



## PLAY AND STAY: UPDATE FOR FEDERATIONS APRIL/MAY 2008

### ITF ANNOUNCE PLANS FOR A PLAY AND STAY SEMINAR IN 2008

The ITF have released plans for a Play and Stay Seminar to provisionally be held 28 November – 1 December, at the British LTA's National Training Centre in Roehampton, London. The format will be similar to the seminar held in February 2007 at Queen's Club, however this time the focus will be on evaluating the progress of the campaign to date, sharing ideas and advancing knowledge of the areas related to Play and Stay, including presentations on competition, adults, implementing programmes and accessing equipment.

Contact [James.Newman@ITFTennis.com](mailto:James.Newman@ITFTennis.com) for more information.



ITF President, Francesco Ricci Bitti, at the Tennis...Play and Stay Seminar, Feb 2007

### USTA LAUNCH QUICKSTART TENNIS AT DISNEY WORLD

Following the ITF launch of Play and Stay in June 2007, US tennis took a significant step forward in March when they launched QuickStart Tennis, a new national format for introducing the sport to players aged 10 and under. The launch of QuickStart was part of 'ESPN – The Weekend' at Walt Disney World in Florida, and former pros Martina Navratilova and Mary Joe Fernandez were there to promote a new era for US junior tennis.

quickstart  
tennis

The QuickStart project follows the guidelines of Tennis...Play and Stay, with training and competition using the slower red balls on 36-foot courts and orange balls on 60-foot courts being fundamental to their format. [Click here](#) for more information.

### HENIN STATES THE IMPORTANCE OF SLOWER BALLS

Justine Henin recently announced the opening of her '6<sup>th</sup> Sense' Academy in Florida, and spoke about how her tennis experiences as a youngster, using slower balls and smaller rackets, will be reflected in the academy: *"That's how I started to play. I don't say it's the only way to become a champion, but I think that when you're six, seven, eight years old and you're not tall, you're not strong, it's great to have soft balls and smaller rackets."*

*"That gives you the opportunity to do almost everything [in tennis] and that helped me a lot to do everything with the racket now, for sure. I don't say it's the only way, but it's the way I learned how to play tennis."*



World No. 1 Justine Henin at 2008 Australian Open Photo by Paul Zimmer



Coaches at the Play Tennis Course in Seoul, Korea

### PLAY TENNIS COURSES CONTINUE TO DEVELOP COACHES

A number of ITF Play Tennis courses have taken place in 2008, in nations including Ecuador and Thailand. The 3-day course is aimed at helping coaches to deliver the contents of Play and Stay, including training on organisation of players and communication. In March, the ITF ran a Play Tennis course hosted by the Korea Tennis Association in Seoul, a diary of each day was kept. [Click here](#) to read the diary and get an idea of what the Play Tennis course aims to achieve.

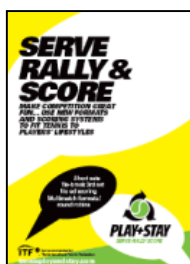
The Play Tennis manual that supports the course is available for purchase from the [ITF store](#) and this will very soon be available in Spanish and French as well as English.





## LATEST PLAY AND STAY ACTIVITY

- **Ecuador, Korea and Thailand** held Play Tennis courses in March
- **Argentina** hosted Play and Stay demonstrations, featuring the Davis Cup team during their tie v Great Britain in Buenos Aires (see above)
- **USTA** launched QuickStart Tennis at Disney World, Orlando (see feature above)
- Play and Stay was launched in **Germany** with promotions planned for the Davis Cup tie v Spain in April and the Hamburg Open in May
- 'On the Line', a magazine for **Irish** coaches, was dedicated to Play and Stay
- Presentations on Play and Stay take place at the **PTR Symposium** in Hilton Head
- **Greece** and **Egypt** both announced plans to launch Play and Stay in May
- The **Tennis...Play and Stay** promotional video is now available on the [Play and Stay homepage](#) and on [You Tube](#).



## PARTICIPATING NATIONS LOGO

ITF President, Francesco Ricci Bitti, recently wrote to all federations asking for their continued support of Play and Stay, by using a 'Participating Nation' logo alongside programmes and publications. This logo is especially designed for nations who have programmes using slower balls and smaller courts that are not called 'Play and Stay', for example 'LTA Mini Tennis'. By using this logo, those nations can show a global, unified approach to starter tennis. For a copy of this logo, please contact [James Newman](#).



## SLOWER BALLS – RED BALLS

As well as the red sponge and foam balls, the ITF also promote the use of Red, oversize felt balls that can be used effectively outdoors. These are around 75% slower than a normal ball but do not move around in the wind as much as most sponge balls. Making the balls bigger allows them to move slower through the air than they could if they were the normal size. Currently only 3 types of this ball are ITF approved (Price, Teloon and Zsig Sports Ltd produce these and Tretorn also plan to have this ball available soon). Contact [James Newman](#) for information on how to access all of these balls.

For a list of ITF approved red, orange and green ball suppliers, please [click here](#).

## DAVIS / FED CUP PROMOTIONS

A number of nations, including Brazil, Germany and Hungary, have held Play and Stay promotions at their Davis or Fed Cup ties in order to promote their programmes. In February, Argentina set up smaller courts around Parque Roca during their Davis Cup World Group tie with Great Britain. They also held demonstrations on the match-court, with coaching services provided by the Argentine Davis Cup team, including David Nalbandian.



David Nalbandian rallying with slower balls to promote Play and Stay in Argentina

