















# WELCOME MESSAGE: DAVID HAGGERTY PRESIDENT, INTERNATIONAL TENNIS FEDERATION



On behalf of the ITF, it gives me great pleasure to welcome you all to Ramat Hasharon, Israel for the 2019 BNP Paribas World Team Cup. The ITF's flagship wheelchair tennis team event has gone from strength to strength since its inception in 1985, when just six men's teams took part. A women's event took place for the first time in 1986, with just two teams, while the quad event was introduced in 1998 and the junior event was held for the first time in 2000.

The introduction of the men's and women's regional qualification events in 2012 has enabled more nations to be a part of this prestigious competition, with participation numbers having grown steadily each year.

We are delighted to bring the BNP Paribas World Team Cup to Israel for the first time. Israel becomes the 19th nation to host the World Team Cup since the first competition in 1985 and Israel has contested at least one event in every single World Team Cup to date.

I would like to extend my gratitude to BNP Paribas, who are title sponsor of the World Team Cup once again this year, extending their invaluable support of ITF events. I would also like to thank UNIQLO, who became an official partner of the BNP Paribas World Team Cup in 2017 as part of the extension of their sponsorship of ITF wheelchair tennis properties through 2021.

It is also important for us to recognise and extend our gratitude to the Johan Cruyff Foundation, who once again support the junior event in 2019.

There are many other people behind the scenes who make a major event such as this possible. I would like to thank the Israel Tennis Association, the organising committee, local sponsors, and all the staff and volunteers at our host venue, the Larry and Mary Greenspon Israel Tennis Centre, whose hard work is vital to the success of the 2019 BNP Paribas World Team Cup.

Last year Japan won the men's trophy for the third time and Netherlands won the women's title for an incredible 30th time, regaining the trophy from China, P.R. after a memorable women's final between the two nations that concluded under floodlights. Australia also won the quad title for the second time in three years and Russia earned its second victory in the junior event.

I am sure this week will deliver more exciting, high-quality wheelchair tennis and I wish everyone involved the best of luck and an enjoyable week.

#### **David Haggerty**

President, International Tennis Federation

# WELCOME MESSAGE: DR. YONI YAROM CHAIRMAN, ISRAEL TENNIS ASSOCIATION



Greetings to the tennis players, coaches and national teams.

The Israel Tennis Association, together with the Israel Sports Association for the Disabled, are proud to host the BNP Paribas World Team Cup in the beautiful grounds of the Israel Tennis Center in Ramat Hasharon.

This unique event brings to the center of the stage this wonderful sport of wheelchair tennis, and the true team spirit playing to win for one's country in fairness, respect and sportsmanship.

We will make the utmost effort to make your stay comfortable and pleasurable and allow you to concentrate on the competitions and the events in the backgrounds.

I wish success to the players and the representatives of their federations, in and out of the tennis courts, in their efforts to promote wheelchair tennis around the world.

Many thanks to the Ministry of Sports for supporting the championships and to the Ramat Hasharon Municipality.

I would like to take this opportunity and thank the organizing committee headed by the CEO of the Israel Tennis Association, Mr. Avi Lahyani and the crews of the ITA and the ISAD for their devoted work, and off course the ITC staff and the volunteers, Umpires, Lines people and ball boys and girls for all their hard work during the week.

#### Dr. Yoni Yarom

Chairman, Israel Tennis Association

#### **WELCOME MESSAGE: ANDREW DANOS**



It is a great honor to sponsor the 2019 BNP Paribas World Team Cup and be the official partner of the Israeli Team. JR/ Duty Free James Richardson's connection to wheelchair tennis goes back many years, and to now have the opportunity to sponsor the largest wheelchair tennis tournament in the world is something that James Richardson, and our partners Gebr. Heinemann, will cherish for years to come.

This tournament is a wonderful moment in Israeli sport.

