

14U National Age Group Programme Scholarships

1. Introduction

The NAGP aims to support the development of 12-14 year old players who are showing the potential to meet the selection criteria for National Academy selection within 2-3 years.

The National Performance Pathway Team will work in collaboration with a player's coach and family to establish a high-quality programme. Players will also be supported through access to the following opportunities during the contract term:

- Training visits from a designated National Age Group Coach (Case Manager),
- Invitations to all National Activityⁱ,
- Support in the development and regular review of an individual development plan and tournament schedule,
- Key insights from camps, trips or at tournaments,
- Potential access to an NAGP financial award – see 3.4.

2. Eligibility

For a player to be eligible for consideration they must meet 2.1, 2.2 and 2.3.1 or 2.3.2. All eligible players will then be considered for selection by the Selection Panel.

2.1 Age eligibility. A player must be in their 12U, 13U or 14U year on the 1 January 2024 – born 2010, 2011 and 2012.ⁱⁱ

2.2 Eligible to represent Great Britain. Players must hold, or be in the process of obtaining, a British passport 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 2022 will be considered on a case-by-case basis. Such players must contact playerpathway@lta.org.uk to confirm they would like to be considered.

2.3 Performance level requirements. In addition to 2.1 and 2.2, a player must fulfil either of the requirements outlined below, either 2.3.1 or 2.3.2.

2.3.1 Selected as a 14U NAGP scholar in February or September 2023,

2.3.2 Named on the RPDC longlist for 2023 AND nominated by a National Age-Group Coach based on observations from relevant international and/or domestic tournaments and National Activity for the period between 1 September 2023 and the selection meeting.

2.4 There are no minimum or maximum number of scholarship places available on the NAGP. There is however a resource limitation which will determine the number of players who are selected.

2.5 All selected playersⁱⁱⁱ must sign the LTA's NAGP Scholarship Player Agreement to receive the benefits identified in section 1.

2.6 The contract will typically be a one-year agreement and re-selection will be made in line with the Reselection Process in 4.0 and Performance Level requirements in 2.3.

3. Selection process

3.1 *Selection panel.* The Selection Panel (the Panel) will be made up of the Head of the National Performance Pathway (or their nominee) and at least four of the National Pathway Team (this could include a National Age Group Coach and/or RPDC Network Lead).

The Panel has complete discretion regarding selection decisions and will be guided by the aims, the process, and the ability (within resources) to effectively support each player. The Panel will exercise their discretion fairly and without bias.

3.2 *Evaluation of player suitability.* When considering which players have the potential to meet the aims of the programme, the Panel will consider the following factors:

- Game style: The player has an all-round game which can be developed into a successful game style,
- Strengths & Weapons: The player has emerging strengths which can be developed into successful weapons,
- 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 and meet the demands of the programme, to fully benefit from the aims of the NAGP Scholarship programme.

When evaluating a player against these factors, the Panel will use professional opinion to reflect on match observations from relevant international and/or domestic tournaments and National Activity for the period between 1 September 2023 and the selection meeting.

3.3 *Considerations relating to limiting factors.* When discussing the above factors, the Panel may also consider any of the following matters that influences their opinion on the player's potential:

- The player's age and their stage of physical maturation,
- The player's training programme and tournament schedule,
- Any injury and/or illnesses that led to a significant interruption (minimum of 3 consecutive months) or impact on tennis,
- Any other significant considerations (e.g., illness in the family).

3.4 *Allocation of NAGP Scholarship financial awards.*

Selected players are eligible for an NAGP Scholarship financial award to support the costs associated with partaking in international tournaments. The following standards will ordinarily be applied when determining the level of financial award offered to selected players:

ⁱ Invitations to all National Activity are subject to the relevance of the activity for the Scholar which will be determined by the selection panel when selecting ahead of each National Activity. National Activity is defined as: National Matchplay Weekends and National Camps.

ⁱⁱ Players younger will be considered in exceptional circumstances.

ⁱⁱⁱ If a player chooses to decline a place, they may still receive invitations to partake in relevant National Activity but, they won't receive the other benefits listed in section 2.

- Commitment to an IDP and willingness to work with the case manager & LTA National Performance Pathway Team and *,
- 12U (2011 born players): A semi-final or beyond performance in the last 12 months at a TE 12U Cat 1 or,
- 13U (2010 born players): Semi-final or beyond at the 14U G1 (East Gloucester) and/or 14U Nationals Championships; or a final or winner of a TE 14U Cat 2 tournament in any country in the last 12 months or,
- 14U: A semi-final or beyond performance in the last 12 months at a TE 14U Cat 1, or a quarter-final or beyond performance at a TE 14U Super Cat tournament, or a semi-final or beyond performance in a Grade 5 ITF event, in the following countries: Belgium, Croatia, Czech Republic, France, Germany, Great Britain, Italy, Netherlands, Spain, Russia, USA.

**A player will need to meet the standard (as outlined above) for their own age, or the age group above within the timescale outlined to be considered. Players born 2010 will not be considered for NAGP scholarship financial awards at the September 2024 selection meeting due to graduating out of the National Performance Pathway at the end of August 2024.*

NAGP Scholarship financial awards will be up to £5,000 per annum, however, there is a fixed budget which will determine the exact figure offered to eligible players.

4. Reselection

Players who are currently an NAGP Scholar will be automatically shortlisted for reselection if still eligible according to the eligibility criteria set out in section 2. At the end of each player's agreement period, each player will be formally reviewed by the Selection Panel in the selection meeting. A player will then either have their agreement renewed or not. In making this decision the Panel will be asked to consider: 1. A player's progress against their IDP. 2. A player's competition results, and the likelihood of them achieving the selection criteria for National Academy in the next 1-2 years. As per the player's contract, funding levels will be reviewed as part of this process. All decisions will be recorded, and players notified in line with the dates in section 5.

5. Key dates

The Panel will meet the week commencing 19th February 2024 with all selected players advised by 1st March 2024 if they will be offered an NAGP Scholarship.

Players not selected for an NAGP Scholarship in February 2024 may be reconsidered at a later date. This will typically occur in September 2024 and is based on the areas 2.1 to 2.4.

Players not allocated with an NAGP Scholarship financial award at the point of selection may also be reconsidered at a later date. This would typically occur in September 2024 and is based on the standards in 3.4.

6. Appeals

All eligible players who have not been selected by the Panel are entitled to appeal against the Selection Panel's decision. Such an appeal is to be made in writing (with full reasons) within seven days of receiving the verbal decision and sent to playerpathway@lta.org.uk. This appeal will then be reviewed by a Panel that will be chaired by the Performance Director (or

their nominee) and will be made up of at least one other representative from the LTA's Performance Team.

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.

The Appeals Panel can decide 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 of the player's contractual status 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 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.

For the avoidance of doubt, players who are not shortlisted for any reason, including exceptional circumstances (as outlined in 3.3) or not receiving a National Age Group Coach nomination (as outlined in 2.3.2) are not eligible to appeal

