

PRESS RELEASE ON BLIND LAWN TENNIS COACHING CAMP

Date of Press Meet on Feb 15,2018 at 12.00 PM at DLTA,New Delhi

Indian Blind Sports Association and Delhi Lawn Tennis Association(DLTA) in a collaborative initiative are introducing a Lawn Tennis Coaching Camp for coaches and players. 10 Coaches and 15 players would be participating in the Camp

Blind Lawn Tennis

IBSA has been striving to introduce new games for the blind. In line with this endeavor, IBSA and DLTA are organizing a coaching camp for Lawn Tennis primarily for coaches to impart training to the visually impaired from Feb 13-15, 2016 at Delhi Lawn Tennis Association (DLTA). Lawn Tennis is a relatively new sport amongst the visually impaired, providing a good opportunity to coaches to learn the techniques of lawn tennis to further train the visually impaired.

Started in Japan in 1984 by Miyoshi Takei a blind student, in collaboration with his physical education teacher, developed the game and the Rules. As compared to normal tennis court, the blind tennis court is small. It is played with a relatively shorter racket and an audible sponge ball. Upto 3 bounces are allowed per shot. The nets are also lower than in normal tennis. Tactile markings of center and service lines are made on the court for ease of playing. Players play according to sight classification to ensure fair competition.

In the countries where blind lawn tennis is played, the game has received lot of enthusiasm amongst blind players providing not only fun but social inclusion boosting their self-esteem.

Coach

Simon McFarland, a Tennis Ireland Level 2 (ITF Advanced) Tennis Coach and Tennis and Squash Director at Windsor Lawn Tennis Club in Belfast. McFarland has been coaching tennis for 15 years. They became the first club in Northern Ireland to coach Blind and Visually Impaired Tennis in association with the Royal National Institute for the Blind since 2015. Mr McFarland would be providing free coaching to the tennis coaches.

About IBSA

Indian Blind Sports Association (IBSA) was founded in 1986 as an outcome of the pioneering initiatives taken by the Blind Relief Association, Delhi, to develop and promote sports for blind youngsters. IBSA has since emerged as the premier national blind sports body in the country with over 200 affiliates in 25 States. It is the sole Indian Affiliate of the International Blind Sports Federation, the apex sports organization for blind sports in the world. It is also affiliated to the Paralympic Committee of India (PCI). One of the Association's athletes, Shri Ramkaran, was presented the coveted Arjuna Award as an outstanding Para-sportsperson by Hon'ble

Rashtrapatiji in August 2012. The Association's coach, Dr. Satyapal Singh, Chief Athletics Coach for IBSA, was conferred the prestigious Dronacharya Award at the same function for being adjudged an outstanding coach. Mr Ankur Dhama, nurtured and trained IBSA became the first Indian blind athlete to take part in the Rio Paralympics 2016.

As many as 20 National Sports Meets have been conducted by IBSA. These Meets have now become a regular biennial event. The Meets comprise athletic events like sprints, throws, jumps etc. conducted in accordance with International Rules. 21st National Sports Meet is scheduled to be held in December 2018

On the International platform, IBSA has sponsored Indian contingent of blind athletes to participate in all the five World Games and Championships for the Blind.

About Delhi Lawn Tennis Association(DLTA)

DLTA is a premier Body for Tennis in Delhi State. Launched in 1971, DLTA is responsible for popularizing, promoting and making the game accessible to persons across all strata. The Association has bred tennis champions of the likes of Ex Davis Cup players such as like Vivek Shokeen, Ashutosh Singh, Divij Sharan. Vishal Uppal, Rohit Rajpal, to name a few.

Special Contribution

Dr Davinder Kapur, an NRI and MBE awardee is a trained doctor and is currently serving as an Assistant Coach in Windsor Tennis Club, Belfast. He has been instrumental in providing technical details.

Shri Ramdas Shivhare, who has been associated with IBSA for many years learnt Lawn Tennis for the Blind. He also held a coaching camp in the recently held USHA Sports Championships for the Blind at The Blind Relief Association, Delhi from January 8-13,2018.

IBSA and DLTA acknowledges the contribution of Dr Davinder Kapur for encouraging blind lawn tennis and also to DLTA for providing their premises for the event. The detail of the event venue is:

RK Khanna Tennis Complex
Africa Avenue, New Delhi-1100029

(For further information please contact: A. David, Hony General Secretary (9953494419); K.C.Pande, Vice Chairperson (9810173957) and CP Mohanan, Hony Treasurer, (9953494417)