Bringing together 176 of the world best athletes in this sport, from 23 countries, this ranks as one of the largest sporting contests Israel has ever hosted. On a national level, Israel has a great chance to win medals and nothing would make us prouder

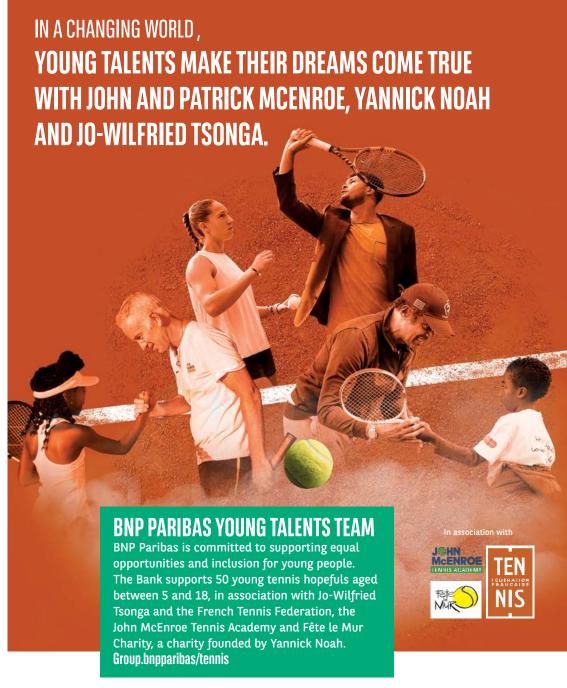
than hearing The Hatikvah at the end of the tournament.

On a personal note, I have made many friends in this sport, both Israeli and Australian, and the athleticism, professionalism and dedication never ceases to amaze me. I am also constantly inspired by the individual stories of every athlete. This sport has provided such wonderful opportunities to so many different people from around the world.

We wish all the athletes the very best of luck and may the best country win.

#### **Andrew Danos**

Shareholder, JR/Duty Free James Richardson





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## WELCOME MESSAGE: HAIM BAR, CHAIRMAN OF THE ISRAEL SPORTS ASSOCIATION FOR THE DISABLED



#### Welcome!

We have great privilege to host the BNP Paribas World Team Cup 2019, which is being hosted in Israel for the first time, and we are very proud of the large number of participants who will be taking part in this prestigious event.

Hosting the World Team Cup is a great honor for us, for the Paralympics, for the tennis players, as well as for the State of Israel.

Some of you have already visited the country before, and we are happy to welcome you once again.

For others, visiting Israel for the first time, together with our partners, the Israel Tennis Association and Israel Tennis Centers, we will make sure that you enjoy an unforgettable tennis experience, as well as appreciate the hotel facilities and the festive events to be hosted during the BNP Paribas World Team Cup 2019.

I hope that in conjunction with the competitive events, you will also be able to travel and enjoy the beauty of our country, and get to know its people.

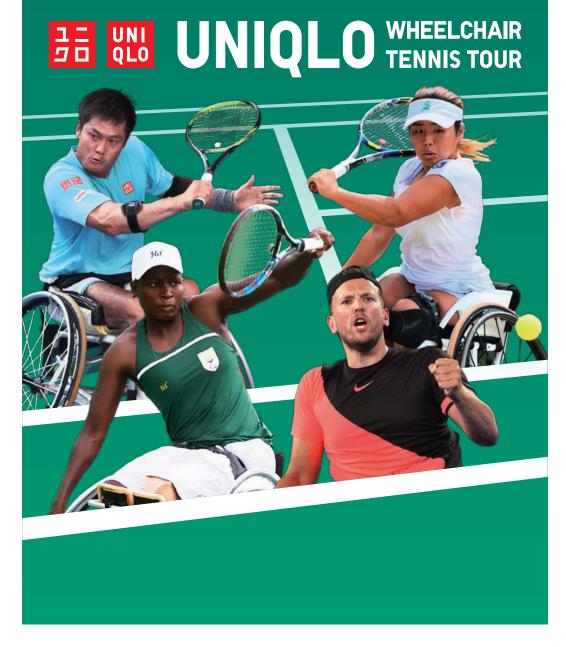
I extend best wishes to all the participants for success.

