



FRÜHE FÖRDERUNG IN SPANIEN

EARLY DEVELOPMENT OF JUNIORS IN SPAIN

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M.Crespo. Internationales DTB-
Symposium 2005



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Introduction

What is a tennis power nation?

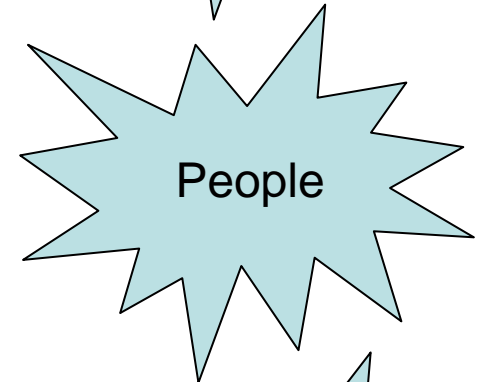
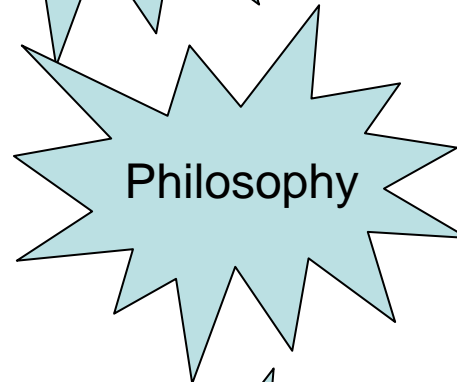
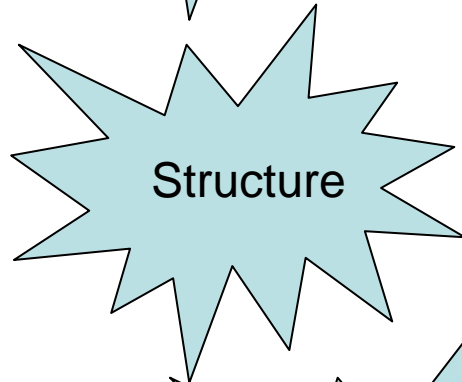
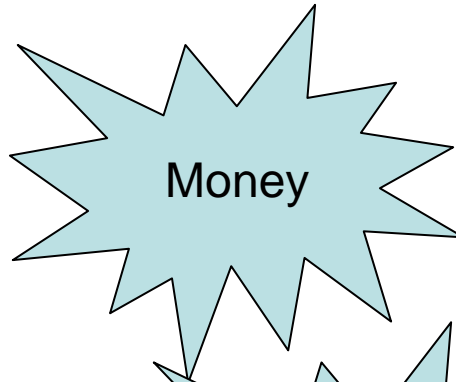
- A Nation that is **SUCCESSFUL** in....
- **More people playing tennis:**
 - Grassroots tennis
 - Schools tennis
 - Club tennis
- **Improve level of top players:**
 - Competition
 - Training

Introduction

Overall View

	Germany	Spain	France	USA
Population	82 mill	40 mill	60 mill	295 mill
Total nr. of players	3.4 mill	1.8 mill	2.9 mill	24 mill
Licensed players	2 mill	88.000	1.1 mil	NA
Nr. of clubs	10.200	1.000	9.000	NA
Nr. of courts	50.000	5.000	33.000	NA
Weeks of pro male events	34	53	31	67
Weeks of pro female events	11	17	26	56
Participation rate	4.3	4.8	5.1	9

The reasons for success?



Comparing Tennis Success among Countries

Country	AS-100 ³	AS-100 ranking	R
1. Spain	1396	(2)	1223
2. France	852	(3)	594
3. United States	1483	(1)	555
4. Czech (Rep.)	399	(9)	326
5. Argentina	475	(6)	292
6. Sweden	415	(8)	258
7. Germany	527	(5)	245
8. Slovakia	261	(13)	219
9. Croatia	205	(15)	2023
10. Russia	781	(4)	111

- *Absolute success:*

- Giving a single score to the individual players ranked in the top 100 of the WTA and ATPs' singles ranking system
- Calculate a total score for every country. This process was repeated for players ranked in the top 100.

- *Relative success:*

- To what extent absolute success is explained by macro-(economic) determinants.

V. De Bosscher, P. De Knop, I. Van Aken, B. Heyndels(2003)

Comparing Tennis Success among Countries

Country	AS-1000	AS-1000 ranking	R
1. Spain	74220	(2)	56244
2. France	70782	(3)	44500
3. Czech (Rep.)	48861	(6)	39910
4. Argentina	46799	(7)	33259
5. Germany	62623	(4)	33150
6. Italy	51392	(5)	27225
7. United States	97554	(1)	25075
8. Australia	41476	(8)	22932
9. Slovakia	22316	(14)	16297
10. Croatia	16631	(18)	14235

Ranking of countries differs considerably depending on whether we take into account top 100 or top 1000 players.

