

South Wales Selection Policy
LTA Men's, Women's and Junior County Cup 2026

1. Introduction

LTA County Cup events are team competitions which take place throughout the year. Wales has two counties represented in County Cup competitions: North Wales and South Wales.

The selection process set out below is geared towards selecting the best available team to represent South Wales in terms of playing standard.

The information which follows outlines the dates and formats (where known) for the men's, women's, and junior County Cup competitions in 2026, along with the selection process and criteria for each. Should you have a query regarding the selection policy, please email tenniswales@tenniswales.org.uk

Tennis Wales may need to amend this policy periodically. Any amended policy shall be published on the Tennis Wales website.

2. Age groups and provisional dates/team sizes for 2026:

Age Group	Dates	Team
Men's / Women's (born 2012 and earlier)	Summer = Monday 20 to Friday 24 July 2026	Squad size of 8-10 players Best of 9 doubles per tie Round robin with promotion / stay / relegation
U18 (born 2008 or later)	Friday 20 to Sunday 22 March 2026	Separate boys & girls events, Squad size of 7 to 8 players, 6 singles / 3 doubles per tie, Round robin with promotion / stay / relegation
U14 (born 2012 or later)	Area Leagues & Division 1 Play- Offs = Saturday 2 and Sunday 3 May 2026 Division 1 National Finals = Friday 15 to Sunday 17 May 2026	Separate boys & girls events, Squad size of 4 to 6, 4 singles / 2 doubles per tie, Top 6 teams on LTA Rankings = National Finals Teams 7-14 on LTA Rankings = Div 1 Play-Offs Teams 15 and lower on LTA Rankings = Area Leagues
U12 (born 2014 and 2015 or qualifying through an LTA Passport)	Area Leagues & Division 1 Play- Offs = Saturday 12 and Sunday 13 September 2026 Division 1 National Finals = Friday 25 to Sunday 27 September 2026	Separate boys & girls events, Squad size of 4 to 6, 4 singles / 2 doubles per tie, Top 6 teams on LTA Rankings = National Finals Teams 7-14 on LTA Rankings = Div 1 Play-Offs Teams 15 and lower on LTA Rankings = Area Leagues

U11 (born 2015 and 2016, or qualifying through an LTA Passport)	Area Leagues & Division 1 Play-Offs = Saturday 13 and Sunday 14 June 2026 Division 1 National Finals = Friday 3 to Sunday 5 July 2026	Separate boys & girls events, Squad size of 4 to 6, 4 singles / 2 doubles per tie, Top 6 teams on LTA Rankings = National Finals Teams 7-14 on LTA Rankings = Div 1 Play-Offs Teams 15 and lower on LTA Rankings = Area Leagues
U10 (born 2016 and 2017, or qualifying through an LTA Passport)	Qualifying = Saturday 9 and Sunday 10 May 2026 National Finals = Saturday 6 and Sunday 7 June 2026	Separate boys & girls events, Squad size of 4 to 6, 4 singles / 2 doubles per tie Winning teams through to south/north National Finals
U9 (born 2017 and 2018, or qualifying through an LTA Passport)	Qualifying = Saturday 28 th February and Sunday 1 March 2026 National Finals = Saturday 14 and Sunday 15 March 2026	Separate boys and girls events, Squad size of 4 to 5, 4 singles, 2 doubles per tie Winning team through to south or north national finals
U8 (born 2018 and later)	Saturday 25 or Sunday 26 April 2026	Separate boys & girls events, Squad size of 4 to 5, Introduction to county cup, recommended for players who haven't played a county cup before

Note: A team will only be entered into a County Cup event if there is enough players who are of an appropriate standard to have a positive experience of the event.

3. Eligibility

3.1 Eligible players are those who are LTA members and who satisfy the area qualification rule (rule 66 on page 33-35) in the [LTA Rules Policy](#).

3.2 Players must be of an eligible age as described in (2) above to be considered for selection.

4. Selection committee

A County Cup selection committee will be agreed upon annually by Tennis Wales Ltd and the two county committees. The selection committee will meet or liaise as necessary to select the junior and men's/women's teams and will consist of a maximum of the following:

- Head of Performance, Tennis Wales Ltd
- U10 County Pathway Coach
- Age-group captain
- County sub-committee member(s)*

*County sub-committee members who are parents of county players who have the potential to be selected or who are potential players in a team themselves, cannot be involved in the selection or complaints process for such teams.

4.1 Selection of U8, U9 and U10 teams

There will be a formal meeting of the selection committee in person or virtually whereby team selections will be decided.

4.2 Selection of U11, U12, U14, U18, Men's, Women's teams

There will be no formal selection meeting for these teams. The age-group captain will propose the team to members of the selection committee by email, who will have the opportunity to check and challenge their proposal before the team is confirmed and communicated.

5. Selection process

5.1 Availability will be requested for players approximately 7 weeks prior to the event with a response expected within 7 days.

- All players attending county training at the relevant age-group will be asked, other than at U8 where up to 10 boys and 10 girls will be asked based on their competitive profiles and level in county training sessions
- Any players attending county training at younger age-groups who are eligible and deemed relevant to be considered in relation to the level of the initial group of players
- Any players outside of the county programme who are eligible and deemed relevant to be considered in relation to the level of the initial group of players
- No players will be asked who have opted out of the County Performance Programme by choice unless the county is unable to field a full team or there are extenuating circumstances to be considered

5.2 The date on which any rankings, ratings or competitive profile information are taken will be approximately 5 weeks prior to the event, with the exact date to be specified to all players when requesting availability. There may be extenuating circumstances surrounding a player which mean that results after the specified date can be considered if they are achieved prior to the selection decisions being finalised eg. return from recent injury/illness.

