

## 9U – 14U REGIONAL, NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL ACTIVITIES SELECTION CRITERIA AND PROCESS 2026

### INTRODUCTION

The National Performance Pathway Team oversee both the Regional and National Stages of the Player Pathway. With the purpose to increase the number of internationally competitive 14U players with the potential to transition strongly to the international Junior stage.

The National Performance stage (11U – 14U) comprises of:

- *National Activity (National Player Plus Weekends, and National Camps)*
- *International Activity (Official Trips, GB Friendlies, and GB Team Events)*
- [RPDCs](#)
- [National Academy](#)

The Regional Performance stage (8U – 10U) comprises of targeted developmental activity designed to support early identification, observation, and understanding of players with the potential to progress through the Performance Pathway. These include:

- *Regional activity (Regional Performance Camps)*
- *National Activity (Inter-Regional Camps, Inter-Regional Matchplays, and National Camps – girls only)*
- *International Activity (Official Trips, and GB Friendlies)*

**This document outlines the selection criteria and process for all regional, national, and international activity between the ages of 8U – 14U.**

- For the avoidance of doubt, ‘International activity’ encompasses LTA Official Trips (including GB representative events and GB friendlies).

Further information on the other areas of the Regional and National Performance Stage of the Pathway (including RPDCs and National Academy) can be found [here](#).

### ELIGIBILITY FOR REGIONAL, NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL ACTIVITY

#### For ‘Regional activity’

In order to be eligible to be considered for selection for 8U, 9U and 10U regional activity, players must meet the requirements 1.1(a), 1.2 and 1.3, eligible players may then be considered for selection as per the selection process.

#### **1.1(a)**

Age eligibility - A player must be in their 8U, 9U or 10U year on the 1 January e.g. in year 2026 – players born 2016, 2017 and 2018

*\*Players younger will be considered in exceptional circumstances*

#### **1.2**

Eligible to represent Great Britain - Players must hold, or be in the process of obtaining, a British passport, or British Citizenship, and have not represented any other nation in a representative team event. Evidence may be asked for to prove eligibility. Those not meeting this stipulation, but who have lived in Great Britain continuously since 1 September 2024 will be considered on a case-by case basis. Such players must contact [playerpathway@lta.org.uk](mailto:playerpathway@lta.org.uk) to confirm they would like to be considered.

#### **1.3**

Adhere to the [LTA Official Trips](#) Policy and [LTA Code of Conduct](#).

Players should only accept invitations and partake in ‘regional activity’ if they are 100% fully fit.

### **For 'National activity'**

In order to be eligible to be considered for selection for 9U – 14U national activity, players must meet the requirements 1.1(b), 1.2 and 1.3, eligible players may then be considered for selection as per the selection process.

**1.1(b)** Age eligibility - A player must be in their 9U, 10U, 11U, 12U, 13U or 14U year on the 1 January e.g. in year 2026 – players born 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016 and 2017. \*

*\*Players younger will be considered in exceptional circumstances*

**1.2** Eligible to represent Great Britain - Players must hold, or be in the process of obtaining, a British passport, or British Citizenship, and have not represented any other nation in a representative team event. Evidence may be asked for to prove eligibility. Those not meeting this stipulation, but who have lived in Great Britain continuously since 1 September 2024 will be considered on a case-by case basis. Such players must contact [playerpathway@lta.org.uk](mailto:playerpathway@lta.org.uk) to confirm they would like to be considered.

#### **1.3**

Adhere to the [LTA Official Trips Policy](#) and [LTA Code of Conduct](#).

Players should only accept invitations and partake in 'national activity' if they are 100% fully fit.

