WOMEN AND GIRLS’ SQUASH
PLAYER PATHWAYS

ACCESS
RETENTION
SPORTSMANSHIP
COMMUNITY
EVENTS

PAST
  o October - organize a panel on women and girls’ squash at the US Open

CURRENT
  o September 18-26, 2021 - Women’s Squash Week – gets women back on court after summer and kick off the competitive season; multiple formats in over 30 cities in US and around the world at no charge; engages pros to be focused on women and girls squash initiatives – see Squash is Friendship Brochure

  o November 12-14, 2021 - Howe Cup @ The Specter Center – yearly post-collegiate focused team tournament between cities in US and Canada; over 300 women participate in both singles and doubles competitions; multi-generational participation; multiple divisions accommodate beginners to former professionals; for many women this is the only tournament they play all year; see Squash Magazine Article about 2017 event. Launch the Women and Girls’ Squash Initiative

  o US Nationals – many of our female squash masters' players compete in the age-group and skill-level US Nationals and in the World Squash Masters and World Masters Games
EXISTING US SQUASH PATHWAYS

**Ages 2-6**
- Parental Play
- Lessons
- Clinics

**Ages 11-14**
- Modified Tournaments – Ratings
- Competitive Ranking Events: Bronze-JCT
- US Junior Open
- US Squads
- Middle School Nationals
- Local and Boarding Camps

**College**
- 3 Female Coaches of Men’s Teams
- 6 Female Coaches of Women’s Teams
- 30 Women’s Teams
- 600 Female Players

**Ages 7-10**
- Parental Play
- Lessons & Clinics
- Modified Tournaments - Ratings
- Summer and Holiday Camps
- Competitive Events: Bronze-JCT’s

**Ages 15-18**
- Modified and Competitive Ranking Events: Ratings and Bronze-JCT
- High School Nationals
- Junior National Teams: British Junior Open, Pan Am’s, Worlds
- Battle of the Borders
- College Showcases & Camps

**Adult & Pro**
- Local Play, Women's Squash Week, Howe Cup
- US Singles and Doubles Nationals
- Women in Sports Day @ US Open
- 12 Female Teaching Pros in US
- Team USA Pro’s at the Specter Center
- Local US Pro Events
- US Open (Equal prize money)
Differentiators & Key Issues

- Differentiators for Women and Girls Squash:
  - Friendship - social is very important component
  - Team formats work well
  - Harder for women to commit to regular playing time due to career and family commitments; need flexible formats
  - Just participating is enough for some, some want competitive situations

- Key Issues
  - Engaging and retaining girls – girls start sports later than boys and 80% of kids quit sports at 15
  - Encouraging participation post college and into adulthood – many take a break for career and family; how do we re-engage them?
  - Getting young adult women to realize the importance that squash networking can have for their careers – working on a network career path
  - Getting college graduates to consider a career in squash – coaching, administrative, professional playing, etc.
  - Girls can reap huge benefits from the discipline and mindset required by playing squash which can translate to improved confidence in academics and their lives in general
Early Development Programs including multi sport coordination options

**Launch Tee Partnership**
Recruit More Volunteers and Coaches for all age groups

**Ages 2-6**

- Entry and Re entry access points
- Recreational fun play options
- Local recreational events, team events, non-competitive, inter-club, districts
- Middle School Team Development
- Female Empowerment Workshops

**Ages 11-14**

- Recruitment and develop more female coaches
- Create summer coaching internships
- Include non-college players locally at clubs
- Networking: connect with adult professionals

**College**

- Coaching Certifications and Community Leaders
- Recruit collegiate players to coach
- Internship Programs
- Community Inclusion and Programs
- Continuing Education Programs
- More local events and leagues
- Pro Women’s Doubles Tour

**Ages 7-10**

- **Green Level Education Series**
  - Recreational learn to play fun options
  - Online programming tools for coaches, volunteers, clubs and schools
  - Rating based pathway and events

**Ages 15-18**

- **Mindset Education Programs**
- High School Team Development
- Volunteer/Leadership Programs

**Adult & Pro**

- Local ½ Day modified & team events
- Intra-club and Inter-club individual and team events
- Districts and National team events
• What Are You Doing in Your District to Encourage Women and Girls to Play Squash?
  o Provide funding for a Howe Cup team
  o Engage pros to host women and girls focused events and training
  o Offer modified events – round robins, fun day, ratings events
  o Organize middle school and high school teams for girls only teams

• How Can We Help
  o The Women’s Squash Fund was established to help fund events in areas that have historically had low participation by women; we’d like to see women’s squash grow all over the US – ask us how to apply for a grant
  o We have experience in promoting and running women’s events – tap into our experience at USQ and Women’s Committee Members all over the US
  o Launch the Women & Girls’ US Squash Initiative Nationally to raise funds and implement programs to foster and develop the women’s game -
    o WOMEN & GIRLS’ SUMMIT @ The Specter Center MAY 2022
      o Provide fun playing opportunities, roundtables/seminars on topics relevant to women and girls squash focusing on development and retention; foster more female coaches and volunteers for schools, colleges and clubs; career development; key female speakers
PLAY SQUASH