tax (members and non-members)

**Junior Development Team:** $685.84+tax (members), $716.81+tax (non-members)

**Development Team\*:** $716.81+tax (members), $752.21+tax (non-members)

**Junior High-Performance Team\*:** $730.09+tax (members), $774.34+tax (non-members)

**High-Performance Team\*:** $818.58+tax (members), $862.83+tax (non-members)

**\*Athletes on any of these teams will also need to purchase a Badminton Ontario player card (if they plan to attend any Badminton Ontario tournaments), prior to their first Badminton Ontario tournament (these usually range from $40-80 depending on the membership level – A/B/C).**

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

**In addition to the team fees there are tournament fees. Every tournament has a different entry fee (typically in the $30-75 range depending on the level of the event), as well as accommodations that must be covered by the athlete.**

**What is included in my team fee?**

The team fee includes:

* Two training sessions per week
* 1-3 professionally trained coaches per training session
* Training shuttles
* Coaches at many of the tournaments from the tournament calendar
* Club team shirt

**How do I register for a KTP Racquet Club team?**

Please visit [www.ktpracquetclub.com](http://www.ktpracquetclub.com), find the Teams page to register for one of our teams. Please do not hesitate to contact us directly if you have any questions. We do accept late registrations, so do not hesitate to register once the season has stated.

**NEW – Additional Coach Support at Tournaments**

Every season we release the full tournament list. This includes tournaments that are marked as ones that KTP Coaches will be attending and coaching our athletes at. That said, there are several tournaments that we cannot attend as it becomes difficult to attend every tournament. If you are attending any Badminton Ontario tournament (Provincial A/B/C) that is not on the KTP list, we are offering a new program where athletes can pay a small fee so that we can afford to send a coach down for the weekend. If you plan to attend a tournament that does not have a coach already going and you would like a coach to attend, please reach out directly to Kurt to see if we can set something up.

**Parent Gym Membership**

Any parent that is has a child registered on one of our Teams is welcome to purchase a Parent Gym Membership. With this, you have full access to our workout area during your child’s practices. The Parent Gym Membership begins in September and lasts until the end of April, just as the teams do. The fee for this membership is $48.67+tax for the 8-months (per parent). This comes to an average of about $6/month. If you are already a club member, you do not need this membership as your club membership give you full access to the workout area already. To register, please notify us when registering your child.

**Junior Match Night**

Junior Match Night is different from 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 8-15. The session runs every Friday 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. All shuttles are supplied by the club for the junior match night session.

The fee per session is $12 (taxes included) for members and $16 for non-members. We also have 10-pass cards valued at $105 for members and $140 for non-members that can be purchased.

**The first Junior Match Night will be on Friday, September 22nd.**

**Is there any team clothing available?**

Players may purchase the following items:

Additional Jerseys (includes name and logo on the back) - $35.40+tax

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

Hoodie - $57.52+tax

**How do tournaments work?**

**Pre-Competition Team:** These athletes typically will not travel to out-of-town tournaments as there are little-to-none for this age group. We focus primarily on skill development and preparation for competition with this group. That said, our club does host a few in-house tournaments to help these athletes learn and compete at their leisure.

**Junior Development and Development Team:** Athletes are not required to attend every tournament; however, it is encouraged to attend as many as possible. There are usually three Northern Ontario Badminton Association (NOBA) tournaments in North Bay (two), and Sudbury, as well as a season-end championship held in a different northern city each year. Badminton Ontario also hosts a Jr C circuit that we intend to athletes with enough experience should also consider competing in.

All tournaments are different, some begin on Friday and end on Saturday, while others begin on Saturday and end on Sunday. Once we have confirmed tournament dates, we will keep everyone up to date. Usually we have the majority of the tournament dates by mid-September.

**Junior High-Performance and High-Performance Team:** These athletes are expected to attend a variety of Badminton Ontario tournaments (Jr A/B/C). They are not expected to attend any regional tournaments (except for the NOBA championships). **Athletes interested in attending national circuit tournaments are encouraged to communicate directly with the head coach.** Typically, the head coach will select several Jr A, Jr B, and Jr C tournaments to attend as a team. This makes it easier to travel/act as a club, but also makes it easier for the head coach to attend a specific number of events. Athletes may still attend tournaments outside of the ones suggested by the head coach. If you would like coaching at a tournament where a KTP coach is not planning to attend, please refer to the Additional Coach Support section of this document.

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

Every tournament includes entry to either U14/U16/U19 draws (NOBA), or U11/U13/U15/U17/U19 (Badminton Ontario) in the following events: singles, doubles and mixed doubles for every team member.

**Your tournament age group is dictated by your birthyear for the season NOT your current age.** For the 2023-24 Season the age groups are as follows:

* U11 = 2014 or younger
* U13 = 2012 or younger
* U15 = 2010 or younger
* U17 = 2008 or younger
* U19 = 2006 or younger (NOBA events allow 2005 and younger)

**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!

**Financial Assistance is 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 cover help 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 into 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!