

## **Regional Training**

### **1. Introduction**

Regional Training is focused on providing exceptional training and competition opportunities for junior players in order to support their development towards selection for the National Age Group Programme (NAGP) and National Academies.

The aim is to provide each region's best junior players the opportunity to train together on a regular basis as well as providing competitive match play opportunities between regions.

This document outlines the criteria and process for gaining an invitation to take part in Regional Training (RT) for the period 1 September 2018 to 31 August 2019.

Invitations onto RT are for a 12-month period; however a player's RT status will be continually reviewed around the criteria outlined in section 6.

### **2. Eligibility**

RT is for players aged between 10 and 14 years (on the 31 December 2019). Players under the age of 10 on 31 December 2019 will be considered if they sufficiently meet the invitation criteria in section 6.

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 2017, will be considered for shortlisting on a case-by-case basis. Such players must contact the Talent & Performance Manager in their region (see section 8 for contact details) by 9 July 2018 to confirm that they would like to be considered and provide:

- Details of their tennis background prior to moving to Great Britain; and
- Details of their tennis background since moving to Great Britain.

### **3. Allocation of places**

A maximum of 250 players will be invited to attend RT at one of six regional groups across the country. The breakdown of these groups can be seen in section 4.

The exact distribution of places in each RT will be dependent on the number of players that achieve the criteria. Each RT will however to operate at a minimum of 20 players and a maximum of 60 players. There is no obligation to fill every available place.

Where possible, places will be split equally across boys and girls. This is subject to the number of players who meet the criteria. In the event that there are fewer players of a particular gender than places available, the remaining RT places may be taken up by the other gender.

### **4. Regions**

Players will be eligible for selection for RT in the region in which they reside. In England, the five regions are made up of the following counties:

- North – Northumberland, Cumbria, Durham and Cleveland, Lancashire, Yorkshire, Cheshire, Isle of Man.

- Midlands – Shropshire, Staffordshire, Derbyshire, Nottinghamshire, Lincolnshire, Herefordshire and Worcestershire, Warwickshire, Leicestershire.
- East – Northamptonshire, Cambridgeshire, Norfolk, Oxfordshire, Buckinghamshire, Bedfordshire, Suffolk, Berkshire, Hertfordshire, Essex.
- South East – Surrey, Middlesex, Sussex, Kent.
- South West – Cornwall, Somerset, Devon, Avon, Gloucestershire, Wiltshire, Dorset, Hampshire and Isle of Wight, Channel Islands.

For Scotland, players residing in Scotland will train in the Tennis Scotland RT and Scotland will compete as a region in inter region matches.

For Wales, players living in South Wales will be eligible for invitation to the South West RT (in England). Players residing in North Wales will be eligible for invitation to the North RT (in England). For any inter region matches, Wales will compete as a region with players residing in Wales but training in the South West and North being eligible.

In addition to the above:

- A player may be deemed to reside in a region if they attend a residential school in a particular region;
- In exceptional circumstances the LTA may permit a player to attend RT in a region in which they do not reside if it deems this to be appropriate;
- If a player is selected for RT and subsequently moves to a different region following selection, they will automatically be permitted to attend the RT in such region.

## **5. Shortlist Criteria**

A shortlist of players in each region will be created by the National Player (NP) Pathway Coaching Team, which includes National Age-Group and Regional Pathway Coaches.

Players who satisfy the below shortlist criteria will be shortlisted:

- Players who have attended the Summer 2018 term of Regional Training;
- Players aged up to 14 on the 31 December 2018 who have reached the last 8 or better of the singles in the main draw of an LTA Winter National or Summer National Tour Grade 2 tournament between 1 September 2017 and 8 July 2018 (inclusive);
- Players aged 10 on the 31 December 2019 who have been invited to a minimum of 2 Regional Training Camps between 1 September 2017 and 1 March 2018 (inclusive) (England and Wales);
- Players aged 10 on the 31 December 2018 who have been invited by Tennis Scotland to 2 National Training Camps and/or U9 Inter Regional matches between 1 September 2017 and 8 July 2018 ; and
- Players who do not meet the above shortlist criteria, but show significant potential based on the invitation criteria identified in section 6.

As identified in section 3, the NP Pathway Coaching Team may also shortlist any players under the age of 10 that are of the appropriate level based on the invitation criteria in section 6.

The NP Pathway Coaching Team may also shortlist a player who has had a long term injury / illness (minimum of three months – intermittent or continuous) that has precluded them from achieving the required shortlist criteria. They may do so on the basis that, in their expert opinion, they believe that when fully fit the player still merits invitation based on

their on-going realistic potential to progress to the next stage of the player pathway, e.g. NAGP and National Academies.

## **6. Invitation Panel and Process**

The RT Invitation Panel (The Panel) will include the Head of National Performance Pathway, the National and Regional Pathway Manager and additional representation from within the LTA's NP Pathway Team.

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.

The Panel will meet during the week commencing 16<sup>th</sup> July.

### *Automatic invitations*

The following players will gain an automatic invitation to attend RT:

- Players who were selected as NAGP Scholars in December 2017.
- Players who have attended at least one LTA National Camp (U12 and U14) in the period from 1 September 2017 to 1 July 2018.

### *Remaining invitations*

The Panel will consider all of the following invitation criteria in any order and with the appropriate weighting that they see fit;

- Head. Does the player look for solutions and ways to win in competitive situations? Does the player demonstrate an appetite for learning and development?
- Heart. Does the player demonstrate characteristics indicating their willingness to fight and compete in competitive situations? Does the player apply themselves in training?
- Legs. Does the player demonstrate athletic qualities that suggest they can positively influence the outcome of matches now and in the future?
- Weapons. Does the player have the potential to develop a robust all-court game? Does the player show the attributes that, in time, could be developed into match-winning weapons?
- Current performance. Is the player starting to demonstrate relevant results (for their age and stage) and is beginning to build a ranking profile?
- Future potential. Is the player showing the required levels that indicate they are likely to reach the next stage of the pathway?

Those who best fulfil these invitation criteria will determine which additional players are invited to RT, and therefore, conclude the final make-up of each RT group. Where more players meet the invitation criteria than there are places available, the Panel will use its discretion to determine which players offer the most potential to progress to the next stage of the performance pathway.

Players not invited to partake in RT at the start of the year (e.g. September 2018) may be reconsidered for invitation at a later date if there are sufficient places available. Such decisions will be made on a quarterly basis, typically occurring in the month of January, April and June.

## **7. Communication**

All selected players will be informed by email from their Regional Pathway Coach no later than 30 July 2018. All selections will then be published on the LTA website.

The LTA may amend this policy periodically. Any amended policy shall be published on the LTA website.

## 8. Contact

<b>Region</b>	<b>Contact</b>	<b>Email</b>
North (inc. North Wales)	Chris Peet	<a href="mailto:chris.peet@lta.org.uk">chris.peet@lta.org.uk</a>
Midlands	Andy Barnes - interim	<a href="mailto:andy.barnes@lta.org.uk">andy.barnes@lta.org.uk</a>
East	Sarah Hylton	<a href="mailto:sarah.hylton@lta.org.uk">sarah.hylton@lta.org.uk</a>
South East	Keith Pullin	<a href="mailto:keith.pullin@lta.org.uk">keith.pullin@lta.org.uk</a>
South West (inc. South Wales)	Martin Weston - interim	<a href="mailto:martin.weston@lta.org.uk">martin.weston@lta.org.uk</a>