

COMPETITIVE FRAMEWORKS

In the past, all the tournaments for under 10 year olds were played with normal balls on full courts. 3 years ago CBT has decided not to support tournaments under 10 in those conditions.

Since then. CBT has supported festivals, team and interclub tournaments, using the Play and Stay methodology (slower balls/smaller courts and competitive formats adapted to children and beginners). Now CBT is promoting competition under 8 and 10 years old according to this philosophy. There is no national ranking under 10.

Last July, during the most important national junior event organized every year in Brasília, an invitational tournament under 8 and 10 years old was held. The tournament was a big success and the most important characteristics were:

1. Children under 8 years old
 - Ball: red (felt)
 - Court: red (11 m)
 - Competition format: players put in teams
 - Scoring: each match last 5 minutes and then players switch partners (everybody plays everybody – players on one side of the court stay at the same court, and players on the other side must change court).
2. Children under 10 years old
 - Ball: orange;
 - Court: orange (18-6.5m);
 - Competition format: round robin event;
 - Scoring: one set, first to win 4 games wins the match (3 all = tie-break to 7 points).
3. Public target
 - Coaches and players of the National Brazilian Championship. We wanted them to know the Play and Stay competition format, balls and courts.
4. Centre court
 - The tournament was held at the centre court in the first day of the event. That's because most of the players and coaches would be at the tournament site.
5. Rewards
 - All the children participants received medals and shirts.
6. Official announcement
 - All the children's names and matches were announced at the official tournament microphone.

Because of the atmosphere created for the children (playing on centre court, having their names called at official tournament microphone and playing beside other juniors), they had a very good experience, leaving the court very proud and motivated.

Next steps

- Next year CBT is planning to organize local and invitation tournament under 8 and 10 years old during the Group 1 junior events (around 12 tournaments)
- For the year 2010 organize open tournaments under 10 years old

DISCUSSION:

National ranking under 10 years old?