



Adding Themes

Themed competitions not only add more fun and excitement to an event, they are easier to advertise and promote as they give potential players a real sense of what the event is about.

Themes work best for social events, especially with mixed ages and abilities.

This guide provides the following:

- Theme Ideas
- Applying the theme to your format
- Applying the theme to rest of the event

THEME IDEAS

Below are themes you can apply to your event:

DAVIS CUP / FED CUP

This theme is tennis related and team based. Using this theme you can give each team a country name, have food from different countries of the world, decorate your court with different flags and run a world themed after event party.

CHRISTMAS / EASTER

Every club should run festive events, Christmas events are especially good where celebrated.

SEASONS – SUMMER / SPRING / AUTUMN / WINTER

You can run themes to welcome in the new season. These may not be heavily themed events but are good to have in the calendar regularly as club members/players will remember and anticipate them and are more likely to compete in them.

WIMBLEDON / AUSTRALIAN / FRENCH / US OPEN

Grand Slam themed events are great fun and relevant to tennis. You can serve food and drink from the country whose slam you're celebrating and add rules, for example, at a French Open themed event, give players double points for winning a point with a drop shot.

FAMILY / PARENT AND CHILD

Family events are very popular. These types of events can see parents playing doubles with their children or the family competing as a whole team. Be sensitive to those you may exclude and offer to 'pair' up young players and old players who may not have a partner but want to play in the event.

THEME OF THE PAST (eg 1960's, 1970's)

Having a theme based in the past can be a great social event. Players can dress up in old clothes, play with wooden rackets and enjoy period entertainment – eg disco dancing

RED, ORANGE AND GREEN

A good multiage event for children would be a red, orange and green event. These colours represent the 3 progressive stages of Tennis...Play and Stay, each with its own court and ball. You could have red, orange and green tshirts for players who get to enjoy red, orange and green food at the end! Adults of all ages and abilities will enjoy playing Mini Tennis too.

BUBBLES AND DOUBLES

Really, the theme is in the name. Provide plenty of champagne and lots of doubles tennis and you have a recipe for a good time – on and off the court

FURTHER IDEAS:

- National Holiday – eg Waitangi Day, Labour Day, Queen's Birthday
- Valentine's – eg mixed doubles event for single people
- Olympics – eg a multisport team event with players representing different countries
- Legends – celebrate legends of the game, each player or team is named after a legend
- Hollywood/Bollywood – eg players dress as their favourite film character
- Coffee Mornings – Midweek morning matches

APPLYING THE THEME TO YOUR FORMAT

There are many ways in which your format/matches can incorporate a theme, here below are some ideas:

NAMING TEAMS

If you are running a team event then name your teams in relation to the theme. For example, with a Davis Cup theme, each team is named after a country. With a French Open theme, give the teams names representing clay court greats like 'The Nadals', 'The Henins' and 'The Vilas'.

RULES / SCORING

Rules and Scoring could also be amended. For example with a Wimbledon theme, players could score double for winning a point through serve and volley.

EQUIPMENT

Using slower balls and smaller courts are recommended for starter players both young and old. But even very good juniors and adults love the chance to play Red Tennis on an 11m court with slower felt or foam balls, this could be applied using a Mini Tennis theme for your event. Another idea is to make players use wooden rackets in a '70's themed event.

CLOTHING

Team clothing is always popular in any theme. For a Davis Cup theme you can tell players to all wear a colour representing their country, eg NZ Black, Australia Green & Gold, Brazil Yellow, Spain Red, Great Britain Blue.

If running a charity event, you could have fancy dress or if running a period event, you could have players wearing clothes from that era, eg 1920's or 1960's style.

MULTISPORT

If running, for example, an Olympics theme, you could add extra sports to compete in. This is especially good with limited court space. As well as tennis, add games like football or skills like long jump, throwing etc.

CAPTAINS

With a Fed Cup theme you could nominate team captains. Choose parents, coaches or volunteers to lead and organise a team.

PRIZES

Prizes and awards can be themed. With a Movies theme, you could give vouchers for DVDs or film posters!