

WHEELCHAIR TENNIS 2020 NATIONAL AGE GROUP PROGRAMME SELECTION POLICY

1. AIM

The Wheelchair Tennis National Age Group Programme (NAGP) is designed to support junior players considered to be demonstrating early signs of potential to succeed at Grand Slam and Paralympic level in the long-term future.

Delivered as a series of camps, visits and trips, along with a structured individual development programme (IDP), it focuses on providing transformational training and competition opportunities to Britain's highest potential juniors. The programme is geared towards the player's long-term development, with the aim of supporting them on the journey toward selection for the Podium Potential / Pro-Scholarship Programme (PSP).

This document describes the criteria and process for selection for the NAGP only. This document is subject to annual review and may be updated intermittently.

2. BENEFITS

The LTA will work in collaboration with the player and their team to establish and support the delivery of a world class IDP. Those players selected for the NAGP will be eligible to:

- Receive a funding grant of up to £9,000, in line with their IDP, to support their coaching programme;
- Receive a tournament assistance grant of up to £3,000, in line with their IDP, to contribute to an agreed tournament schedule;
- Receive up to 3 visits per year, based on support required outlined in their IDP, from their designated LTA National Age-Group Coach;
- Receive Sports Science / Sports Medicine education and support (camp delivered); and
- Invitations to attend National camps.

3. NUMBER OF PLACES

There are a maximum number of NAGP places. In 2020, there will be places on the programme for up to 14 players. The Selection Panel will consider players based on this number of places but, are not obliged to fill every available place.

Where possible, places will be split equally across potential men, women and quad division players. This is subject to the number of players who meet the criteria. In the event that there are fewer players of a particular division than places available, the remaining NAGP places may be taken up by the other divisions.

Acceptance of a place on the NAGP is encouraged but optional. If a player chooses to decline the offer for any reason they will not be restricted from selection to represent Great Britain, but there will be no form of programme support.



4. JUNIOR REPRESENTATION FOR GREAT BRITAIN

Decisions made by the Panel are made in isolation from any decision in respect of selection for National or International events, including World Team Cup. Players do not need to be on the NAGP to be considered for selection for these events. Furthermore, selection for these events does not automatically mean that a player will be offered a place on the NAGP. Further information on the selection for these events will be published on the LTA website by the 1st February 2020.

5. PLAYER ELIGIBILITY

For 2020, to be eligible for the NAGP, players must meet the following criteria:

- a. He/she is eligible to compete for Great Britain at the Paralympic Games* (i.e. is a British Passport); and
- b. He/she is not currently serving a suspension for a doping violation and/or a breach of the anti-corruption rules¹;
- c. He/she was born in the years 2002-2009 inclusive

**Non British passport holders*

Those players who do not currently hold a British passport, but who are eligible for one, will be considered on a case-by-case basis. Such players who are interested in a place on the NAGP must email Chantal.cunningham@lta.org.uk by 1st February 2020 and provide:

- 1) evidence on how they are eligible for a British passport
- 2) where they are in the process of obtaining a British passport, and
- 3) details of their tennis background.

6. CONSIDERATION FOR SELECTION

Existing players

All players who were awarded a JFP agreement in 2019 will be automatically considered for selection if they remain eligible for the programme as outlined in point 5.

New players

The Panel will consider those (providing they are eligible – see section 5) who have demonstrated levels of performance and / or potential, in line with factors listed in the Evaluation of Player Suitability (Section 7) at any of the following:

- the British Open Junior 2019 event
- Junior Assessment Camps
 - o 11th January 2020, Oxford
 - o 12th January 2020, Preston

Performance limiting factors

A 'performance limiting factor' is an injury, illness (or combination of injuries and illnesses) or other sport/life factor which results in a significant interruption or impact upon playing for at least three

months – intermittent or continuous – in any single year. Those considered for selection that have had a performance limiting injury during 2019 may be required to provide the following details:

- 1) details of the injury including the full period missed, and,
- 2) any medical / physio reports confirming the injury. If this information is required, players will be contacted by a member of the LTA Performance Team.

The Lead Technical Performance Coach (LC), in consultation with the Performance Support Lead, will consider the evidence and impact of the injury and decide whether in the absence of this factor they believe that the player would likely have met the above criteria.

7. SELECTION PROCESS

Panel

All decisions are made by a panel chaired by the LC. The Performance Coach (PC) and Performance and Talent Coach (TC) will form the remainder of the Panel.

The selection panel may also have an independent wheelchair tennis expert (typically a leading coach, senior administrator or former player). The chair may nominate additional members of the LTA Wheelchair Performance Team to the selection panel to provide further relevant experience from time to time. If invited by the LC to formally sit on the panel then that member will have a vote.

