

14U National Performance Stage

Selection Policies for 11U, 12U & 14U

This document describes how:

- Players are identified for the 14U National Pathway List,
- Players are selected for the 14U National Age Group Programme (NAGP), and
- Players are selected to represent Great Britain at 14U & 12U National Team events.

This policy is subject to ongoing review and may be updated intermittently. Any amendments shall be published on the LTA website.

14U National Pathway List

1. Introduction

The National Pathway List aims is to identify those 14U players with the highest potential for national junior success and selection for the NAGP.

Players on this list will be considered for NAGP activity (such as national camps, official trips and match play events) and it is a prerequisite for selection for a NAGP Scholarship.

Players on this list will also be eligible to receive a subsidised training programme at a Regional Player Development Centre (RPDC). Acceptance to and continued inclusion on an RPDC programme is at the discretion of each programme.

2. Eligibility

For a player to be eligible for consideration they must meet both 2.a and 2.b.

- Age eligibility.* Players born 2008, 2009, 2010 and 2011ⁱ.
- Eligible to represent Great Britain.* Players must hold, or be eligible for, a British passport. Those not meeting this stipulation, but who have lived in Great Britain continuously since 1 April 2020, 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.

3. Performance requirements

For an eligible player to be included on the list they must also fulfil one of the following requirements, either 3.1 or 3.2 or 3.3:

3.1 *Ranking.* Achieve an LTA combined ranking outlined below on 11 June 2021:

- Top 16 14U players born in 2008
- Top 20 12U players born in 2009
- Top 24 11U players born in 2010 and 2011

3.2 *Result.* Achieve a main draw singles performance outlined below between 1 August 2020 and 11 June 2021:

- 12U or 14U Tennis Europe (all categories) – Quarter Final or better
- 11U, 12U or 14U National Tourⁱⁱ (Grade 1 & 2) – Quarter Final or better

3.3 *Recommendation*. Receive a recommendation from an LTA National Coach based on their professional opinion, from observations between 1 August 2020 and 11 June 2021, on which players they believe have the potential to be a nationally competitive 14U player in consideration with the following areas:

- Good technical base,
- Good tactical understanding,
- Good athletic qualities,
- Good competitor.

3.4 It is expected that up to 300 players will be selected across England, Scotland and Wales.

3.5 Once identified, players will remain on the 14U National Pathway List until 31 August of their final 14U yearⁱⁱⁱ providing they achieve one of the performance requirements stipulated in 3.1, 3.2 and 3.3 during each year.

4. Key dates

Finalisation of the list will take place week commencing 14 June 2021 with all identified players advised by 25 June 2021.

Players not included in June 2021 may be reconsidered at a later date. This would typically occur in September 2021 and January 2022 and primarily be based on section 3.1. and 3.2.

ⁱ Players born 2012 will be considered if they meet the requirements identified in 3.1 and 3.2.

ⁱⁱ This also includes a Top 8 placing at the 11U, 12U or 14U LTA Youth National Series.

ⁱⁱⁱ Eligible players invited to attend NAGP activity in 2021 will be included on the 14U National Pathway List until 31 August of their 15U year. This does not include those invited from the reserves list.

14U National Age Group Programme

1. Introduction

The NAGP aims to support the development of those 14U players with the highest potential for international junior success and selection for the LTA's Men's and Women's Programme (MWP).

The NAGP has a number of components:

- NAGP Scholarships,
- National Match Play,
- National Camps,
- Official Trips.

2. NAGP Scholarship

The NAGP Scholarship will target players aged 12 to 14 years who are predicted to meet the selection criteria for the MWP 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:

- Training visits from a designated National Age Group Coach,
- Invitations to all National Match Play Weekends and National Camps,
- Support to develop an individual development plan and tournament schedule,
- Key insights from camps, trips or at tournaments,
- Advice from the LTA's Sports Science and Sports Medicine team,
- Access to an NAGP financial award – see 3.4.

3. Eligibility

For a player to be eligible for consideration they must meet 3.1, 3.2 and 3.3.1 or 3.3.2. All eligible players will then be considered for selection by the Selection Panel.

3.1 Age eligibility. A player must be 12 to 14 years old on the 1 January 2022 – born 2008, 2009 and 2010^{iv}.

3.2 Eligible to represent Great Britain. Players must hold, or be eligible for, a British passport. Those not meeting this stipulation, but who have lived in Great Britain continuously since 1 April 2020, will be considered on a case-by-case basis. Such players must contact PlayerPathway@lta.org.uk to confirm they wish to be considered.

3.3 Performance level requirements. In addition to 3.1 and 3.2, a player must fulfil either of the requirements outlined below, either 3.3.1 or 3.3.2.

3.3.1 Selected as a 14U NAGP player in 2020-21^v,

^{iv} Players aged 11 on the 1 January 2022 (born 2011) will only be considered if they sufficiently meet the factors identified in section 5

^v To reflect the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, for 2021 only, all players remaining eligible (in accordance with 3.1 and 3.2) at the end of their NAGP Scholarship in August 2021 will automatically be given an extension of one year.

3.3.2 Named on the 14U National Pathway List for 2021-22 AND nominated by a National Age-Group Coach based on observations from relevant international and/or domestic tournaments and NAGP activity for the period between 1 January 2021 and the selection meeting.

