

GB Visually Impaired Tennis Team Selection Policy 2020

Athlete selection policy to select the team to represent Great Britain at Visually Impaired International tournaments in 2020

1. Introduction

The Lawn Tennis Association (the **LTA**) will select up to one player for each division based on the Selection Criteria set out below for categories B1, B2, B3 and B4/5 men's and women's events at international tournaments in 2020 for which the LTA funds a Great Britain team.

2. Selection Process

It is the responsibility of the LTA to select the players for each relevant tournament.

Selection Panel

The LTA delegates the responsibility of selecting the players for each tournament to the Selection Panel. The Selection Panel will consist of the following*:

- a) Liz Terry (Chair) – Disability Competitions Manager, LTA;
- b) Louise Assioun – VI Head Coach
- c) Claire McCulloch – VI GB Team Manager, LTA

The Selection Panel will meet to determine which players meeting the Essential Eligibility Criteria at clause 3 and the Specific Selection Criteria at clause 4 (together the Selection Criteria) will be selected for the Blind International Tournament. In making these decisions the Selection Panel will assess players eligible for consideration against the Specific Selection Criteria. The Selection



Panel will use its expert knowledge of both the sport and tournament results to make such decisions.

If any member of the Selection Panel has a potential or perceived conflict of interest on a selection matter, the member shall declare that interest and the Chair will rule how the conflict will be dealt with to ensure fairness.

*A member of the selection panel may be replaced if they no longer hold their position within the LTA at which point the selection policy will be updated

3. Essential Eligibility Criteria

To be eligible for consideration by the Selection Panel, each player must:

- Be a member of the Great Britain VI Tennis Squad, except in exceptional circumstances as outlined in the Squad selection policy
- be eligible to represent Great Britain under the Rules of the Lawn Tennis Association Limited (the **LTA**) (see the LTA website under LTA rule 35 www.lta.org.uk);
- have competed in the 2019 National Visually Impaired Tennis Championships **or** a minimum of two regional visually impaired tournaments in the period from 1 January 2019 until the date of the meeting of the Selection Panel;
- have played in a minimum of 2 events in the year previous 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 prior. There may be flexibility granted in 2020 on this regulation as some players may not have had the opportunity to comply with this guideline. Players should take note of this guideline for future selection years;

- be medically fit and well – this refers to both mental and physical wellbeing. Players may be asked to have a medical examination, and
- not be serving a suspension for a doping violation and/or breach of the anti-corruption rules*.

*Where a player is serving such a suspension but the suspension is due to end during the period for which selections are being made and before the start of the Blind International Tennis Tournament, the Selection Panel may, at its discretion, choose to consider the player for selection.

4. Specific Selection Criteria

Players will be selected taking into consideration the factors below.

- Player results from 2019 sanctioned visually impaired tournaments including the Nationals, Regionals and International event
- Assessment of results will not just be based on the winner of a match but in the manner in which each player played the match and their demonstration of determination and mental toughness as well as specific tennis skills
- Performance at GB Squad camps
- Attitude and professionalism at GB Squad camps, and at any VI tennis events – a player’s ability to be a team player and support their team mates as well as work constructively with the coaching staff will be considered
- A player’s perceived ability to perform under pressure, this includes the pressure of representing GB as well as the strains of travelling internationally. If a player has previously represented GB internationally, their attitude and professionalism during that event will be considered
- The Selection Panel may also take into account any disciplinary issues including any breach of the LTA’s rules or disciplinary code.

5. Communication of Selection

Players will be notified of their nomination within 14 days of the Selection Panel meeting. A player's selection will be subject to the review of returned MDF documentation by the IBTA international classifiers.

6. Confidentiality

All players, coaches, members of the support team and any other individuals involved in the selection process must keep all information relating to the selection process confidential and not disclose any information regarding the process, the nominated athletes and the team selected unless authorised to do so by the LTA.

7. Changes to the Selection Process

The LTA will have the right to amend or vary this Selection Policy and the Selection Criteria where necessary at any time. These changes and amendments, having been discussed and agreed, will be clearly communicated to all parties.

8. Appeals

Should a player wish to appeal against the LTA selection decision, the player must do so in writing or by email within 7 working days of receiving written notice of the decision to the LTA Head of Competitions at the National Tennis Centre, 100 Priory Lane, Roehampton, London, SW15 5JQ, email address Keith.Carder@lta.org.uk



9. De-selection

In the circumstances listed below, the LTA selection panel will be convened to consider the de-selection of a player.

- **Classification**

Players will be required to be classified prior to team selection using the MDF system which must be submitted to the international classifiers. If at any time a player's classification changes they must notify the selection panel immediately and may be deselected. All players will also have to undergo further classification on site at the tournament venue before the start of the tournament, as per IBTA regulations. If players are not classified in the division that they have been selected for between the point of selection and their first match they may be de-selected. In most circumstances they will be allowed to compete in the category they were classified to on site.

- **Disciplinary**

All players must sign a code of conduct when they join the GB VI Squad as well as an 'Official Trips Policy' once they are selected for the Team. If there is any alleged breach of the code of conduct or official trips policy by a player the Disability Competitions Manager will meet with a member of the LTA's Legal or Safeguarding team to discuss this breach.

The Selection Panel, made up of a minimum of 2 of 3 members, has the power to de-select a player should the above circumstances arise. In the event that a decision to de-select a player is taken, the player will be informed of the decision of the LTA within 24 hours and will be entitled to appeal the decision in accordance with the appeals procedure set out in paragraph 8 above.