Warm regards,

#### **Haim Bar**

Chairman,

Israel Sports Association for the Disabled













# WELCOME MESSAGE: ELIMELECH CRYSTAL, INTERNATIONAL CHAIRMAN, ISRAEL TENNIS CENTERS



Dear Athletes and Guests.

We are delighted to host you at the Israel Tennis Center - Ramat Hasharon, for the BNP Paribas World Team Cup.

Our tennis center, which is the largest in Israel, has hosted high-quality tennis events such as ATP Tournaments, Davis Cup and Fed Cup ties.

Over the years, players from the world's highest level have come to play in our facility like Novak Djokovic, Maria Sharapova and more. It is important to note that tennis legends, including Jimmy Connors, Ilie

Năstase, Brad Gilbert, Thomas Muster, Harold Solomon, Aaron Krickstein, Yannick Noah and many others, have honored us in competitions in Ramat Hasharon. We have also been visited by the players Bjorn Borg, Tom Okker and Billie Jean King.

In addition to the many players who grew up here and played in Israel's National teams, we are proud of our special programs for the community, and of the wheelchair tennis programs, which prove to us all over and over again that the human spirit will always win. It is the human spirit that helps overcome all the obstacles and continues ahead, despite the limitations, in order to achieve a good and healthy quality of life.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the dear Collins family, headed by Sandra Collins. This special woman contributes greatly to the promotion of wheelchair tennis. It is equally important to remember and remind her husband, my dear friend, Peter Collins may he rest in peace, who was formerly the International Chairman of the Israel Tennis Centers. Despite his limitations, he was one of our most important supporters and one of the founders of the Israel Tennis Centers.

We wish you all good luck. Have an enjoyable competition, we hope that you will have a remarkable visit here and may you be our good ambassadors around the world.

Regards,

Elimelech Crystal International Chairman, Israel Tennis Centers

## WELCOME MESSAGE: AVI GRUBER, MAYOR OF RAMAT HASHARON



Ramat Hasharon is proud to be the tennis capital of Israel, and has the honor of hosting the 2019 BNP Paribas Wold Team Cup in cooperation with the Paralympic board, the Israel Paralympic Committee, the Israel Tennis Association and the Israel Tennis Centers.

The authorities involved have worked tirelessly over the past months to host the competition in Israel, which is even more meaningful and exciting due to the fact that the competition takes place the year before the Paralympics.

Ramat Hasharon will host 176 tennis players from 23 countries. This is a great honor for us as a city that cultivates culture and sports, and as the city that is Israel's leader of tennis culture.

We wish all the athletes that we are hosting the best of luck, but first and foremost to the Israeli Quad team that won the prestigious competition four times in the past.

#### **Avi Gruber**

Mayor of Ramat Hasharon

#### **2019 ENTRIES**

#### MEN

Argentina

Austria

Belgium

Brazil

China, P.R.

France

**Great Britain** 

Israel

Japan

Korea, Rep.

Netherlands

Poland

#### **EVENT PREVIEW**

Forty four teams from 23 nations will compete for the men's, women's, guad and junior titles at the 2019 BNP Paribas World Team Cup in Ramat Hasharon as Israel hosts the ITF's flagship wheelchair tennis team event for the first time.

Among the 16 teams contesting the men's event USA, South Africa, Sri Lanka and Austria have earnt their places in Ramat Hasharon after winning the four regional qualifications for the Americas, Africa, Asia and Europe, respectively.

Meanwhile, Colombia, South Africa, Thailand and Russia are among the 12 teams contesting the women's event after also being victorious at the same four regional qualifications.

All four BNP Paribas World Team Cup events begin with round-robin pool ties, guaranteeing tremendous excitement from the very first day of play. The teams in the men's and women's competitions are drawn into four pools, with the winners of each pool advancing to their respective semifinals.

The eight teams in both the quad and junior events begin their campaigns in two pools of four before advancing to play-offs.

