

South Wales County Training Selection Policy

1. Introduction

The County Training programme provides the best and most committed players in the county with the opportunity to train and compete with one another. The purpose of the programme in Wales is to accelerate the development of players, help retain players in regular training and prepare teams for inter-county matches.

County Training is subsidised for players and is a part of the LTA Player Pathway. Players need to be invited to attend and there are a limited number of spaces available to players in each age-group. The selection process can sometimes be very competitive.

This document outlines the criteria for players to achieve selection for County Training. The selection process is led by the County Coordinator and in consultation with the Tennis Wales Head of Performance. Selections will take place the w/c August 3rd 2020.

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 South Wales County Coordinator, Becca Strelzyn at rstrelzyn@gmail.com.

2. Age groups and number of places

2.1 The County Training programme consists of the following junior age groupings:

- U8 = Places for a maximum of 16 boys and 16 girls
- U9 = Places for a maximum of 8-10 boys and 8-10 girls
- U10 = Places for a maximum of 8-10 boys and 8-10 girls
- U12 = Places for a maximum of 8-10 boys and 8-10 girls
- U14 = Places for a maximum of 8-10 boys and 8-10 girls
- U18 = Places for a maximum of 8-12 boys and 8-12 girls

2.2 In certain age groups it may be relevant to run 'challenger' groups which sit just underneath the County Training groups. This will be assessed by the County Coordinators following the County Training selections each year.

2.3 There is no obligation to fill every available place in the County Training groups.

3. Eligibility

3.1 To be considered for the 2020/21 programme, players must be of an eligible age as follows:

- U8 = Players born 2013 or later
- U9 = Players born 2012 or later
- U10 = Players born 2011 or later
- U12 = Players born 2009 or later
- U14 = Players born 2007 or later
- U18 = Players born 2003 or later

3.2 Players will predominantly be selected for their own age group but there may be exceptional circumstances where players are invited to attend training at an older age group.

3.3 Players must be eligible to represent South Wales according to the current LTA guidelines or

be able to demonstrate that they will be eligible within the next six months. The rules governing a player's eligibility to represent a county are detailed [here](#) on the LTA website.

4. Selection criteria

4.1 The *competitive profile* of a player will be an important consideration towards selection. Players of county standard and above would usually be competing to the extent described below although some players may be working towards this:

U8 = Competing internally in their club, externally at other clubs and ideally at LTA graded events

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

U10 = Competing at LTA graded events in their county and ideally at regional level events

U12 = Competing on a monthly basis in LTA graded county and regional level events

U14 = Competing according to an annual plan which includes regional, national and international events

U18 = Competing according to an annual plan which includes regional, national and international events

4.2 The selection process will take into account any *rankings/ratings* a player has and if necessary also consider their recent form on the match court. There are certain thresholds whereby players can guarantee their selection purely on LTA ranking as follows:

U12 = Ranked inside the top 100 of the UK rankings for players born 2009 or later

U14 = Ranked inside the top 100 of the UK rankings for players born 2007 or later

U18 = Ranked inside the top 100 within UK rankings for players born 2003 or later

4.3 The *weekly training programme* to which a player is committed will be considered although in some cases this will be an area of development during the training programme. Players attending County Training would ideally be training regularly on a weekly programme overseen by an individual coach at their club. As a guide:

U8 = Three tennis sessions per week including one half hour individual lesson with a coach

U9 = Three tennis sessions per week including a one hour lesson with a coach

U10 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

4.4 Players can be considered for selection through a *coach nomination* from their individual coach, a County Captain, the County Coordinator or the Tennis Wales Head of Performance. This can happen at any time during the year.

4.5 Account may also be taken of the level of a player's commitment to county tennis in the previous year.

5. Communication of selections

Players will receive a letter from Tennis Wales notifying them of their selection for County Training. The letter will detail the age-group a player has been selected for, the captain and assistant captain in charge of that age-group and details of how to accept their place.

6. Key dates for U8, U9, U10, U12, U14 age groups

August – Players selected, notified and places accepted

October to July – 10 x monthly sessions, exact dates arranged and communicated by captains

7. Key dates for U18 age group

August – Players selected, notified and places accepted

October to February – 5 x monthly sessions, exact dates arranged and communicated by captains

March to July – further sessions to be reviewed and continued if demand and attendance is sufficiently high

8. Selection reviews

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 County Coordinator twice per year if they feel there is a need to do so. It is possible that players could be de-selected or warned about the potential for de-selection following these reviews.

9. Player and parent feedback

There will be the opportunity for players and parents to feedback on elements of the County Training programme three times per year (end of October, March and July). It would be appreciated if everyone involved would take the time to do this in order to help Tennis Wales continue to improve the way in which this element of the Player Pathway is delivered.