

South Wales County Performance Programme 2023/24 - Selection Policy

1. Introduction

The [County Performance Programme](#) provides the best players in the county with the opportunity to attend county training sessions, and compete as a team for their county. The purpose of the programme in South Wales is to provide regular, best vs best, year-round training for our U10 players, and prepare all of our junior teams for inter-county matches including the annual LTA County Cup events.

This document outlines the criteria for players to achieve selection for the County Performance Programme. There are a limited number of spaces available to players in each age group which can make the selection process very competitive. The selection process is led by the Tennis Wales Head of Performance and the U10 County Coordinator.

Tennis Wales may amend this policy periodically. Any amended policy shall be accessible via the Tennis Wales website.

Should you have a query regarding selections for the U8, U9 and U10 age-groups, please contact the South Wales U10 County Coordinator, Becca Strelzyn at rstrelzyn@gmail.com

Should you have a query regarding selections for the U11, U12, U14 and U18 age-groups, please contact the Tennis Wales Head of Performance, Chris Lewis at chris.lewis@tenniswales.org.uk

2. Eligibility

2.1 To be considered for the 2023/24 programme, players must be eligible to compete in the appropriate LTA competition age-group for 2024:

U8 = Players born 2016 or later
U9 = Players born 2015 and 2016
U10 = Players born 2014 and 2015
U11 = Players born 2013 and 2014
U12 = Players born 2012 and 2013
U14 = Players born 2010 to 2013
U18 = Players born 2006 to 2013

2.2 Players must be eligible to represent South Wales according to the current LTA guidelines or be able to demonstrate that they will be eligible ahead of the LTA County Cup competition for their age-group. The rules governing a player's eligibility to represent a county are detailed [here](#) on the LTA website (rule 66 on page 33-35).

2.3 Players will initially be selected for their own age-group unless the selectors feel that the playing standard of any player warrants them being invited to an older age-group instead. In these instances, the player would still be invited to attend county training at their own age-group.

2.4 If there are any age groups in which there are too few players to be confident of forming a county cup team, selectors may look outside of the selection criteria to increase the number of players selected or look to combine age-groups together.

3. County Performance Programme Calendar

Age-Group	Squad Selection	Start of Training period	End of Training period	County Cup Team Selection	County Cup Events 2024
U8	31 st July & 16 th August 2023	September 2023	June 2024	6-9 weeks prior to events	April & November
U9	31 st July 2023	September 2023	June 2024	6-9 weeks prior to event	March
U10	31 st July 2023	September 2023	June 2024	6-9 weeks prior to event	May
U11	16 th August 2023	October 2023	May 2024	6-9 weeks prior to event	June
U12	16 th August 2023	October 2023	July 2024	6-9 weeks prior to event	September
U14	16 th August 2023	October 2023	March 2024	6-9 weeks prior to event	April
U18	16 th August 2023	October 2023	February 2024	6-9 weeks prior to event	March

3.1 U8, U9, U10 age-groups will be offered monthly training for a period of 10 months from September to June inclusive.

3.2 U11, U12, U14, and U18 age-groups will be offered monthly training sessions starting in October, culminating in the LTA County Cup at that age-group. There will be no county training sessions after the LTA County Cup event has taken place.

3.3 The selection process to select the county cup team will start approximately 9 weeks prior to the date of the event, and teams will be communicated approximately 6 weeks prior. The South Wales County Cup Selection Policy will be published on the Tennis Wales website.

4. Selection criteria

4.1 Selection decisions are always challenging with the objective being to select the best competitive players in the county at each age-group. The criteria evolve through the age-groups but do have consistent threads in terms of the regularity and standard to which players are competing:

U8 CPP Training Group

Part of U8 CPP in 2022/23 AND has played 4 x Grade 5 or better singles competitions in previous 12 months.

OR

Part of U8 CPP in 2022/23 and demonstrated to the county coaches the following -

- a good attitude to training and learning during CPP sessions
- ongoing improvement in playing level whilst on the programme

OR

Attended a County Development Session and shown -

- a good attitude to training and learning
- a foundation playing level including basic control of the ball and understanding of how to play the game.

U9 CPP Training Group

Top 8 2015s on U9 Recent Form rankings AND has played 6 x Grade 5 or better singles competitions in previous 12 months.

OR

Part of U8 CPP in 2022/23 AND has played 6 x Grade 5 or better singles competitions in previous 12 months.