While Israel has played in at least one of the four World Team Cup competitions in every year since the very first World Team Cup was held in 1985, this year's host nation has enjoyed most success in the quad event. Israel has claimed the quad title on four

occasions, including back-to-back victories in 1999 and 2000. The last quad title for an Israeli team came in 2012.

USA has won the most World Team Cup guad titles since the introduction of the guad event in 1998, having been crowned champion on nine occasions. Australia has won two of the last three guad events, beating Israel in last year's final.

Netherlands is one of five nations contesting this year's men's event, along with France, Great Britain, Japan and USA, to have previously won the men's title. Japan claimed its third men's World Team Cup title last year, having beaten France in the semifinals and Great Britain in the final. Great Britain and Japan are the only teams other than France to have won the men's title since 2012.

The Dutch women's team claimed a remarkable 30th title on home soil in 2018, beating 2017 champion China, P.R. as both teams met in the women's final for the third year in a row. Australia and USA are the only other two nations to be crowned champions since the first women's event in 1986.

Once again supported by the Johan Cruyff Foundation, the junior event has seen Netherlands win the most titles since 2000, with a record seven victories. Among the eight juniors teams this year, Great Britain joins Netherlands among the previous champions.

#### WOMEN

Brazil

China, P.R.

Colombia

France

Great Britain

lapan

Netherlands

Russia

South Africa

South Africa

Switzerland

Thailand

USA

Spain

South Africa

USA

Sri Lanka

#### **OUADS**

Australia

Brazil

Canada

**Great Britain** 

Israel

Japan

#### **JUNIORS**

Argentina

Australia

Brazil

Colombia

**Great Britain** 

Netherlands

Turkey

TBC



MEN'S TEAM PROFILE
FRANCE

Argentina is playing in the BNP Paribas World Team Cup men's event for the 22nd time and was once a finalist in World Group 2 in the days when the men's event consisted of two competitions. More recently, Argentina earned a best result of fifth in the men's event in 2017 before finishing sixth last year to earn direct entry for Israel. Once again, 2017 ITF World Champion Gustavo Fernandez leads the Argentinian team, having started 2019 by winning his second Australian Open title. While Fernandez is ranked inside the world top three, Ezequiel Casco and Agustin Ledesma both have career-best rankings inside the top 20. Fernandez is also a former two-time champion at the Cruyff Foundation Junior Masters, an event at which Ledesma was also a two-time finalist.

#### **EZEQUIEL CASCO**

Lives: Virreyes Age: 26

#### **GUSTAVO FERNANDEZ**

Lives: Rio Tercero Age: 25

#### **AGUSTIN LEDESMA**

Lives: Villa Lugano

Age: 25

Second in the very first World Team Cup 34 years ago, France has since claimed eight men's titles and has selected a trio of greatly experienced players who have all contributed to many of those titles. All three members of the French team are also Paralympic medallists in either singles or doubles. In Stephane Houdet and Nicolas Peifer France has the current Paralympic men's doubles champions and the two players that won the singles rubbers to give France victory in the 2013, 2014 and 2016 finals before paring up to win the deciding doubles rubber in the 2017 final, making it five titles in six years. A semifinalist in 2018, France will be among the favourites to reach the final once again.

#### FREDERIC CATTANEO

Lives: Le Mans Age: 40

#### **STEPHANE HOUDET**

Lives: Paris Age: 48

#### **NICOLAS PEIFER**

Lives: Sarreguemines Age: 28



Great Britain has contested every World Team Cup men's event since 1986, but had to wait until 2015 before gaining its first men's World Group title, when Alfie Hewett and Gordon Reid won both singles rubbers in the final against France. In Reid and Hewett Great Britain have the men's singles gold and silver medallists and the men's doubles silver medallists from the Rio Paralympics, as well as three-time Wimbledon doubles champions and former UNIQLO Wheelchair Doubles Masters champions. Hewett and Reid are former World Team Cup junior champions and they also won their second US Open men's doubles title last September, when Hewett also won the men's singles title.

