

DEVELOPING SOUTH AFRICA'S FUTURE TENNIS CHAMPIONS



**MATCHPOINT
FOUNDATION**

The goal of the Matchpoint Foundation is to create a platform where current and former South African players can share their knowledge and experiences with up and coming South African players, coaches and parents. It also gives the local and International tennis supporter the opportunity to be part of something great where they can give and make a difference.

JOHN-LAFFNIE DE JAGER
Founder of Matchpoint Foundation



MISSION STATEMENT

“Developing South Africa’s Future Tennis Champions”

This mission statement will serve as the guiding principle to developing young (10 to 18 year old) athletes through a development pathway in a structured high performance training environment.

VISION STATEMENT

“It’s all about the mission.... To serve those who desire a commitment and passion for excellence in sport”

The Matchpoint Foundation is a Charitable Foundation that focusses on supporting the development of young South African tennis players. It is a professionally managed entity that follows a rigorous system of checks and balances through an efficient project management cycle with integrity, transparency, measurability and critical evaluation of all activities undertaken, as the fundamental building blocks of the Foundation.

John-Laffnie de Jager’s extensive travels as a professional tennis player, introduced him to many special sporting development initiatives which inspired him to initiate the Matchpoint Foundation in South Africa. This initiative will focus on supporting and developing South African tennis youth to ensure they maximize their potential in tennis and in life.

The support and backing of most of the current and ex South African players will help in rebuilding tennis in South Africa. The most talented and dedicated South African juniors will get the opportunity to attend a series of Matchpoint Foundation tennis camps where they will be afforded the opportunity to train and develop their skills. The Foundation will provide a pathway for South Africa’s most promising juniors (10-18 years old) to develop in a structured, high performance training environment as part of their path to a professional career.

In short, the Foundation is there to provide the South African tennis youth the same opportunities that allowed Wayne Ferreira, Amanda Coetzer, Pietie Norval, Marcos Ondruska, Grant Stafford, David Nainkin, John-laffnie de Jager, Robbie Koenig, Neville Godwin, Jeff Coetzee and many more to reach the heights of their professional tennis careers. In order to become a world-class player, these youngsters need access to high level training and coaching, access to knowledgeable people that can guide them, the necessary equipment, appropriate tournament scheduling and funding to travel and compete locally and internationally.

Due to our geographical isolation, the majority of South Africa’s tennis talent pool is never exposed to top-level tennis, but still we must prepare players to compete at the top level.

Our Foundation camps will aim to provide players, coaches and parents with much- needed information to succeed internationally. Our experience will benefit others.

PRIMARY OBJECTIVES:

- To provide players with the necessary support, advice and guidance to transition from local age-group tennis to being competitive on the international tennis stage.
- To create a structured training environment to enhance the development of each athlete and maximize resources available.
- To provide greater opportunities per athlete through tailor made long-term development planning.
- To assist athletes in developing skills for post tennis professional life.
- To provide South African tennis players with ongoing learning opportunities whereby athlete education is viewed as the joint responsibility of the athlete, parent and coaching staff.
- To provide every athlete with world-class on-court training, physical preparation, sport science, mental training and medical services.
- To create an environment where ex-players can use the Foundation as a platform to share knowledge, experience and skills honed on the professional tennis tours.
- To establish a work ethic where the Foundation staff and experts can share their knowledge with the private coaches and parents of participating youngsters.
- The Matchpoint Foundation will work with Tennis South Africa to offer our tennis talent the best possible opportunities to succeed on the international stage.



“Tennis is a dynamic sport. It changes constantly. We need to ensure that our coaches and players keep up with the changes. The Matchpoint Foundation will do this. Using the experience of ex-players and coaches who are on tour and then preparing the best to perform and excel at the highest level. John Laffnie’s passion for development is infectious and I am very excited to be part of this project and help the young players of South Africa “

WAYNE FERREIRA

“It a real honour for me to be part of the Matchpoint Foundation. JL has been a great friend, an even better doubles partner and a confidant. No individual has done more for tennis in South Africa over the last decade. The Foundation will give me the opportunity to share my knowledge and expertise with the next generation of SA players who are pursuing their dreams of making a success with this wonderful sport! He will have my unwavering support.”