The Panel will consist of a minimum of three members.

A member of the LTA's legal team will attend the meeting to advise on procedural issues and adherence to the policy but shall not have voting rights. A member of the LTA Performance Team may also be invited by the chair to attend and record selection decisions.

The Panel will exercise its discretion fairly and without bias in making its decision using the procedures set out in this document.

As each player is considered, Selection Panel members will declare any potential conflict of interest. The chair will decide if there is a conflict of interest. If there is, that Selection Panel member must leave the meeting during the consideration of that player.

Evaluation of player suitability

If a player fulfils the requirements in section 5 and 6, they will be evaluated against the criteria below, with consideration given to the player's future performance potential and their capability to be selected for the Podium Potential / Pro Scholarship Programme within 2 to 4 years.

1. **Starting the Point:** The player has the ability to create pressure when serving and returning through a variety of shots.
2. **Weapons/Game Style:** The player has the all-court game with emerging strengths to be successful now and at the next stage of the pathway.
3. **Physical Profile:** The player is likely to meet current and future ITF Classification criteria, with physical attributes to positively contribute to performances.

When evaluating a player against the criteria, the Panel will reflect on the following from dates between 1st January 2019 and the selection date:

- Performances at JFP camps and assessment camps;
- Performances and results at national and international competitions;
- Existing scouting data and match reports; and
- Physical testing and assessments carried out by LTA Performance Team personnel.

The Panel will discuss factors that may limit or enhance future performance potential in the context of the criteria set out above. This may include a player's maturational status, time competing in tennis, and whether their programme is aligned with the goals of the NAGP.

Where the Panel are unable to reach an agreement the Lead Technical Performance Coach will have the final decision, taking into consideration the evidence presented and the deliberations of the Panel.

Selection Term

For those born in the years 2003-2009 inclusive, players will be selected for a 21 month term, running from 1st April to 31st December 2021.

For those born in the year 2002, players will be selected for a 9 month term, running from 1st April to 31st December 2020.

Recording and Communication of Decision

Each decision to select or not select will be recorded.

The chair of the selection panel will make reasonable efforts either himself or through his senior management team to ensure that the shortlisted players are notified within one week of the conclusion of the selection meeting. Players will be informed that they have either been selected or not selected. Where possible, the notification of the decision will take place face to face however in certain circumstances this may also be done over the phone.

Calculating the level of support

Once selection decisions have been reached, the Panel will consider the level of financial grant that will be offered to each successful player.

The level of the financial grant will take into account:

- the age of the player
- consideration of the IDP and training programme in place
- consideration of the competition plan agreed, and
- the overall NAGP budget.

8. AGREEMENT AND INDIVIDUAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN

All selected players must sign the LTA's NAGP Annual Player Agreement in order to receive any benefits selected players are eligible to receive. If players would like to know more about this prior to entering the selection process then please contact Chantal Cunningham (Chantal.Cunningham@lta.org.uk).



All players on the NAGP will have an IDP in place, containing a set of individualised development objectives. These objectives will be established by a National Age-Group Coach, in discussion with players and their coaching team, and are intended to show whether the player is achieving the standards and progress necessary to show that they are on track to gain selection for the next stage of The Player Pathway. All objectives will be set at the discretion of the LTA.

9. KEY DATES

- Non British passport holders need to provide information by 1st February 2020.
- The Panel will meet on or around the 3rd March 2020 to consider player selections.
- All players will be advised by 6th March 2020 if they will be offered a place on the NAGP.
- The NAGP Induction camp will take place at the NTC from the 25-26 April 2020.

10. APPEALS

The LTA operate a formal appeal procedure for challenging NAGP selection decisions (including deselection and non-renewal of an NAGP place). The Appeals Procedure must be instigated within 72 hours of the player receiving notification regarding their non-selection on to the NAGP.

Such an appeal is to be made in writing to the Performance Director (the Appeal Chair) (or their nominee) of the LTA but only on one of the following grounds:

- There has been a failure by the selection panel to follow this selection policy (i.e. there has been a procedural defect); or
- The decision has been reached on the basis of an error of fact.

The Appeal Chair shall consider the player's appeal and may have a member of the LTA Legal Team in attendance to advise on this policy and its application. The Appeal Chair can decide:

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.

Footnotes

¹Where a player is serving such a suspension but the suspension is due to end during the period for which selections are being made, the Selection Panel may, at its discretion, choose to consider the player for selection. Should the player be selected, they would only be part of the NAGP once their suspension has ended.