#### **DERMOT BAILEY**

Lives: Kettering Age: 25

#### **ALFIE HEWETT**

Lives: Cantley Age: 21

#### **GORDON REID**

Lives: Glasgow Age: 27 Japan claimed its third BNP Paribas World Team Cup men's title in 2018 after finishing 14th in 2017 with an entirely different team line-up. It's 16 years since world No. 1 Shingo Kunieda helped Japan become the first Asian nation to win a World Team Cup title before adding its second title in 2007. Japan also reached the 2016 men's final in Tokyo. In Kunieda and Takashi Sanada, Japan has two current Top 10 ranked players who both stepped up to win their respective singles rubbers against top seed Great Britain in last year's final. Two-time Paralympic men's singles gold medallist Kunieda is a 42-time Grand Slam champion, having won 22 of those titles in singles.

#### YOSHINOBU FUJIMOTO

Lives: Kashiwa Age: 42

#### SHINGO KUNIEDA

Lives: Kashiwa Age: 35

#### TAKASHI SANADA

Lives: Saitama Age: 33

#### **KOUHEI SUZUKI**

Lives: Ichihara Age: 26





Last year Israel was honoured for having contested 20 successive World Team Cup competition, only missing the very first event in 1998. The first nation to gain back-to-back quad titles in 1999 and 2000, Israel won the title again in 2004 and 2012 and has currently amassed four gold, six silver and five bronze medals in the event. One of those silver medals came last year. Shraga Weinberg has been a constant in the Israeli quad team success since the start of Israel's participation. Like London 2012 gold medallist Noam Gershony, Weinberg is also a former wold No. 1 quad singles player and one of just a few players to have occupied the world No 1 ranking in both quad singles and quad doubles. Patrick Ben Uriel completes an Israeli team bidding to earn a place in the final once again.

#### **NOAM GERSHONY**

Born: 20.01.1983 in Kfar Saba. Paralyzed in both legs and in hands. Top world ranking: 1 (2012).

#### **SHRAGA WEINBERG**

Born: 25.03.1966, Petach Tikva. Paralyzed in both arms and legs from birth. Top world ranking: 1 singles (2001) and doubles (2003).

#### **PATRICK BEN URIEL**

Born: 19.05.1985, Haifa. Born with cerebral palsy. Top world tanking: 18 (2015).

#### CAPTAIN: OFRI LANKRI

Born: 06.07.1991, Akko. Former Israel's Fed Cup team player and has been coaching wheelchair tennis since 2016.

#### **ADAM BERDICHVSKI**

Born: 19.10.1983, Kibbutz Nir Yitzhak. Amputee of one leg. Top world ranking: 32 (2017).

#### **GUY SASSON**

Born: 28.04.1980, lives in Savion. Guy was Injured in his lower vertebra and his leg in 2015 in a skiing accident. Top world ranking: 38 (2019).

#### **ASAF STOKOL**

Born: 16.06.1981. Disabled in both lower limbs. Top world ranking: 38 (2014).

#### **GENNIDY KOHANOV**

Born: 11.06.1968 in Russia and today lives in Rishon Letzion.
Disabled - post polio.
Top world ranking: 73 (2005).

#### **CAPTAIN: YUVAL LUTVACK**

Born: 19.11.1965, Ramat Gan. Yuval specializes in physical training and has been coaching the Israeli team since 2015.

#### TEAM SCOUT: NIMROD BICHLER

Born: 06.10.1965 in Jerusalem. Nimrod has been coaching Wheelchair tennis since 1996. He closely follows the matches of the potential opponents.

#### TEAM MANAGER: YORAM KICHEL

Army related disability with an arm amputee injury.

#### TEAM PRESIDENT: MARTIN GILBERT

Martin filled the position as coach of the Quad team from 2012 to 2017.