### **For 'International activity'**

In order to be eligible to be considered for selection for 10U – 14U International Activity (we do not run international activity at 9U), players must meet the requirements in 2.1, 2.2 and 2.3, eligible players will then be considered for selection by the Selection Panel:

#### **2.1**

Age eligibility - A player must be in their 10U, 11U, 12U, 13U or 14U year on the 1 January e.g. in year 2026 – players born 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015, and 2016 \*

*\*Players younger will be considered in exceptional circumstances*

#### **2.2**

[Tennis Europe 12U and 14U Winter Cups](#), [European Summer Cup 12U and 14U](#), [World Junior Tennis 14U \(qualification through European Summer Cup\)](#), and [14U European Junior Championships](#) \*

Eligible to represent Great Britain - Players must hold a British passport and have not represented any other nation in a representative team event. Evidence may be asked for to prove eligibility.

*\*The above events eligibility is determined by Tennis Europe (TE) and/or the International Tennis Federation (ITF)*

#### [LTA official trips \(not including the events outlined above\)](#)

Eligible to represent Great Britain - Players must hold, or be in the process of obtaining, a British passport or British Citizenship, and have not represented any other nation in a representative team event. Evidence may be asked for to prove eligibility.

#### **2.3**

Adhere to the [LTA Official Trips Policy](#) and [LTA Code of Conduct](#).

In addition, for LTA Official Trips to overseas tournaments that require entry, it is the responsibility of the player to enter the tournament before the entry deadline and make payment for their entry fee. Players who have not entered, or do not gain entry to these events are not eligible to be selected or travel with the team.

Players should only accept invitations and partake in GB representative events and/or official trips if they are 100% fully fit.

### **SELECTION PROCESS FOR 11U -14U NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL ACTIVITY**

Selections for national and international activity will be made on an activity-by-activity basis typically six weeks prior to



the start of the specific activity:

- The relevant National Age Group Coach will put forward players, with prior agreement from the Head of National Performance Pathway, that they believe should be selected for the specific national or international activity to the 'Approval Panel' (consisting of, a minimum of three of, the 11U -14U National Age Group Coaches and/or the RPDC Network Lead, and the Head of National Performance Pathway) who will normally meet at least six weeks prior to the activity.
- A member of the LTA Performance Operations Team may also be invited to attend and record selection decisions.
- The National Age Group Coach submitting the nominations must include the reasons for the nomination in relation to the below selection criteria, as well as why they believe this opportunity would benefit the development of the player.
- The Approval Panel will discuss the nominated players and confirm the selections for the specific national or international activity.
- All selection reasons will be recorded.

#### **SELECTION CRITERIA FOR NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL ACTIVITY**

The Approval Panel will consider the recommendation of the National Age Group Coach against the selection criteria (outlined below) to determine if a player should be selected for the 11U- 14U national or international activity being discussed. They will use multiple sources of evidence available to them, including but not limited to results profiles, ranking trajectory, progress against their individual development plan (IDP), and Performance Pathway scouting data, as well as their expert judgement:

- **Progress against their individual development plan (IDP)**
- **Game style:** The player is developing an all-round game, with an emerging gamestyle which can be successful at the international junior stage and beyond,
- **Strengths & Weapons:** The player has emerging strengths which can be developed into successful weapons at the international junior stage and beyond,
- **Head:** The player demonstrates smart decision making, good problem-solving abilities and a level of focus in matches, irrespective of the match situation,
- **Heart:** The player's drive and attitude in training and competition shows a willingness to learn and a desire to win matches,
- **Athlete:** The player has a robust athletic foundation which can be developed into physical attributes that could positively influence the outcome of matches,
- **Performance:** The player has competitive results, ranking and rating (at current year of birth or above) and a capability to beat players of a higher level than themselves.
- **Readiness:** The player is ready to engage, benefit from, and meet the demands of the specific activity.