ROBBIE KOENIG



CORE VALUES:

The program aims to develop athletes who are proud to represent South African tennis on the National and International stage and carry on the wonderful tradition of South African champions internationally and will do so by adhering to the following core values:

- Integrity
- Discipline
- Diversity
- Passion
- Commitment
- Accountability

The Matchpoint Foundation's Core Values constitute the fundamental beliefs of the organization. Whilst goals and objectives present a clear direction, core values serve as the Foundation's compass for current and future success.

The Foundation will endeavour to offer each of the selected young stars the following:

- Elite Training Program
- World Class Coaching
- Technical Analysis
- Sports Medicine
- Sports Science
- Mental and life coaching
- International Tennis Federation & National Tournament Planning
- Player Development Assistance



"I am excited to become a part of the family of fellow former players supporting Matchpoint Foundation and John Laffnie's ongoing effort to assist young aspiring professional tennis players to break through the ranks."

AMANDA COETZER

This will be achieved through a well-balanced combination of vehicles including:

1. MATCHPOINT FOUNDATION CAMPS (The core of the development plan)

The Foundation seeks to identify and nurture talent by giving them exposure to knowledgeable people, create a high- performance environment to train in and provide them with the necessary support, advice and guidance to transition through the important age-groups. To achieve this the Foundation will create camps and tournaments where current and former tennis players will share their experience, advice and knowledge with the youngsters. This will be well supported by specialists in each field providing training throughout the year. A broad-based approach will allow more players the opportunity to rise to the

top. The goal is that each player should return to their home base with more knowledge, experience and information concerning their game. Through this the Foundation can develop healthy relationships with all parties involved.

Each of the Foundation Camps will consist of 16 promising juniors, 8 boys and 8 girls. The camps will consist of the following:

- Invitations to each player's private coach and parents to attend.
- Invitations to current and ex SA players to attend and assist in the camp.
- Lectures/sessions by experts in different areas of the game including Strength & Conditioning, Mental Conditioning, Nutrition, Life skills and Tactical play.
- Team Tennis matches will be played each afternoon with current and ex-players serving as coaches of each team.
- In the evenings current and ex-players will have the opportunity to share their careers with all campers with Q&A sessions.
- At the end of the camp current and ex-players will write a collective summary on each player advising the player, coach and parents on necessary improvements the player needs to make if they want to compete at the highest level.

2. MASTERS EVENTS IN TWO CATEGORIES (U/16 AND OVER 16)

These events will be designed to bring the top tennis talent in each of the two age groups together to compete at the highest local level. 8 boys and 8 girls in each age group will be selected to compete in the master's event.

The selection process will be based on a combination of Key Health Tournaments/ Rankings, ITF rankings and playing ability. Points earned at Nationals will be worth double.

3. SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM FOR PLAYERS

It will be the Foundation's goal to assist talented youngsters financially to maximize their potential. The Scholarship program will yearly award the following to two deserving tennis talents:

- R100 000 cash for tennis specific expenses
- Mental conditioning
- Physical conditioning
- Eye gym
- 1 International trip (return airline tickets)
- Player Development Assistance

FUNDING

In order for the Foundation to achieve its goals, successful funding will form a crucial part of operations. Fund raisers will be held across the Globe every year with exciting auction prizes

These auctions will include amazing spectator trips to some of the world's greatest tennis events including Australian Open, Indian Wells, French Open, Wimbledon, US Open, Shanghai Masters and Barclays ATP Tour. Money cannot buy these opportunities and should be popular.

Raising funds through sponsorships goes without saying and will form an integral part of the fund raising efforts.



The Matchpoint Foundation is great initiative to assist in the growth and development of tennis in South Africa. Tennis in South Africa needs people who are willing to donate their expertise, time and money to benefit those who do not have resources. John-Laffnie is a passionate about tennis and should be congratulated on creating an opportunity for everyone to help others. With all of our support, the Foundation is destined for success. Let's make it happen.

CRAIG TILEY,
Tournament director of Australian Open



MATCHPOINT FOUNDATION
Contact details to come here