5.3 The selection committee will meet/liaise to make their selections soon after the ratings/rankings date specified and will aim to communicate the team no later than 4 weeks prior to the event.

5.4 Communications will be sent by Tennis Wales to selected players, non-travelling reserves where there are any, and non-selected players who were asked for their availability. There will be no communications to non-selected players who were not asked for their availability.

5.5 Any non-travelling reserves selected may be given the option to decide if they want to travel to the event for the experience. This will only be considered by the selection committee when there is no impact on the cost to the county and no impact to the logistics at the event eg. practise court space, travel arrangements...

6. Selection criteria

Please note that the selection criteria are not listed in any priority order.

6.1 Men's/Women's Summer County Cup

Information from the following list of criteria should be used as a basis for selecting the team:

- Rankings and ratings attributed to players which may include LTA combined rankings,

- Universal Tennis Rating (UTR), World Tennis Number (WTN), international rankings
- Indications of competitive level, which may include recent results and/or performances in previous years in singles and doubles
- Any positive or negative impact to team dynamic a player may have
- Any health-related issues which cause concern over a player being fit to play, or which may affect the accuracy of the other criteria and whereby allowances may need to be made

6.2 U18 County Cup (based on selecting a team of 7-8 players)

- The top 6 available players according to 18U LTA combined ranking will be selected
- Information from the following list of criteria should then be used as a basis for selecting the remaining players:
 - Rankings and ratings attributed to players which may include LTA domestic rankings, Universal Tennis Rating (UTR), World Tennis Number (WTN), international rankings
 - Indications of competitive level across the past 12 months
 - Performance and attitude at county training sessions, and any positive or negative impact to team dynamic a player may have
 - Any health-related issues which cause concern over a player being fit to play, or which may affect the accuracy of the other criteria and whereby allowances may need to be made

6.3 U14 County Cup (based on selecting a team of 4-6 players)

- The top 4 available players according to 14U LTA combined rankings will be selected
- Information from the following list of criteria should then be used as a basis for selecting the remaining players:
 - Rankings and ratings attributed to players which may include LTA combined rankings, Universal Tennis Rating (UTR), World Tennis Number (WTN), international rankings
 - Indications of competitive level across the past 12 months
 - Performance and attitude at county training sessions, and any positive or negative impact to team dynamic a player may have
 - Any health-related issues which cause concern over a player being fit to play, or which may affect the accuracy of the other criteria and whereby allowances may need to be made

6.4 U12 County Cup (based on selecting a team of 4-6 players)

- The top 4 available players according to 12U LTA combined rankings will be selected
- Information from the following list of criteria should then be used as a basis for selecting the remaining players:
 - Rankings or ratings attributed to players which may include LTA combined rankings, Universal Tennis Rating (UTR), and World Tennis Number (WTN)
 - Indications of competitive level across the past 12 months
 - Performance and attitude at county training sessions, and any positive or negative impact to team dynamic a player may have

- Any health-related issues which cause concern over a player being fit to play, or which may affect the accuracy of the other criteria and whereby allowances may need to be made

6.5 U11 County Cup (based on selecting a team of 4-6 players)

- The top 2 available players according to 11U LTA combined rankings will be selected
- Information from the following list of criteria should then be used as a basis for selecting the remaining players:
 - Rankings or ratings attributed to players which may include LTA combined rankings, Universal Tennis Rating (UTR), and World Tennis Number (WTN)
 - Indications of competitive level across the past 12 months
 - Performance and attitude at county training sessions, and any positive or negative impact to team dynamic a player may have
 - Any health-related issues which cause concern over a player being fit to play, or which may affect the accuracy of the other criteria and whereby allowances may need to be made

6.6 U10 County Cup (based on selecting a team of 4-6 players)

- Information from the following list of criteria should be used as a basis for selection:
 - Indications of competitive level across the past 12 months
 - Performance and attitude at county training sessions, and any positive or negative impact to team dynamic a player may have
 - Any health-related issues which cause concern over a player being fit to play, or which may affect the accuracy of the other criteria and whereby allowances may need to be made

6.7 U9 County Cup (based on selecting a team of 4-5 players)

- Information from the following list of criteria should be used as a basis for selection:
 - Indications of competitive level across the past 12 months
 - Performance and attitude at county training sessions, and any positive or negative impact to team dynamic a player may have
 - Any health-related issues which cause concern over a player being fit to play, or which may affect the accuracy of the other criteria and whereby allowances may need to be made

6.8 U8 County Cup (based on selecting a team of 4-5 players)

- Information from the following list of criteria should be used as a basis for selection:
 - Indications of competitive level across the past 12 months
 - Performance and attitude at county training sessions, and any positive or negative impact to team dynamic a player may have
 - Any health-related issues which cause concern over a player being fit to play, or which may affect the accuracy of the other criteria and whereby allowances may need to be made
 - The LTA recommend that players should not have played in a county cup event previously. The selection panel will consider this but it is not a firm

ruling for selection.

7. Complaints Process

Please direct any requests for further information on a selection decision to:

South Wales U8 to U10 = rstrelzyn@gmail.com

South Wales U11 to U18 = chris.lewis@tenniswales.org.uk

South Wales Men's / Women's = chris.lewis@tenniswales.org.uk

Please send any formal complaints regarding a selection decision ahead of or during a County Cup event, in writing, to tenniswales@tenniswales.org.uk and which will be reviewed by members of the relevant county committee who were not involved in the selection process.