South Africa earned double success at the 2019 BNP Paribas World Team Cup Africa Qualification, winning both the women's and men's events. Kgothatso Montjane – more commonly know in wheelchair tennis circles as KG Montjane – and Mariska Venter earned South Africa's victory in the women's event without dropping a set and beat Kenya in the final. South Africa now contests the women's event at the BNP Paribas World Team Cup finals for the eighth time and for the first time since 2015. Montjane is Africa's most successful female wheelchair tennis player, having reached a career best world ranking of No. 5 and contested all four Grand Slams.

#### **KGOTHATSO MONTJANE**

Lives: Johannesburg

Age: 32

#### **MARISKA VENTER**

Lives: Pretoria

Age: 22

#### **MABEL MANKGELE**

Lives: Age: 24 Netherlands secured an unprecedented 30th women's crown on home soil at the 2018 BNP Paribas World Team Cup, having only missed out on the 1994, 1999 and 2017 titles since the first women's event in 1986. Netherlands continues to have the most strength in depth of any women's team, with Marjolein Buis, Diede de Groot and Aniek van Koot all ranked inside the world's Top 10. All three also won medals at the Rio 2016 Paralympics and have one multiple Grand Slam singles titles between them. De Groot finished 2018 as ITF World Champion for the first time, Van Koot having achieved the same feat in 2013.

#### **MARJOLEIN BUIS**

Lives: Beuningen

Age: 31

#### **DIEDE DE GROOT**

Lives: Oudewater

Age: 22

#### **MICHAELA SPAANSTRA**

Lives: Almere-Buiten Age: 41

#### **ANIEK VAN KOOT**

Lives: Dinxperlo

Age: 28

# THE WHEELCHAIR TENNIS DEVELOPMENT FUND AND THE JOHAN CRUYFF FOUNDATION

Through the Wheelchair Tennis Development Fund the ITF aims to help countries establish and grow self-sustainable programmes, focusing on developing nations. The ITF works with specific countries over a two-year period, sending out different ITF experts and player ambassadors to these countries and providing equipment for their respective programmes.

The Fund has provided its participants with opportunities to enjoy an active and rewarding life. An independent scientific evaluation by Loughborough University in Great Britain has shown the Fund has positively provided life-enhancing opportunities to individuals across a variety of developing nations.

The findings of the study reveal a wide range of psychological benefits, including improving self-confidence and self-perception, as well as challenging disability

prejudice in society. Social benefits include improved social lives, increased independence and enhanced opportunities, such as education, employment and knowledge exchange opportunities.

With the valuable support of the Johan Cruyff Foundation, the WTDF has thrived over the past 12 years, with 45 projects initiated by the end of 2018.

The Johan Cruyff Foundation is also a partner of the ITF's Junior Wheelchair Tennis Programme, which incorporates boys' and girls' rankings, the annual Cruyff Foundation Junior Masters for the top ranked junior players and a series of regional Junior Wheelchair Tennis Camps around the world.

The Cruyff Foundation also supports the junior event at the BNP Paribas World Team Cup.

### SITE MAP









Nine-time champion USA has only been out of the medals three times since the quad event made its World Team Cup debut in 1998 and has also only missed out on a place in the semifinals once, in 2016. Bronze medallist in 2017 and 2018, USA's team once again consists of four multiple World Team Cup medallists. Nick Taylor and David Wagner ended 2018 by becoming 11-time UNIQLO Wheelchair Doubles Masters champions and the three-time Paralympic doubles gold medallists will now hope they can help their country become the first nation to take its tally of BNP Paribas World Team Cup quad titles into double figures.

