

PRESS RELEASE
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Over 900 coaches to attend ITF Worldwide Coaches Conference by BNP Paribas

Over 900 coaches will attend this week's 18th ITF Worldwide Coaches Conference by BNP Paribas in Cancun, Mexico on 5-9 November. The event is being organised by the ITF and Mexican Tennis Federation (Federacion Mexicana de Tenis) at the Iberostar Cancun resort.

The ITF Worldwide Coaches Conference, which is held every two years, is the showpiece of the ITF's Coach Education Programme. The five-day conference will bring together leading international experts in coach education, player performance and sport science to present on the latest developments in these fields through practical on-court coaching and lecture room presentations.

The theme of this year's conference is 'The long-term development of a high performance player'. The presentations and workshops will relate to four distinct ages of player development:

- 1) 10 years & under (building phase)
- 2) 11-14 years (development phase)
- 3) 15-18 years (junior phase)
- 4) 19-23 years (transition to professional phase)

Keynote speakers will include former US Davis Cup captains Patrick McEnroe and Tom Gullikson, British Fed Cup captain Judy Murray, US biomechanist Bruce Elliott, and legendary coaches Nick Bollettieri and Jose Higuera. There will also be a question and answer session with France's two-time Grand Slam champion Mary Pierce and a presentation from world-renowned sports psychologist Jim Loehr.

In addition to the main themes of the conference, the presentations and workshops will cover a wide variety of topics, including the ITF's *Tennis10s* programme under the Play and Stay banner, conditioning and injury prevention, tactical and technical development, motivation and mental toughness, high performance training centres, and sports science and anti-doping.

Dave Miley, ITF Executive Director of Tennis Development, said: "We are delighted to see a record number of coaches and speakers in attendance at this year's ITF Worldwide Coaches Conference. This conference will address the importance of good coaching based on solid scientific principles at every stage of a player's development, and how modern-day advances can be used effectively by coaches working with high performance players. We are grateful for the continued support of our presenting sponsor BNP Paribas in staging this event."

The ITF Coach Education Programme aims to improve the number and level of coaches worldwide with a strong focus on helping National Associations to use the ITF recommended syllabi to create their own coaches education programmes and become self-sufficient in coaches education in their respective nations.

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