V. De Bosscher, P. De Knop, I. Van Aken, B. Heyndels(2003)

Tournaments and Nation's Success

Men's professional game

- More pro tournaments correlate positively with:
 - the number of internationally ranked players of a Nation.
 - the Nation's number of players ranked inside the Top 200.
- Having a high number of tournaments does not guarantee that Nations will have players ranked among the top 10.

Women's professional game

- More pro tournaments correlate positively with:
 - a nation's number of internationally ranked players
 - the nation's number of Top 200 ranked players.
 - the production of more elite female players (top 10).

Junior boys' game

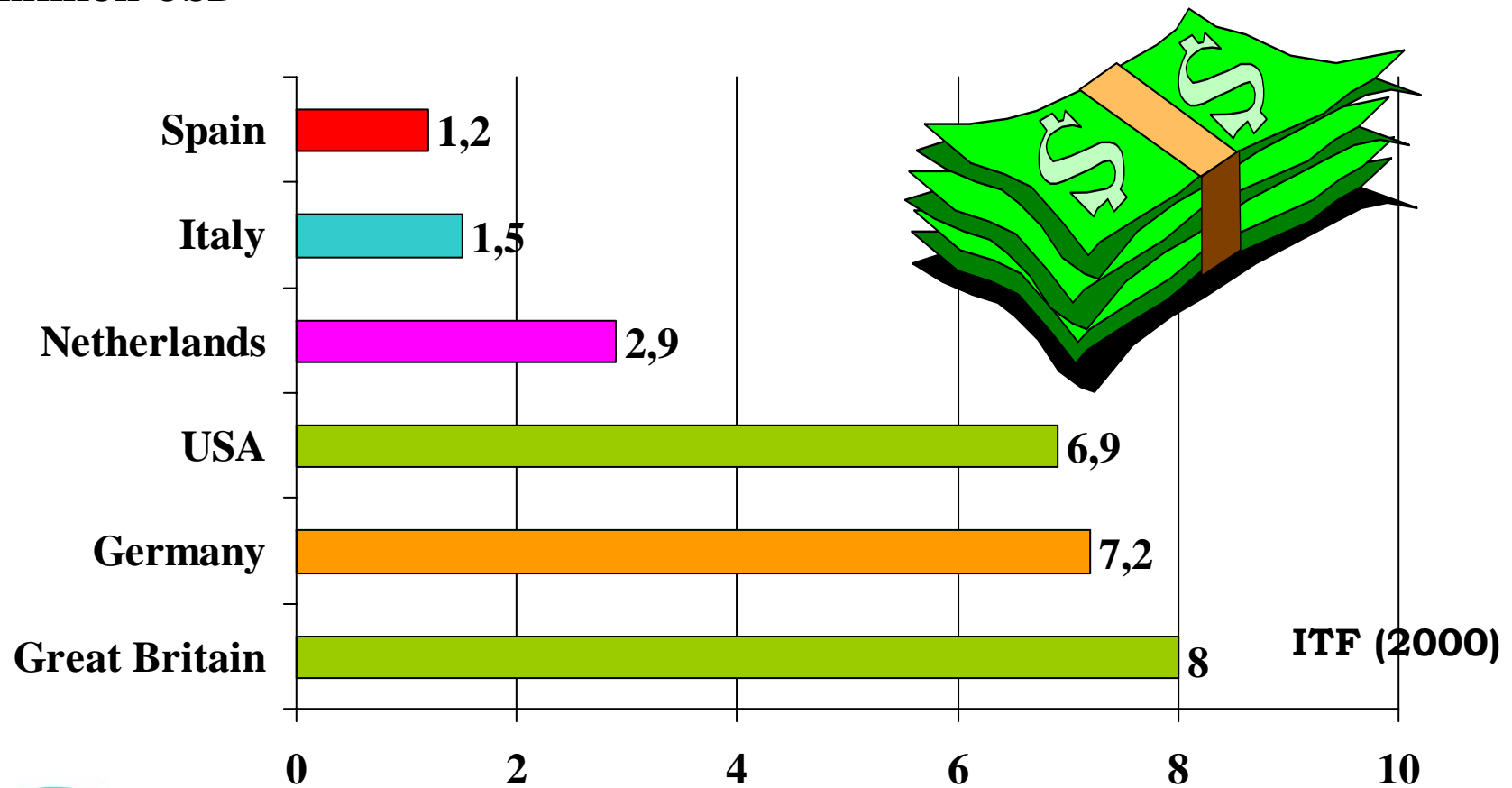
- Junior ranking is a significant predictor of future pro ranking.
- Achievement of a top 20 JR is a reasonable yardstick for future professional success.
- Play on clay courts or a combination of clay and hard courts better to produce pro players than playing on hard court alone.

