

National Age Group Programme Activities Selection Criteria and Process

1. Introduction

The National Age Group Programme (NAGP) is focused on providing exceptional training, learning and competition opportunities for Britain's best juniors. The objective of the programme is to support the development of players so that they fulfil the selection criteria for the Pro-Scholarship Programme in future.

The NAGP has 3 core parts:

1. National Camps;
2. LTA Official Trips and junior representation for Great Britain; and
3. NAGP Annual Player Agreements subject to selection.

This document outlines the selection criteria and process for National Camps, LTA Official Trips and junior representation for Great Britain, including friendly international matches (together referred to as NAGP Activities, each a NAGP Activity). Further information on [NAGP Annual Player Agreements](#) and the selection criteria and process for these is on the LTA website.

2. Outline

The NAGP Activities enable Britain's best juniors to train with their peers as well as offering players opportunities to experience international competition. They are targeted at those players who, using multiple sources of evidence, are demonstrating the head, heart, legs and weapons to eventually transition onto the Pro-Scholarship Programme.

The NAGP Activities referred to in this document can be viewed online at the LTA website, in a document referred to as the NAGP Activity Calendar. The NAGP Activity Calendar lists all the upcoming activities that this document relates to and provides key information on them. For example:

Age Group	Date	Entry Deadline	Activity	Date of Selection Panel Meeting	Number of Players		Specific events that will guide selection if applicable	Shortlisting Requirements	Notes
					Girls	Boys			
U14	14-29 Apr 2018	20 Mar 2018 & 27 Mar 2018	Salona Open TE G3 & Mladost Grill Open TE G2, Croatia	19 Feb 2018	4	4	U14 Winter National Tour Finals (9-11 Feb 2018), U12 WNT(3) (15-18 Feb 2018)	MD acceptance at U14 WNT (2) or U14 WNT Finals or U12 WNT(3) (15-18/2/17). TE ranking of top 250.	Only players born in 2005 are eligible for selection.

This document should be read in conjunction with the NAGP Activity Calendar.

Further headline details of the NAGP Activities are given in table 1.

Table 1: NAGP Activities

Stage of pathway	National Performance Pathway (U14), Pro Tour Pathway (14+).
Objective	Enable more players to meet the selection criteria for the Pro Scholarship Programme.
Player selection	Centrally selected by LTA selection panel.
Number of players selected for each NAGP Activity	As set out on the NAGP Activity Calendar.

3. **Eligibility**

In order to be eligible to be considered for selection for NAGP Activities players must be:

- Within the age requirements of the NAGP activity in question. This, in the case of Tennis Europe and ITF Junior events, will be governed by the age requirements of these tournaments. National Camps and friendly international matches operate using international age categories (calendar year of birth) and not the seasonal age group system used in British junior domestic competitions;
- Eligible to represent Great Britain or, where the NAGP Activity does not require the player to be eligible to represent Great Britain, be committed to becoming eligible to represent Great Britain and has a reasonable prospect of becoming so by no later than 31 December 2019.

In addition, for LTA Official Trips to overseas tournaments that require entry it is the responsibility of the player to enter the tournament before the entry deadline. Players who have not entered or do not gain entry to these events are not eligible to be considered for selection. Players should only accept invitations and travel on trips if they are fully fit.

4. **Selection process**

Automatic shortlisting

The National Coach will prepare a shortlist of all those players that fulfil the 'Shortlisting Requirements' outlined in the NAGP Activity Calendar for each specific activity for the selection panel to consider.

Discretionary shortlisting

It is recognised that there could be some outliers to the shortlisting criteria. To ensure the appropriate players gain the opportunity to benefit from trips, camps and friendly international matches, each National Coach will be able to make the following discretionary nominations for each NAGP Activity (except in relation to the U12 and U14 National Camps):

- Up to 2 boys and 2 girls for players in U12 and U14 to the U14 Regional and National Age Group Programme Manager; and
- Up to 2 males and 2 females for players aged 14+ to the Head of Pro Tour Pathway.

In their nominations, the National Coach must set out using relevant evidence sources:

- a) Why the player has not achieved the 'Shortlisting Requirements'; and
- b) Why they believe the player has the potential to benefit from the development opportunity offered by the NAGP Activity.