OR

Part of U8 CPP in 2022/23 and demonstrated to the county coaches the following -

- a good attitude to training and learning during CPP sessions
- ongoing improvement in playing level whilst on the programme

U10 CPP Training Group

Top 8 2014s on U9 or U10 Recent Form rankings OR part of U9 CPP in 2022/23.

AND

Has played 6 x Grade 5 or better singles competitions in previous 12 months, and which must include at least 1 x G4/G3 singles competition other than the South Wales County Closed.

U11 CPP Training Group

Top 8 2013s on U10 Recent Form rankings OR top 5 2013s on U11 LTA rankings OR part of U10 CPP in 2022/23.

AND

Has played 6 x Grade 5 or better singles competitions in previous 12 months, and which must include at least 1 x G4/G3 singles competition other than the South Wales County Closed.

U12 CPP Training Group

Top 8 2012s on U11 LTA Rankings OR part of U11 CPP in 2022/23.

AND

Has played 6 x Grade 5 or better singles competitions in previous 12 months, and which must include at least 1 x G3 singles competition other than the Cymru National Championships. International events will also qualify.

U14 CPP Training Group

Top 8 2010s/2011s on U14 LTA Rankings

AND

Has played 6 x Grade 5 or better singles competitions in previous 12 months, and which must include at least 1 x G3 singles competition other than the Cymru National Championships. International events will also qualify.

U18 CPP Training Group

We are looking to include players who are in and around the top 500 in the U18 LTA Rankings and who have a competitive profile which would include regular competition at international level and/or domestic Grade 3 level events and better.

4.2 Account may also be taken of the level of a player's commitment to county tennis in the previous year.

4.3 Substantial injuries or illnesses which have had a major impact on rankings held and the competitive profile of a player can be considered during the selection process. 'Substantial' will be defined as a minimum period of 3 months during the previous 12 months when a player hasn't been able to compete.

4.4 Players can be considered for selection through the year either through elevating their ranking and competitive performances, or through a coach nomination process. Nominations can be submitted by an individual coach, a County Captain, the U10 County Coordinator or the Tennis Wales Head of Performance at any time during the training period.

4.5 The weekly training programme to which a player is committed will not be used as a factor for initial selection decisions but is a potential area of monitoring and development during the training period. Players who are part of the County Performance Programme would ideally be training regularly on a weekly programme overseen by an individual coach at their club. As a guide:

U8 – U10 = Three tennis sessions per week including one individual lesson with a coach
U11 to U18 = Four tennis sessions per week including a minimum of one lesson with a coach and completing an age and stage appropriate strength and conditioning programme

5. Selection Reviews

5.1 The attendance and attitude of players will be monitored by captains during training sessions. Captains will have the opportunity to review the selections of players with the U10 County Coordinator or Tennis Wales Head of Performance at specific times during the year if they feel there is a need to do so:

End of November 2023, End of February 2024

5.2 Selection reviews will be used to consider players for older training sessions within the county programme due to their playing standard, and to de-select players from the programme. Any players who are offered the opportunity to attend older sessions could be asked to continue to attend their own age-group.

6. Communication of selections

Players will receive a letter by email from Tennis Wales notifying them of their selection for the County Performance Programme. The letter will detail the age-group a player has been selected for, the captain and assistant captain in charge of the County Training sessions and details of how to accept their place.

7. Cost

7.1 The programme offers players a chance to train with the best players across the county under the guidance of our highly skilled and respected county captains. In addition to the training sessions, players will have the opportunity to be selected to play for their county, have access to discounted Castore kit through our partnership with Kitlocker, and benefit from subsidised trips to the U18 event, and the GB National Finals at U12 and U14 should a team qualify.

U8, U9, U10 fee = £16/month over a 10-month period to be paid by monthly Direct Debit
U11 = £16/month over a 8-month period to be paid by monthly Direct Debit
U12 = £16/month over a 10-month period to be paid by monthly Direct Debit
U14 = £16/month over a 6-month period to be paid by monthly Direct Debit
U18 = £16/month over a 5-month period to be paid by monthly Direct

7.2 Friendly fixtures will be charged for @ £12.50 per fixture.

8. Feedback

There will be opportunities for parents to feedback on elements of the County Performance Programme and it would be appreciated if everyone involved would take the time to do this to help Tennis Wales continue to improve the way in which this element of the Player Pathway is delivered.