Crespo, Reid, Miley, & Atienza (2003); Reid, Crespo & Atienza (in press), Reid, Crespo, Miley, & Atienza (in press).

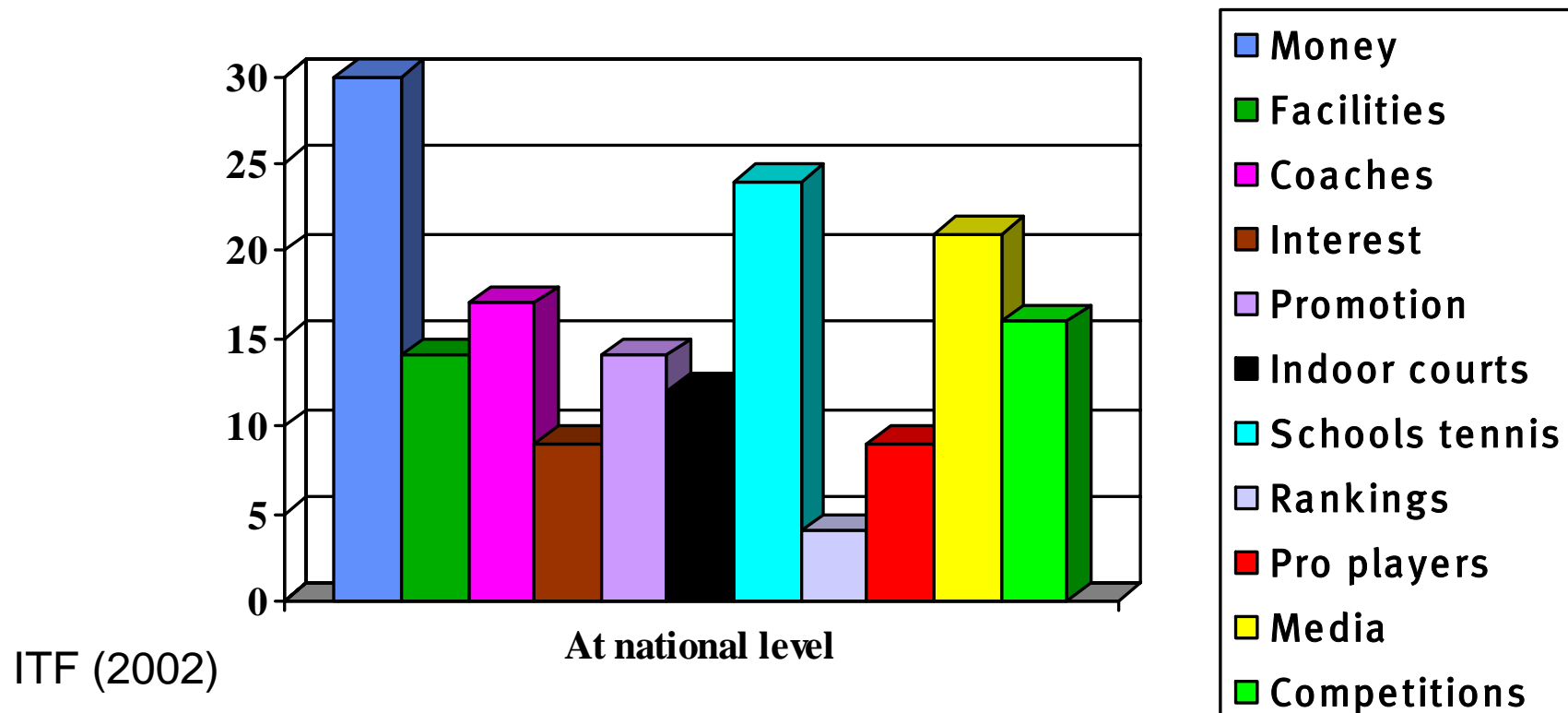


Annual Budget for Player Development 2000

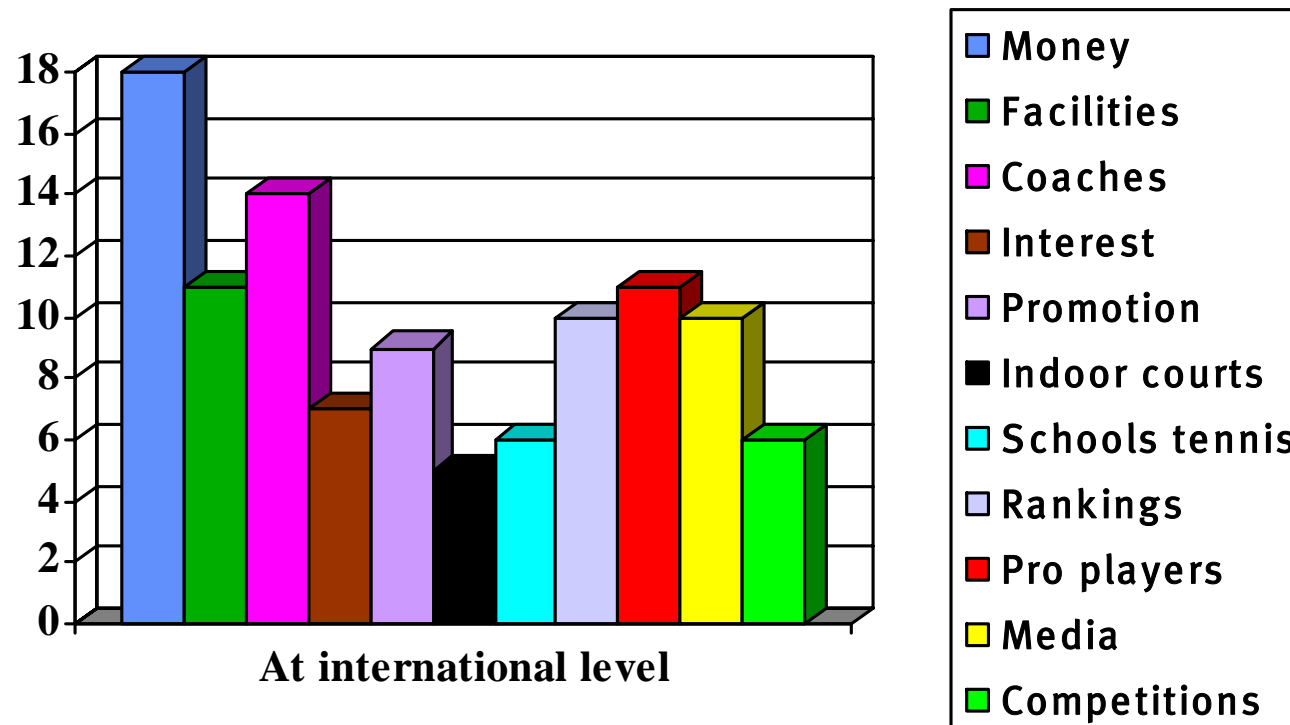
In million USD



Limiting factors for success at national level



Limiting factors for success at international level

