

SportsAid, supported by Sport England, is the UK's leading charity who receives funding from its partners, donors and fundraisers to financially support the next generation of young and aspiring athletes, during the defining early years of their careers. With the help of the National Governing Bodies, SportsAid aims to help these athletes achieve sporting success by enabling them to commit to training and to compete hard to help them progress to the international level in their sport.

Since 1976, SportsAid has helped many of Britain's best known and most successful athletes, such as Jessica Ennis-Hill CBE and Tom Daley. At the London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games, approximately 67% of the Great Britain team had at some point in their sporting career received funding from SportsAid.

Each year, National Governing Bodies from 75 sporting disciplines, are allocated a certain number of nominations and are asked to nominate their rising stars, who meet their own criteria, for SportsAid Awards. Due to the established partnership the LTA holds with SportsAid, this year we have been offered up to 30 nominations, which we believe creates an invaluable and exciting opportunity for athletes to gain additional support and funding.

In order to make these 30 nominations, the criteria* set out by the LTA for 2016 are that the individual must:

- Be aged between 12 and 16; and
- Have been selected for official age group representation (U12, U14, U16 Winter Cup, U12, U14, U16 Summer Cup, U14, U16 European Individuals, Junior Davis Cup and Junior Fed Cup) in 2015; or
- Be ranked in the top 2 in their age group (U12 – U16**) – to include individual year categories*** (U13, U15).

If there are more than 30 players meeting the criteria, the final list of nominations will be decided by a panel of senior national coaches chaired by the Head of Men's and Women's Tennis Operations. In such a case, nominations will be made using the following criteria:

- The player's 'on court game' in terms of the technical, tactical, physical and mental capabilities that will be required to succeed at the highest level of international tennis; and
- The player's attitude, work ethic and adaptability. A player's disciplinary record may also be taken into account.

So, how does the process work?

- The nomination process is an online "by nomination only" system****
- Nominations have to be made by the LTA to SportsAid by the closing date of 30th November
- Once nominated by the LTA, you will then be contacted by SportsAid and invited to submit and complete an online nomination form via email

* The LTA may, at its own discretion, change some of the criteria year on year. The LTA also retains the right to nominate fewer than 30 players if deemed appropriate.

** The rankings as of Friday 4th September 2015 and Friday 13th November 2015 will be used to determine eligibility (two dates will be used to reflect current competition age groups).

*** For clarity, the top 2 names on each ranking list will be taken, even if these players are younger and feature on two age group lists. U13 and U15 ranking lists will be compiled by applying a filter to the U14 and U16 ranking lists.

**** Please note that the nomination stage of the process is only the primary stage and does not guarantee the athlete a cash award.