

Irish Tennis Coach Receives International Award for Services to Tennis

Joins the ranks of famous former winners.

Recognition comes during a successful term as Tennis Director in Kazakhstan.

Irish Tennis coach Dave Miley will see his name appear alongside some of the most famous names in Tennis this September when he is awarded the prestigious ITF Award for Services to the Game, at the ITF AGM in Cancun.

The ITF Coaches' Commission, made up of some of the world's top tennis instructors, decides on the award, giving it to one coach each year who is judged to have made a big impact on tennis internationally. In honouring Miley, who has been Tennis Director for the Kazakhstan Tennis Federation since 2020 and who was Director of Development for the ITF between 1997 and 2015, they are elevating him to the ranks of such famous names as Nick Bollitieri, Dennis van Der Meer, Judy Murray, Conchita Martinez, Toni Nadal, Jim Loehr and Louis Cayer.

On hearing of his nomination, Miley said: 'This is a great honour for which I am truly thankful for especially as it comes following the nomination of a group of my peers in coaching. Tennis to me is not a job. It is a way of life. I have devoted my adult life to growing and developing the sport I love and receiving an award such as this is very gratifying. It also motivates me to find even more ways to contribute to Tennis and as Tennis Ireland's candidate, I am hopeful that I can be elected to the ITF Board of Directors at the 2023 ITF AGM in Cancun in September.'

Congratulating Miley on the award, President of Tennis Ireland John Ryan said: 'The Tennis community in Ireland is rightly proud of Dave Miley. His work over the past three years with Kazakhstan, which saw Lena Rybakina crowned Wimbledon Singles Champion in 2022, has been outstanding and before that, during his years with the ITF, he was responsible for many innovations which have stood the test of time and have benefitted our sport.'

Noting also that the award for Miley comes as Irish Tennis followers were excited to see 'one of their own', Fergus Murphy, umpire the recent Men's Singles Final at Wimbledon, Kevin Quinn, CEO Tennis Ireland, added: 'It is fantastic to see people like Dave and Fergus, and also Grainne O'Neill, who recently won an ITF award for her work on Women in Tennis, get international recognition. Tennis Ireland's job now is to build on this momentum to bring results on the courts too. Our aim is to widen our sport's appeal, by improving access to facilities, increasing participation and supporting more players to successfully compete on the international stage. I am confident that with our new strategy, as well as advice from figures as knowledgeable as Dave and Fergus, we can make great strides.'

Ends.

Directors:

Caroline Murphy
Ciara Jennings
David O'Beirne
David Spillane
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Rosamund Thompson

Registered Office:
Dublin City University,
Glasnevin,
Dublin 9

Registered No:
342413
Incorporated in:
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Notes to Editors:

Dave Miley has worked in international tennis for over 30 years.

He has been Tennis Director for the Kazakhstan Tennis Federation since 2020. Over his period at the helm, the Kazakh players and national teams have had much success at the top Junior and professional level.

He was previously the Executive Director of Development for the ITF from 1997 until 2016. In that role was in charge of worldwide player development, coach education, tennis participation, junior tennis, senior tennis wheelchair tennis, technical and anti-doping. His accomplishments in international tennis include:

- The introduction in 2010 of the rule change for children aged 10 and under and the creation of the “Tennis 10’s” program.
- Creating and launching the very successful global ITF “Tennis Play and Stay campaign” which positioned tennis as “easy, fun and healthy”.
- Producing the ITF Level 1 syllabi and being author of the ITF Level 1 manual in 1993.
- Co-author of the ITF Advanced Coaches Manual which is now available in over twenty languages and has been used by 100+ countries as the manual for the ITF Advanced coaches course (level 2) since 1997.
- Chairing the ITF Task force on coach education from 2008-2012 which led to the introduction of world standards for coach education in 2012.
- Was responsible for the Introduction of the ITF Tennis Xpress program for beginner adults in 2012.
- Together with Luca Santilli, was responsible for the introduction of the combined junior ranking into the ITF Junior Circuit in 2005.
- Chaired the ITF Ratings Task Force and was responsible for the introduction of the International Tennis Number (ITN) in 2002 which was the first global rating system in tennis (since replaced by the WTN).
- Created the ITF publication “Coaching and Sports Science Review” in 1992 and was editor until 2015.
- Has written seven tennis books.
- Has presented at many international tennis coach conferences and other sports related conferences.
- Was in overall charge of the ITF worldwide and regional coach conferences for the ITF from 1997- 2015.
- Has published numerous tennis articles on tennis and has had articles published on the health benefits of tennis in the British Journal of Sports Medicine.

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Dublin City University,
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Dublin 9
Tel: 01 – 884 4010
Fax: 01 – 884 4013
Email: info@tennisireland.ie
Website: www.tennisireland.ie



- Was a member of the ITF Medical Commission from 2000 until 2015 and a Tennis Industry Association board member from 2008 until 2015.
- He oversaw the ITF/Grand Slam Touring Team program which provided coaching and competition assistance to over 100 junior and pro players each year including many junior singles Grand Slam Champions and players that went on to be top pro players.

As a player, Dave Miley was a three time national Irish Tennis champion.

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