ESF Coach Education

WORLD SQUASH

EUROPE

Does a regional federation need its own Coach Education Programme?

How did it start?

In 2000 a number of European coaches attended the WSF Coaching Conference in Rio.

We decided that it would be a good idea to run an ESF Conference allowing more coaches from Europe to participate and exchange and share their knowledge and experience.

The 1st European Coaching Conference was then held in June 2002 in Vienna with Jahangir Khan as guest of honor.

It attracted a lot of interest around the continent not only from established squash nations but also from the many new developing squash nations in Eastern Europe.

After a second ESF Conference the following year in the Netherlands the ESF Coaching Committee decided to change its approach.

Why?

Obviously there was a strong demand for coach education in many of the new ESF member nations.

But for the same amount of money for one person travelling to a conference we could send a tutor into that country and train 12 new coaches.

The first level 1 courses started in 2005 in Bulgaria, Russia, Ukraine, Serbia and Poland.

Back to the start: Does a regional federation need its own Coach Education Programme?

YES because

Rather than each country trying to re-invent the wheel sharing knowledge helps to develop our sport.

The more countries play squash the higher the credibility of our game as a truly global sport.

A course carrying the brand of being EUROPEAN has a higher credibility than a national course run by a federation of a new sport.

Sharing knowledge increases the speed of development.

Example:

Austria

Federation founded in 1978

1st L1 course 1987

1st L3 course in 1995

Poland

Federation founded in 2002

1st L1 course in 2005

1st L3 qualified coaches in 2010

England, the leading squash nation in Europe, understood the value of developing squash in the new nations and supported the ESF efforts.

With their help ESF was able to run the first ESF Level 2 course in the year 2007, tutored by David Campion.

Many thanks to Zena Wooldridge and Peter Hirst!

Initially L2 courses were tutored by English tutors until a group of ESF L2 tutors were trained by Peter Hirst.

Since 2010 all L2 courses are tutored by ESF Tutors.

Also in 2010 ESF ran its first L3 course, tutored by Peter Hirst.

And finally in 2013 Colin White and Ronny Vlassaks started their training as L3 tutors.

Working in a multi-national, multi-cultural and of course multi-lingual environment is inspiring but also challenging!

The biggest problem we face is language.

Our courses were initially all tutored in English.

First we need to establish a common squash terminology.

A few examples:

LINIA   Polish for straight drive

STOP   German for drop shot

PERCEPTION is a frequently used word in our courses but probably not known to many whose first language is not English.

How can we overcome the language barrier?

Translators work but use up a lot of time.

ESF L1 courses are run in two setups

1. As national courses with all participants from the same country.

2. As central ESF courses with many different nations and languages participating.

We have now started to train National L1 tutors who can run the courses in their home countries and language.

But L2 and L3 courses are still all run centrally and therefore in English.

For L2 we expect candidates to understand English.

For L3 we expect them to make a presentation in English.

A few facts and figures

Level 1, 2005 – 2014

     37 courses

     259 successful candidates

Level 2, 2007 – 2014

     19 courses

     205 successful candidates

Level 3, 2010 – 2014

     3 courses

     26 successful candidates (48 participants)

Participants come from 32 member nations.

The ESF CoachEd programme is not meant to replace national programmes.

It is meant to fill the gap if no national programme exists.

Supplement existing national programmes, which might lack higher levels.

Therefore national courses are accepted as qualification for ESF L2 and L3 courses.

What is the next step?

In an increasingly globalized world a global approach would seem to be the next logical step.