

North 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 North Wales is to provide regular, best vs best monthly training for all junior age-groups, and help prepare 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 competitive. The selection process is led by the Tennis Wales Head of Performance and the Junior 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, please contact the North Wales Junior County Coordinator, John Whitehall at j.whitehallnorthwalesu10county@gmail.com

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 North 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.

2.5 Selectors may look at training groups just below the level of the main county training groups. These groups will be referred to as County Development Training groups.

3. County Performance Programme Calendar

Age-Group	Squad Selection (2023)	Start of Training period (2023)	End of Training period (2024)	County Cup Team Selection	County Cup Event (2024)
U8	July/August	September	June	6-9 weeks prior to event	April & November
U9	July/August	September	June	6-9 weeks prior to event	March
U10	July/August	September	June	6-9 weeks prior to event	May
U11	July/August	September	June	6-9 weeks prior to event	June
U12	July/August	October	July	6-9 weeks prior to event	September
U14	July/August	September	June	6-9 weeks prior to event	April
U18	July/August	September	June	6-9 weeks prior to event	March

3.1 All junior age-groups will be offered monthly training for a period of 10 months as above. The U8 age-group will be offered a minimum of one and a maximum of two training sessions per month.

3.2 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 North Wales County Cup Selection Policy will be published on the Tennis Wales website.

4. Selection criteria

Selection decisions are always challenging but the objective is to select the best players in the county in each age-group at that moment in time. The selectors will be looking at how players have demonstrated their playing standard on the match court and at what level of tournament, as well as liaising with county captains to gauge playing standards.

4.1 The U8 selections will be formed from existing players in the previous year of training, and new players nominated by coaches for consideration. County Days and trial sessions will be used to determine if new players are suitable for selection.

4.2 The U9 through to U18 selection process will consider the LTA competitive profiles i.e. to what extent and standard each player has competed over the previous 12 months. Players of county standard across GB would generally be involved in competition to the extent described below:

U9 = Competing internally in their club, externally at other clubs and ideally at LTA graded events

U10 = Competing regularly at LTA graded events (including grade 2 to 4 level events)

U11-U18 = Competing regularly at LTA graded events (including grade 1 to 4 level events)

4.3 The U11 through to U18 selection process will also consider any LTA and international rankings a player has.

4.4 Account may also be taken of the level of a player's commitment to county tennis in the

previous year.

4.5 Long term injuries or illnesses which have had a major impact on the ranking and competitive profile of a player may be allowed for during the selection process.

4.6 Players can be considered for selection at any time through a coach nomination process. Nominations can be submitted from an individual coach, a County Captain, the Junior County Coordinator or the Tennis Wales Head of Performance.

4.7 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 year. 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 to 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 Junior County Coordinator 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 heavily subsidised trips to the U18 event and the National Finals at U12, U14 should a team qualify through.

U8 – U18 = £15/month over a 10-month period which can be paid by monthly Direct Debit

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

8. U10 County Development Area Training (CDAT)

8.1 Within the county programme we will look at opportunities to deliver subsidised weekly U10 CDAT sessions at locations across North Wales. The primary purpose will be to add quality training sessions to the weekly programmes of the youngest players in the county. The player base each year will dictate when and how exactly any U10 CDAT sessions operate.

9. 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.