#### **COMMUNICATION OF SELECTIONS FOR 11U – 14U NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL ACTIVITY**

All 11U-14U national and international activity selections will be communicated as outlined below:

- Selections will normally be communicated to selected players within 5 days of the panel meeting and typically 4 - 6 weeks prior to the trip \*

*\*in exceptional cases, or where there is clear justification for why, the timeline of the selections and communication of selections may be closer to the activity start date.*

#### **SELECTION PROCESS FOR 8U - 10U REGIONAL ACTIVITY**

Selections for 8U – 10U regional activity (Regional Performance Camps) will be made on an activity-by-activity basis and will follow a structured and consistent timeline.

- Approximately six to eight weeks prior to the activity, County Performance Leads (CPLs) will be invited to nominate players from within their county whom they believe are appropriate for consideration for the specific regional activity.

- All nominations must be explicitly linked to the LTA Talent Characteristics, with CPLs identifying the characteristics they believe the player is demonstrating and why this makes them relevant for the activity at that given time. Nominations should be informed by observation across training and competition environments.
- Nominations must be submitted by the specified deadline communicated as part of the nomination process. Unless there are exceptional circumstances, nominations received after the deadline will not be accepted.
- Submitted nominations will be reviewed by the National Pathway Coach responsible for the region, who will lead a discussion with the relevant CPLs to explore which players are most appropriate for the activity, taking into account, the purpose of the activity and the stage of development of the players. These discussions are intended to support a shared understanding of players across county and regional environments and to ensure that selections are aligned to long-term development rather than short-term performance.
- Following these discussions, the National Pathway Coach will confirm the selected players for the specific activity.
- Formal invitations to selected players will typically be issued four to six weeks prior to the activity.
- Selection for 8U – 10U regional activity does not represent confirmation of long-term pathway status. Players may move in and out of regional activity over time as part of an ongoing assessment and development process.
- All selection decisions and the rationale underpinning them will be recorded.

#### **SELECTION PROCESS FOR 9U - 10U INTER-REGIONAL, NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL ACTIVITY**

Selections for 9U and 10U inter-regional, national and international activity will be made on an activity-by-activity basis and will follow a structured and consistent process.

- Approximately six to eight weeks prior to the activity, each National Pathway Coach will identify a group of players to be considered for selection for the subsequent activity.
- This identification will be informed through observation at Regional Performance Camps, alongside ongoing observations of players in training and competition environments.
- Each National Pathway Coach will then put forward players they believe should be considered for selection for the specific inter-regional, national or international activity to an Approval Panel.
- The ‘Approval Panel’ shall consist of, a minimum of three representatives, from the 10U National Pathway Coaches, and/or the 11U Girls National Age Group Coach, and the 10U National Pathway Manager.
- A member of the LTA Performance Operations Team may also be invited to attend and record selection decisions.
- The National Pathway Coach submitting the nominations must include the reasons for nomination, explicitly linked to the Talent Characteristics, and provide an assessment of the player’s longer-term potential, alongside an explanation of why the opportunity is appropriate for the player’s current stage of development.
- The Approval Panel will discuss the nominated players and confirm selections for the specific activity.
- Formal invitations to selected players will typically be issued four to six weeks prior to the activity.
- Selection for inter-regional, national or international activity at 9U and 10U does not represent confirmation of long-term pathway status. Players may move in and out of activity over time as part of an ongoing, longitudinal assessment process.
- All selection decisions and supporting rationale will be recorded.

#### **APPEALS PROCESS FOR REGIONAL, NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL ACTIVITY**

For the avoidance of doubt, players who do not meet the eligibility criteria for regional activity - 1.1(a), 1.2 and 1.3, national activity - 1.1(b), 1.2 and 1.3, or for international activity 2.1, 2.2 and 2.3, and/or are not selected for regional,

national or international activity are not eligible to appeal.

#### **AMENDMENTS**

The LTA reserves the right to amend or cancel any regional, national or international activity if necessary.

The LTA may amend this policy from time to time. Any amended policy will be published on the LTA website.

Please reach out to [playerpathway@lta.org.uk](mailto:playerpathway@lta.org.uk) if you have any questions.