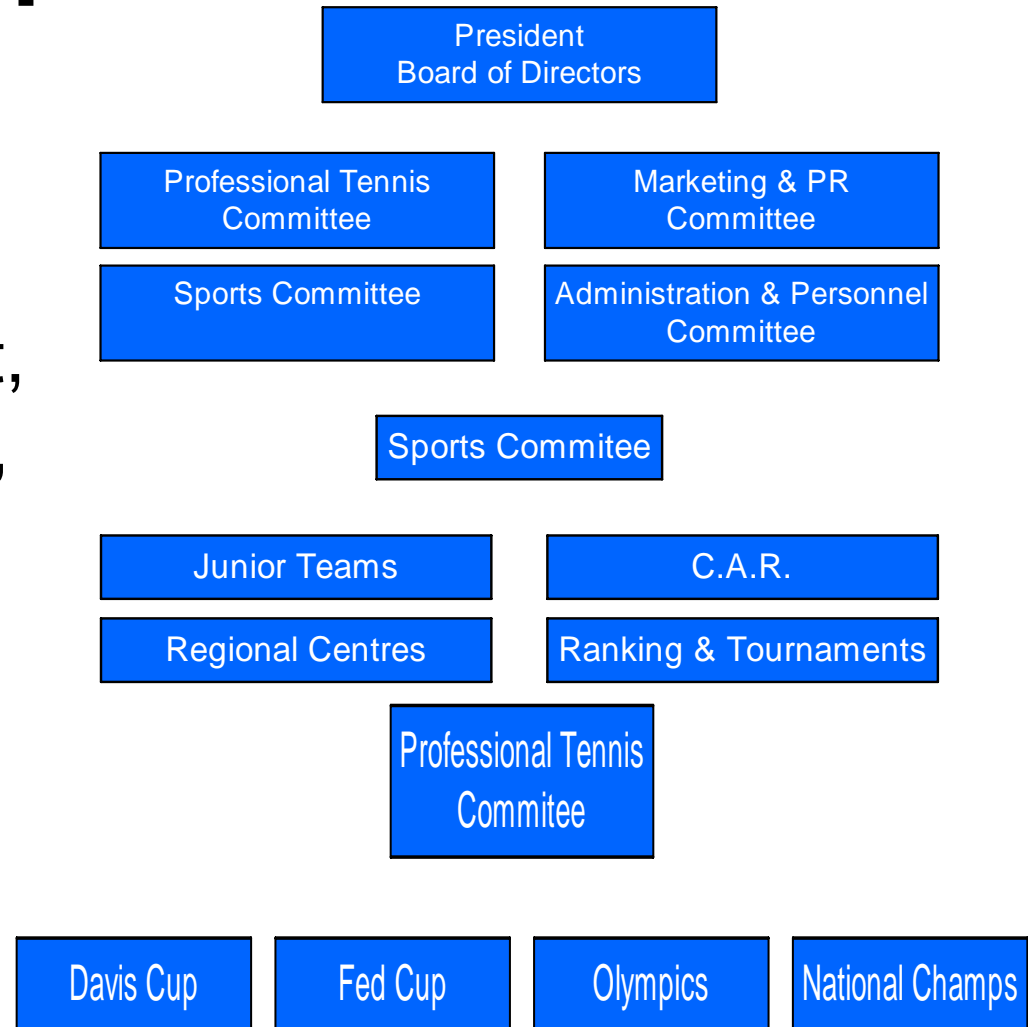


ITF (2002)



Structure of Spanish Tennis F.

- 2005 Budget: €6 million
- Income: Government, Olympic Programme, Players licenses and sponsors, Davis Cup
- Headquarters: Barcelona & Madrid
- Staff: 25 people



Structure of Spanish Tennis

Regional Feds

- Number: 17
- Structure: Very Different (Catalan vs. Extremadura)
- Facilities: All have their own
