

GREAT BRITAIN SQUAD SELECTION POLICY

FOR LEARNING DISABILITY TENNIS

Introduction

The Great Britain LD Tennis Squad (GB LD Squad) is run by the LTA to find and develop players who have the potential to win medals at international events.

There are two levels of the programme:

- **National Squad:** The LTA GB National Squad is a selection of players with the highest potential for international success. We would have an expectation of commitment to competition, training opportunities and a want to improve to be the one of top players in International Learning Disability Tennis.
- **Development Squad:** The LTA GB Development Squad is a selection of players who in future we would look to progress into the National Squad, with an overall aim to try and achieve international success.

This document explains how the LTA chooses players for the squad and what support is provided at each level.

The selection process for the GB LD Squad also considers Virtus' player sport classes of II1 and II2.

- II1 – for athletes with an intellectual impairment
- II2 – for athletes with a more significant intellectual impairment.

(Virtus also recognise a II3 sport class internationally. As this is currently being trialled internationally, the LTA does not currently consider this sport class within GB LD Squad Selection, however this could be subject to change).

Selection

To be considered for the programme you must:

- Have a British passport
- Not be suspended for a doping violation and/or a breach of the anti-corruption rules
- Be able to compete at Virtus events and be Virtus classified
- Attend a Performance day*



*If a player, who is chosen to come to the performance day is not able to come for an exceptional reason, like an injury, they may still be selected for the squad however this is only in very exceptional circumstances.

Number of players selected:

- Performance Level: maximum of eight players
- Development Level: maximum of eight players

Selection of players for the GB LD Squad is ordinarily for a period of one year, normally running from 01 January to 31 December.

Current squad players and players who perform best at the LD Nationals or LD Regionals will be asked to come to a performance day to be assessed. The selection panel will also review previous domestic and international performances in both Learning Disability and non-disability competitions.

At the performance day the coaches will assess all players on match play, tennis drills and physical tests. Some areas they will focus on are:

- Does the player look for solutions and ways to win in competitive situations? Does the player demonstrate an appetite for learning and development? (Head)
- Does the player demonstrate characteristics indicating their willingness to fight and compete in competitive situations? Does the player apply themselves in training? (Heart)
- Does the player demonstrate athletic qualities that suggest they can positively influence the outcome of matches now and in the future? Does the player demonstrate the potential to develop the necessary physical attributes to be successful playing their game style? (Legs)
- Does the player have the weapons or potential to develop the weapons required to be successful playing their game style? (Weapons)

Coaches will note down how well each player does in the match play, drills and physical tests and give each player a score for the day.

Selection Panel Meeting:

A selection panel will meet after the performance day, this meeting is likely to take place via teleconference. At this meeting the coaches will present how each player performed at the performance day.

The selection panel will make their decisions based on the following factors (in order of importance):

- The player's drive and attitude in training and competition - showing a willingness to learn and a desire to win matches
- The player's competitive results/performances in the past year in singles and doubles, both at the LD Nationals and at any other tournaments that the panel deems important i.e., the Virtus International event, LD Regionals or relevant LTA non-disability competition.
- How well the player behaves in a team environment and interacts with their team members



- The player's effort and performance at the performance day
- How well a player is perceived to react in high pressure situations, like the final of Nationals or at an international event

The selection panel:

The Selection Panel (Panel) will be chaired by the Disability Competitions Manager. Other members of the panel will be made up of the coaches who ran the performance day and the squad coaches from 2022 (who may be the same coaches that ran the performance day. The Panel will consist of a minimum of three voting members. A member of the LTA's legal team may attend the meeting to advise on procedural issues and adherence to the policy but shall not have voting rights. Other members of the LTA Competitions Team may also be invited by the Chair to assist with facilitating the meeting.

Communication of selection:

All players who attend the performance day will be sent an email to inform them if they have been selected and the level of the programme they have been chosen for. All players will be asked to complete some medical information as part of their place on the programme. They will also have to sign a code of conduct and agree to always adhere to that code of conduct.

Support:

The table below outlines what support from the LTA is provided for players at each level:

Pathway Level	Support
National Squad Level	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In camp coaching • Travel assistance to attend camps for players • Selected performance expertise to support development • Accommodation and meals at camps for players • Consideration for selection for the Virtus International Tournament for 2023
Development Squad Level	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In camp coaching • Travel assistance to attend camps for players • Selected performance expertise to support development • Accommodation and meals at camps for players • Consideration for selection for the Virtus International Tournament for 2023

Player Agreement:

All selected players must sign the LTA's Player Agreement and Code of Conduct in order to receive any of the benefits associated with Squad selection.

Camp and trip invites for non-Squad players:

It is recognised that there could be some additional players who are not selected for the Squad that may benefit from involvement in National and Development Camps and Tournament Trips. To ensure that the appropriate players gain these opportunities, the Lead Coach and Disability Competitions Manager will be able to invite up to two players to join a Squad training camp or international trip.

Appeals:

Any appeals against selection decisions must be made in writing to the LTA within 2 weeks of you receiving communication about the selection outcomes. You can write to Amanda Morrissey, the Competition Manager for Regional County and Disability at the National Tennis Centre, 100 Priory Lane, Roehampton, London, SW15 5JQ, or email Amanda.Morrissey@LTA.org.uk.

An appeal can only be made on one or both of the following grounds:

- a. There has been a failure by the selection panel to follow this selection policy (i.e., there has been a procedural defect); or
- b. The decision has been reached on the basis of an error of fact.

It can be decided either:

1. To set aside the selection panel's decision as it was based on an error of fact or procedurally flawed and remit the matter to the selection panel; or
2. To uphold the selection panel's decision. Should a decision be set aside and be re-considered by the selection panel which then has an effect on a selection decision taken in relation to another player, that decision in relation to the other player may also be re-considered and changed if necessary.