These nominations will be considered by the U14 Regional and National Age Group Programme Manager (U12 and U14) and the Head of Pro Tour Pathway (14+) (or their nominee) who will make a decision on which, if any, discretionary nominees will be shortlisted based on the information supplied to them.

For U12 and U14 National Camps, each Talent Performance Manager can recommend one player from their region to the National Coach even if they do not meet the 'Shortlisting Requirements' outlined in the NAGP Activity Calendar.

In their recommendations, the TPM must set out using relevant evidence sources (match scouting reports, results profiles, trip and camp reports):

- Why the player has not achieved the 'Shortlisting Requirements'; and

- Why they believe the player has the potential to meet the NAGP Activity selection criteria for the upcoming National Camp.

The U14 Regional and National Age Group Programme Manager will then decide if this player is shortlisted for selection.

Selection criteria

The Selection Panel will assess every shortlisted player against the criteria below.

- Each category is worth one point with the 'Game Development' category worth two points.
- This will create a list in rank order with players who score the most points being selected.
- Where there are more players who have achieved the same score than there are places available, the U14 Regional and National Age Group Programme Manager (U12 and U14) and the Head of the Pro Tour Pathway (14+) will make the final decision based on who is most likely to reach the next stage of the pathway using any evidence supplied (this includes, amongst other things, match scouting reports, results profile, camp and trip reports).

Category	Description
RESULTS	In the opinion of the Selection Panel, does the player demonstrate results and a ranking profile relevant to the activity (including results in any specific event(s) listed for the relevant NAGP Activity in the NAGP Activity Calendar)?
HEART	The player fights and competes in competitive situations; and, when observed in a NAGP activity, applies themselves in training.
LEGS	The player demonstrates the physical resilience to thrive in this activity.
GAME DEVELOPMENT	<p>For u12 and u14 players, in the last 3 months the player has demonstrated, through their Player Development Plan, significant levels of improvement and is developing emerging strengths which can be developed into a game style that has the potential for success at future stages of the pathway.</p> <p>For players aged 14+, in the last 3 months the player has demonstrated, through their Player Development Plan, significant levels of improvement and or is developing emerging weapons (consistent with their game style) which can be successful now and at the next stage of the pathway (14+).</p>

Selection panel

The NAGP Activities Selection Panel will meet on the dates set out in the NAGP Activity Calendar to consider the shortlists for the NAGP Activities.

The Selection Panel consist of the following members (or their nominees):

U12

Chair – U14 Regional and National Age Group Programme Manager
U12 Boys and Girls Age Group Captains

U14

Chair – U14 Regional and National Age Group Programme Manager
U14 Boys and Girls Age Group Captains

U16, U18 (also referred to as 14+)

Chair – Head of Pro Tour Pathway
Men's Tennis Team Senior Coach
Women's Tennis Team National Coach

A member of the LTA's legal team may 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.

5. Communication of selections

All NAGP Activity selections will be published on the LTA website after the Selection Panel meet. Selected players will then be notified of the activity details.

Selections for National Camps (including the reserve list) will be published on the LTA website after the Selection Panel meet. Selected players will then receive an invitation to the camp.

6. Player Grants in place of official trips for players 14+

In some instances player grants will be awarded for overseas tournaments where an official trip is not planned. Such grants will be available only at the discretion of the LTA. In order to receive a grant a player must meet the eligibility criteria outlined in section 3 above and the following process will be followed.

- There will be a quarterly meeting chaired by the Head of Pro Tour Pathway with the Head of Men's or Women's Tennis (or their nominee). The Head of Men's / Women's Tennis will submit discretionary nominations to the Head of Pro Tour Pathway, in advance of the meeting, of the players to be considered for that quarter that they consider a) meet the selection criteria set out above; b) that they believe have the potential to benefit from the development opportunity offered by the relevant overseas tournament.
- In this meeting the performance of the players nominated by the Head of Men's / Women's Tennis, will be considered in line with the criteria set out in section 4 above to determine the players who will be given a grant to attend an overseas tournament.

7. Amendments

The LTA reserves the right to amend or cancel any trips or camps if necessary. The LTA may amend this policy from time to time. Any amended policy will be published on the LTA website.