- Budget: RFET and Regional Governments
- Competencies: Development & Training of Junior Players

Clubs

- Basis of tennis activity in Spain
- Type: Increase of public vs. Full private
- Budget: Member's fees
- Competencies: Development & Training of Junior Players
- Facilities: Clay courts

up to 1999

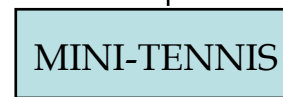
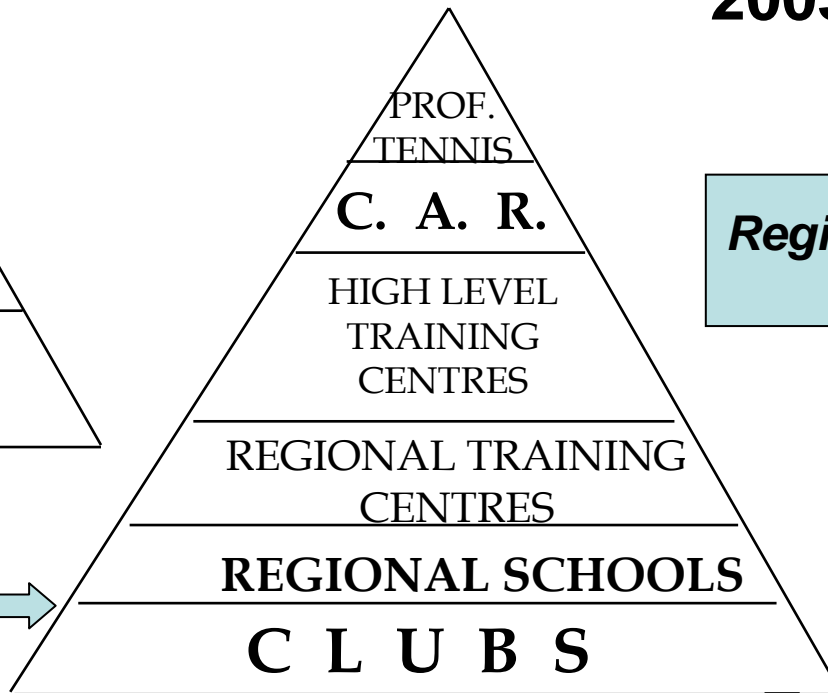