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

3.5 All selected players^{vi} must sign the LTA's NAGP Player Agreement to receive the benefits identified in section 1.

4. Selection process

4.1 *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 National Age Group Coaches.

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.

4.2 *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.

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 NAGP activity for the period between 1 January 2021 and the selection meeting.

4.3 *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 or impact on tennis,
- Any other significant considerations (e.g., examinations, illness in the family).

^{vi} If a player chooses to decline a place, they may still receive invitations to partake in relevant NAGP activity but, they won't receive the other benefits listed in section 2.

4.4 *Allocation of NAGP financial awards.* Selected players are eligible for an NAGP 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:

- Commitment to an IDP and willingness to work with the LTA Performance Team and,
- A quarter-final performance in the last 12 months at a 12U or 14U Cat 1 or Super Cat tournament or,
- A semi-final performance in the last 12 months at a 14U Cat 2 tournament in one of following countries: Belgium, Croatia, Czech Republic, France, Germany, Great Britain, Italy, Netherlands, Spain, Russia, USA.

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

Selected players who are not eligible for an NAGP financial award may be nominated for a SportsAid award. Where the number of SportsAid awards available is less than the number of players selected, the nominations will be prioritised using the standards identified in 4.4.

5. Key dates

The Panel will meet the week commencing 27 September 2021 with all selected players advised by 8 October 2021 if they will be offered an NAGP Scholarship.

Players not selected for an NAGP Scholarship in October 2021 may be reconsidered at a later date. This would typically occur in April 2022 and is based on the areas in 3.2.

Players not allocated an NAGP financial award at the point of Scholarship selection may also be reconsidered at a later date. This would typically occur in April 2022 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 72 hours of receiving the decision and sent to player.pathway@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.

7. NAGP Activities for non-NAGP Scholarship players

It is recognised that there could be additional players who are not selected for an NAGP Scholarship that may benefit from involvement in National Match Play, National Camps and Official Trips (together referred to as NAGP Activities, each a NAGP Activity).

To ensure that appropriate players gain these opportunities, the National Age-Group Coaches will be able to make selections before each NAGP Activity. These selections will be based on factors listed in section 4.2, which will then be reviewed and approved by the Head of the National Performance Pathway (or their nominee).

Only players being invited to attend NAGP Activities will be notified, and where possible notification will be provided at least four weeks prior to the activity.

For clarity, invitations to non-NAGP Scholarship players to attend NAGP activity does not allow formalised access to the other benefits listed in section 2.

14U & 12U National Team Selection

1. Introduction

The aim of this process is to enable Great Britain to win matches at the official team events listed in Table 1. The secondary aim is to provide opportunities for players who have the potential for international junior success to gain international experience.

For the avoidance of doubt, the primary aim is the primary consideration, and the secondary aim will only be considered subject to the requirements of the primary aim.

Table 1 shows a list of Official Team Events that Great Britain typically enter on an annual basis.

Month	Age Group	Activity	Team Size
February	U14	Tennis Europe Winter Cup – Qualifying & Finals	3 Boys & 3 Girls
February	U12	Tennis Europe Winter Cup – Qualifying & Finals	3 Boys & 3 Girls
July	U14	Tennis Europe Summer Cup – Qualifying & Finals	3 Boys & 3 Girls
August	U12	Tennis Europe Nations Challenge – Qualifying & Finals	3 Boys & 3 Girls
August	U14	European Championships	2 Boys & 2 Girls
August	U14	World Team Championships	3 Boys & 3 Girls

2. Eligibility

For a player to be eligible for consideration they must meet 2.1 and 2.2.

2.1 *Age eligibility.* Players must be within the age requirements of the event in question, using the international age categories.

2.2 *Eligible to represent Great Britain.* Players must hold, or be eligible for, a British passport. Those not meeting this stipulation, but who have lived in Great Britain continuously since 1 April 2020, 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.

3. Selection process

3.1 *Selection Panel.* The Selection Panel (the Panel) will be chaired by the Head of the National Performance Pathway (or their nominee). Representation from within the LTA Performance Team will form the remainder of the panel. There will be a minimum of three voting members of the Panel. Selections for the events in Table 1 will be conducted around key competition in the national calendar.

3.2 *Performance level requirements.* When making its decision, the Panel will consider the recommendation of the relevant National Age-Group Captain based on the following factors:

- Performances at National G1 & G2 events and, if relevant, Tennis Europe G1 & G2 events;
- Performances in NAGP activity, including but not limited to, National Match Play, National Camps and Official Trips; and
- Any factor (such as injury and illness) that means a player is not fully fit to partake.

3.3 *Reserves.* Following selection of the players that will make up the team, the Panel will also consider reserve places. The number of reserve places offered will be at the

discretion of the Panel. Reserves may not necessarily be identified for every event and will be selected using the requirements listed in 3.2.

- 3.4 *Fit to participate.* Should the LTA Performance Team believe players are not able to participate fully in the event they may be required to undergo an assessment in the period between the selection date and the event. Any such assessment will be conducted by the LTA medical team or an appropriate individual identified by the LTA medical team. At the discretion of the LTA Performance Team, any players who are deemed unable to participate may be de-selected for the activity.
- 3.5 *Communication.* Only players who are selected for the events listed in Table 1 will be notified. Where possible notification will be provided at least four weeks prior to the event.