#### **BRYAN BARTEN**

Lives: Tucson Age: 45

#### **GREG HASTEROK**

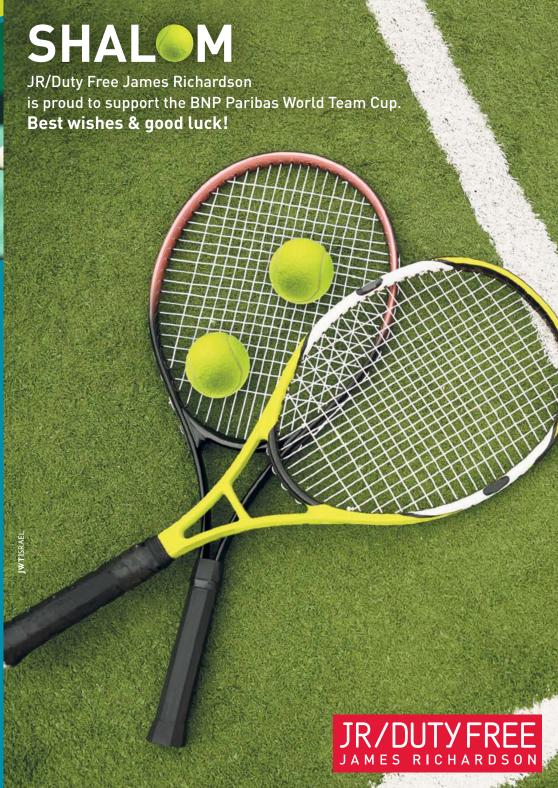
Lives: San Diego Age: 42

#### **NICK TAYLOR**

Lives: Wichita Age: 39

#### **DAVID WAGNER**

Lives: Chula Vista Age: 45





Australia has never won the junior event at the BNP Paribas World Team Cup but has a long history of medal success in the competition. In past years the junior event has provided a platform for further international success for some of Australia's most celebrated players, including Rio 2016 gold medallists and two-time World Team Cup quad event gold medallists Dylan Alcott and Heath Davidson. This year's junior team includes Finn Broadbent and Riley Dumsday, who helped Australia to the semifinals last year. While Hayley Slocombe makes her World Team Cup debut, Broadbent made his debut at the Cruyff Foundation Junior Masters earlier this year.

#### **FINN BROADBENT**

Lives: Melbourne

Age: 17

#### **RILEY DUMSDAY**

Lives: Mornington

Age: 13

#### **HAYLEY SLOCOMBE**

Lives: Sydney Age: 17 Brazil's junior team has finished among the medals at the last two BNP Paribas World Team Cups, winning the silver medal in 2018 and the bronze medal in 2017 after fifth in 2010 and sixth in 2009. While members of both medal winning teams from the last two years are now too old to compete in the junior event, Joao Lucas Takaki returns to represent his country after making his World Team Cup last year. Takaki also made his debut at the Cruyff Foundation Junior Masters in January, while Cesar Silva Da Rosa and Breno Salles Grigorio make their debuts for Brazil this week.

#### **CESAR SILVA DA ROSA**

Lives: Itajai Age: 15

#### **BRENO SALLES GRIGORIO**

Lives: Serra Age: 17

#### **JOÃO LUCAS TAKAKI**

Lives: Sao Paulo

Age: 16



## **PROPOSED SCHEDULE OF PLAY**

MONDAY 13TH OF MAY	Round Robin Men Round Robin Women Round Robin Quad Round Robin Junior	
TUESDAY 14TH OF MAY	Round Robin Men Round Robin Women Round Robin Quad Round Robin Junior	
WEDNESDAY 15TH OF MAY	Round Robin Men Round Robin Women Round Robin Quad Round Robin Junior	
THURSDAY 16TH OF MAY	Semifinal Women Semifinal Quad Semifinal Junior Playoff 5-8 Men Playoff 9-12 Men	Playoff 5-8 Women Playoff 9-12 Women Playoff 5-6 Junior Playoff 7-8 Junior
FRIDAY 17TH OF MAY	FINAL Quad FINAL Junior Bronze Women Bronze Quad Bronze Junior Semifinal Men Playoff 5-6 Men Playoff 7-8 Men Playoff 9-10 Men	Playoff 11-12 Men Playoff 5-6 Women Playoff 7-8 Women Playoff 9-10 Women Playoff 11-12 Women Playoff 5-6 Quad Playoff 7-8 Quad Playoff 13-14 Men Playoff 15-16 Men
SATURDAY 18TH OF MAY	FINAL Men FINAL Women Bronze Men	

<sup>\*</sup>Subject To Change



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