Structure

2005-



1999-2005



Working with Juniors in Spain

Philosophy

- **PLAYERS:**
 - Oriented to competition. They believe they can make it.
 - Goal higher than just being good juniors
 - Never too late to succeed.
- **TRAINING:**
 - Use strengths (clay court game).
 - Improve the weaknesses (fast/indoor courts)
- **COMPETITION:**
 - Play lots of significant matches. Lose matches now to win experience.
- **STRUCTURE:**
 - Career path: Everybody knows what should be done and how this should be done.
 - Follow the role model (men's and women's game)
 - Good players can come from everywhere.
- **COACHES:**
 - It is more important how you do it than what you do: Hard work and enthusiasm.
 - Do not be overconfident
 - Get ready for the future and change to improve

Working with Juniors in Spain

Philosophy

- RFET: Co-ordinate the whole system:
 - Players' performance and evolution (practice and competition).
 - Relationship with the coaches.
 - Selection of players for national teams.
 - Relationship with parents & officials.
 - Two junior national training squads: Men (15-17) and women (14-16).
- No official training system by RFET
- Guidelines to the coaches:
 - Free basis
 - Variety of criteria, but...
- Possible to set up some general characteristics that may be called "the Spanish Coaching Philosophy"

“Spanish” Way?

TECHNIQUE

- Preference for baseline play
- Extreme grips
- Big loop FH.
- 2 handed TP BH (girls).
- BH approach slice / topspin
- TP taught before SL
- Footwork (side steps for inside out FH, double rhythm)
- Commitment to improve the serve and the net play.

TACTICS

- Clay court tactics:
 - Aggressive baseline
 - Counter pouncer
- One big "killer" shot:
 - Topspin forehand
 - High mid-court flat forehand.
- Offensive use of:
 - Topspin
 - Angles.
- Clear patters:
 - Crosscourt
 - Direction & Depth
 - Wrong-foot
 - Etc.

PHYSICAL CONDITIONING

- Good endurance
- Need to work on speed (forward movements)
- Better co-ordination.
- On court workouts

SCHOOL

- 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. from Monday to Friday) from 5 to 18 years old.

HOLIDAYS

- Summer : 3 months in a row (July-September)
- Good weather and a great number of tournaments for all ages and levels.

MENTAL ABILITIES

- Tough, very persistent.
- Players focused to the top
- Very good role models: Arantxa, Conchita, Corretja, Moya, Nadal, Ferrero, etc.

UNIVERSITY

- University studies are hardly compatible with competition or professional tennis.

SURFACE

- Clay (80%>).
- A lot of players practice in semi-fast surfaces (asphalt, concrete, etc.).

TOURNAMENTS

- Team & Individual
- Junior Nat. & Prize money
- National & International
- Clubs pay prize money

RANKING SYSTEM

- One National Ranking
- All players
- No junior rankings
- Players selected subjectively

TRADITION

- Important reference for Spanish tennis players...
- Since the 60's it has been a top 10-20 Spanish male player in the World Ranking



WEATHER

- Good weather all year round
- No indoor facilities needed (only in the NW)

