

GREAT BRITAIN SQUAD SELECTION POLICY FOR BLIND AND VISUALLY IMPAIRED TENNIS

Introduction

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

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 IBTA events and be BBS classified
- Be able to supply a Medical Diagnostic Form (MDF) to the LTA immediately after selection
- Attend a performance day*

*If a player, who is invited 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.

The total number of players selected for the programme is expected to be 16, comprised of players in the following classifications. However, this is at the discretion of the Selection Panel.

2 x Men B1
2 x Women B1
2 x Men B2
2 x Women B2
2 x Men B3
2 x Women B3
2 x Men B4/5
2 x Women B4/5

Player classifications – valid international classifications will overrule BBS Classification. If no previous international classification exists for a player, or once international classification expires, then BBS classification will be used.

Classifications and competition – all players selected for the **Team** to travel internationally must have played in a minimum of 2 events in the calendar year in the classification they have been selected for. E.g. If you have the potential to play internationally as a “B2” you must play in a minimum of two B2 events in the qualifying year. This allows the selection panel to make accurate comparisons between players. If you are a B2 and choose to play in the B3 category all year, and play in no B2 events, you can be selected as a B3 only for the **Team**. This will therefore be taken into consideration when selecting the Squad.

Selection of players for the GB VI 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 VI Nationals or VI Regionals will be asked to come to a performance day to be assessed.

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:

- If the player has an all-court game which can be developed into a defined game style that could be successful at international tournaments.
- The player demonstrates smart decision making, good problem solving abilities and a level of focus in matches, irrespective of the match situation.

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 then 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 performance at the performance day.

- The player's competitive results in the past year, this will include the VI Nationals, VI Regionals and the IBTA International event if applicable
- How well a player is perceived to react in high pressure situations, like the final of Nationals or at an International event.
- How well the player behaves in a team environment and interacts with their team members.

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 coach from 2022. 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 of the outcome of the selection panel meeting.

Support:

The table below outlines what support the LTA will provide to the squad:

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 covered for players• Consideration for selection for the IBTA International Event at the 2023 IBSA World Games• For those selected to represent GB at the IBTA International Tournament all travel and entry expenses will be paid for by the LTA as well as kit supplied to all travelling team members

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. They must also provide any medical documentation requested by the LTA on or before the deadline set by the LTA in order to enjoy the benefits listed above. Failure to

provide any of these documents or to adhere to the Code of Conduct may result in immediate removal from the Squad.

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 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 per classification, to join a Squad training camp or international trip.

Appeals:

Any appeals against selection decisions must be made in writing to the LTA within a week 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.