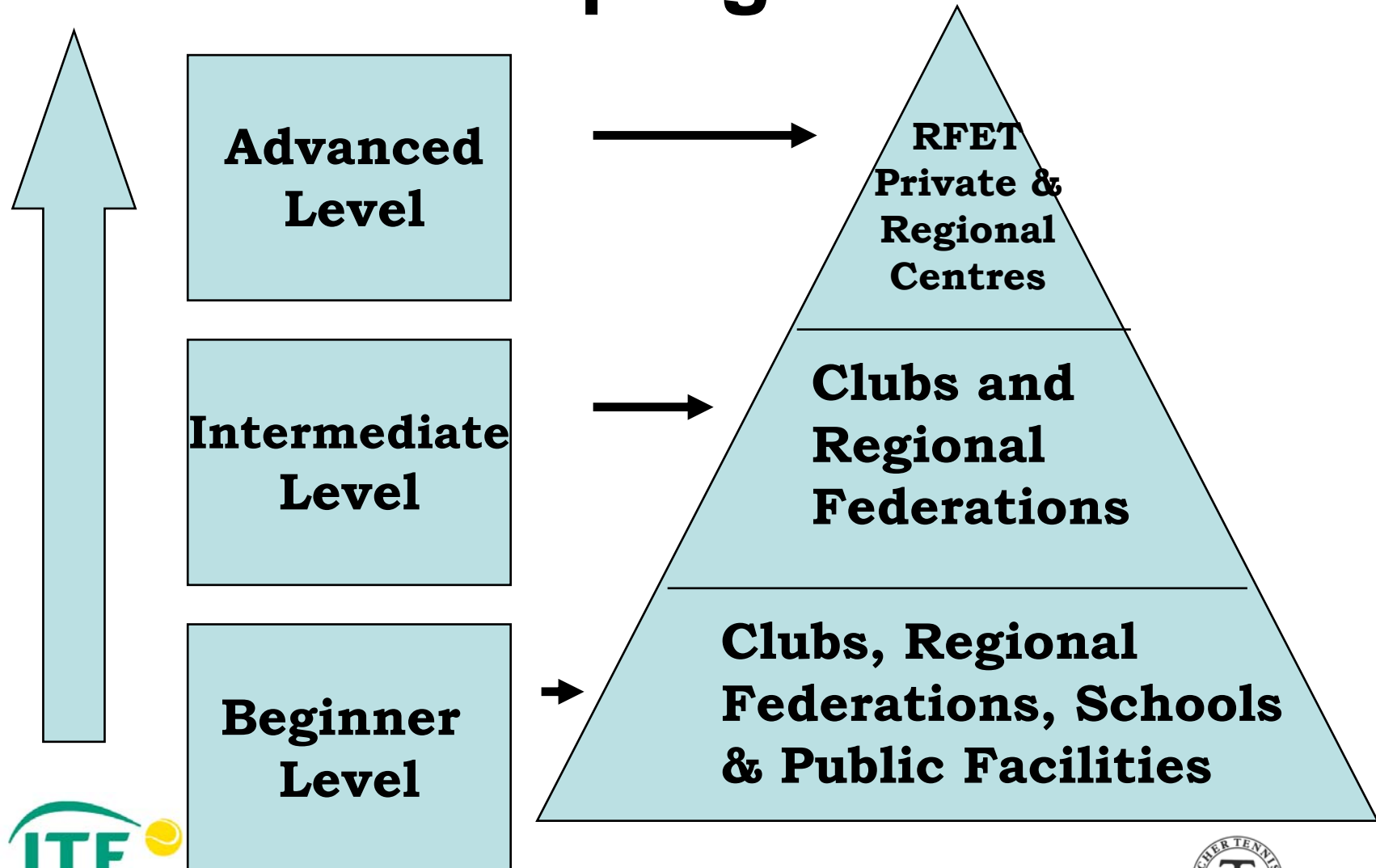
COACHES EDUCATION

- Very demanding system
- High Recognition

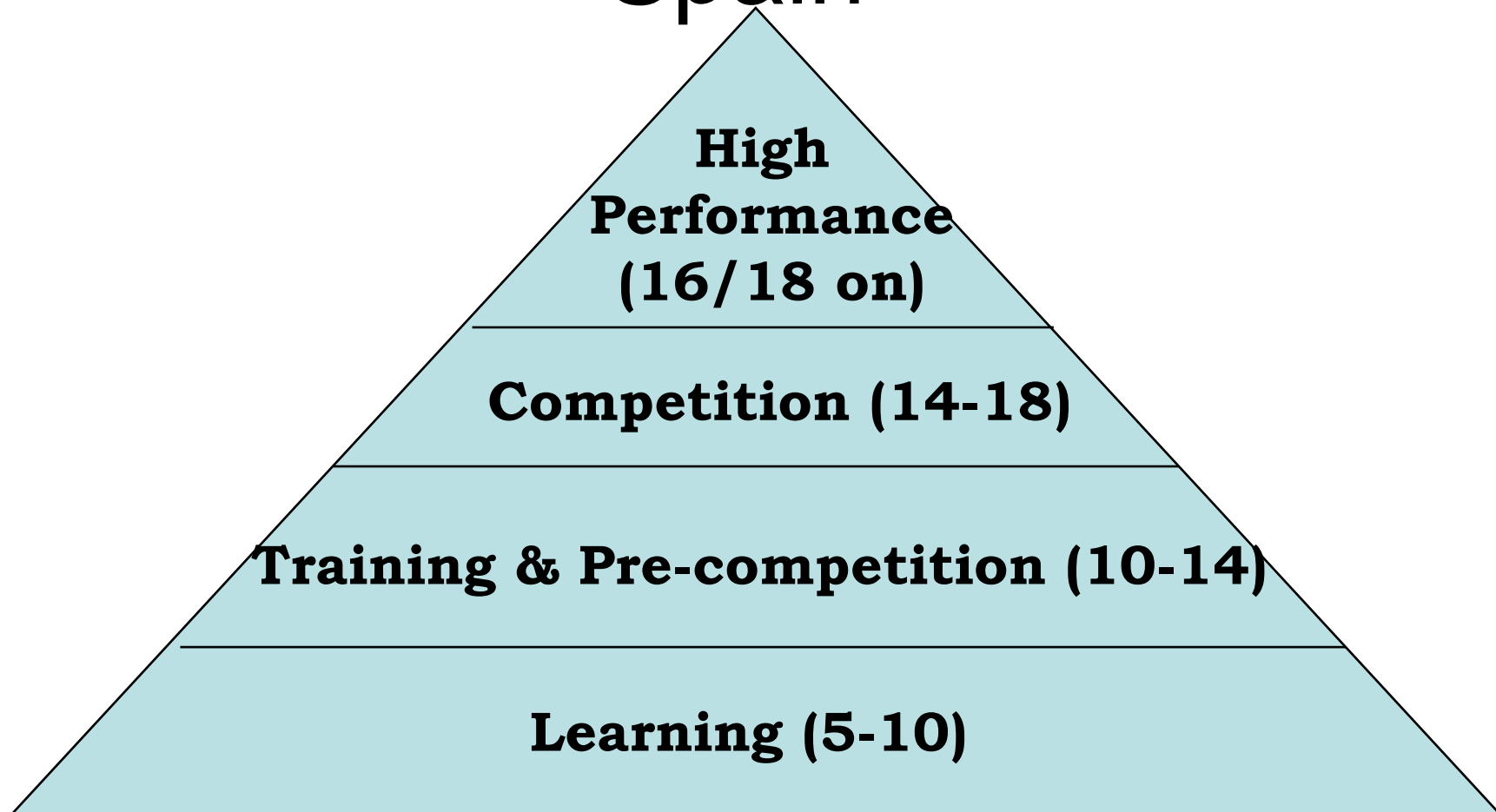
PRIVATE ACADEMIES

- Boom in the 80's
- Now only the best work (<10)
- Barcelona: Bruguera, Sánchez-Casal, Catalan Federation, etc.
- Valencia: Altur-Alvariño, Ferrero/Equelite
- Good relationship with the RFET
- Same goals

How does the program work?



Stages of player development in Spain



Learning stage (5-10)



Training stage (10-14)

GENERAL CHARACTERISTICS

- Mini-tennis & Tennis
- No official Mini-tennis programme by RFET
- Tournaments in clubs or 10 & under

TRAINING LOAD

- 2 hours / week
- 2 days /week
- Weekends
- P.E. at school

GENERAL CHARACTERISTICS

- Long preparation & pre-compet.
- All strokes mastered
- Junior and Q. Nat. Prize Money:
 - 10-12: 10 - 15 weeks / year
 - 12-14: 15 - 25 weeks / year

TRAINING LOAD

- 10-12: 6 hrs/wk, 3 days/wk
- 12-14: 10 hrs/wk, 5 days/wk
- Physical workouts: 2-3 hrs/wk, At school

Competition stage (14-18) → High performance stage (16-18 +)

GENERAL CHARACTERISTICS

- Semi-professional
- Refining the game
- Nat. Prize Money & Satellite/Futures: 25 -35 wks/yr
- Problems: Travelling costs

TRAINING LOAD

- 15 hrs/wk, 5 days/wk
- Physical: 1-2 hrs/day

SCHOOL

- 1/2 day or leave

GENERAL CHARACTERISTICS

- Professional & Short preparation
- Nat. Prize Money & ATP-WTA Tour: 25 -35 wks/year
- Problems: Travelling costs (women)

TRAINING LOAD

- 25 hrs/wk, 6 days/week
- Physical: 1-2 hrs /day

COACHES

- Individual
- 2 players (men)

Success of Spanish tennis

- Is there a secret?: NO
- There is a group or REASONS:
 - Strong tennis tradition.
 - Good organisation and structure
 - Good role models.
 - Good level of players (physical conditions, fitness, etc.).
 - Good mentality of players, coaches, officials and parents.
- Beginner and intermediate coaches performance oriented.
- Well-experienced top level touring coaches.
- Good competitive structure.
- A great deal of competition opportunities.
- Good weather and practice conditions.
- Enough facilities to practice.
- Good coaches education system.
- The Olympic experience (Barcelona 92)
- Very good luck.



Things to improve in the future

- Street-tennis and tennis in the schools
- National prize money tournaments.
- All court game mentality & doubles
- Improve participation & popularity.
- Women's tennis
- Improve coaches education programmes (University, etc.).
- All nations have some kind of success
- It is difficult to have success in all areas of tennis



