

LTA Policy on Travel to Unstable Countries

This policy sets out the LTA's action plan for players and coaches intending to compete in countries which have been deemed unsafe for travel by the British Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO). The FCO website (www.gov.uk/foreign-travel-advice) is the main way of finding out up to date information on travel to all countries and should be taken as the central authority on travel safety advice. The LTA may on occasion also take advice from local security advisors in unstable regions who provide up to date security information on changing risk assessments.

In the event of a tournament or trip taking place in a country where the advice from the FCO is to **avoid travel to the whole country or to the parts of the country** where the event will take place, then the LTA will likely cancel any official trip that they have organised. This decision will be made by the Head of Men's and Women's Tennis Operations (or their nominee) and at least 2 out of the Legal Director, Finance Director, Performance Director and CEO. In instances where those individuals are unavailable and a decision needs to be made, other members of the Executive Team shall make the decision. Other LTA staff or relevant stakeholders may also be consulted including: the National Junior Coach Manager; the Head Coach of Men's Tennis; the Head Coach of Women's Tennis; and certain colleagues, parents, players and relevant security advisors. The LTA is not responsible for making this decision or informing players on the entry list who are not travelling as part of an official British team.

In the event of a tournament or trip taking place in a country where the advice from the FCO is to **avoid all but essential travel to the whole country or to the parts of the country** where the event will take place, then the LTA will come to a reasoned decision on whether to send players and coaches to the country taking into account the exact circumstances of the trip. This decision will be made by the Head of Men's and Women's Tennis Operations (or their nominee) and at least 2 out of the Legal Director, Finance Director, Performance Director and CEO. In instances where those individuals are unavailable and a decision needs to be made, other members of the Executive Team shall make the decision. Other LTA staff or relevant stakeholders may also be consulted including: the National Junior Coach Manager; the Head Coach of Men's Tennis; the Head Coach of Women's Tennis; and certain colleagues, parents, players and relevant security advisors. Should a decision be made not to send players under this circumstance, the LTA will not be responsible for informing any players on the entry list of the particular tournament except for those who were due to be on the official trip.

In both events above, any players generally covered by the LTA's travel insurance will not be covered for travel to that country under these circumstances should they decide to go regardless of decisions taken by the LTA.

In the event that players have travelled to a country that **was not deemed a high risk at the time of travel**, but that then experiences a security risk incident or situation which affects the risk rating from the FCO, the following will occur. If the risk rating from the FCO is advising against all travel to the country following the incident, then the LTA will repatriate players on any official trips as soon as possible. If the risk rating changes to advise against all but essential travel then a decision will be made on whether or not to repatriate players on any official trip. This decision will be made by the Head of Men's and Women's Tennis Operations (or their nominee) and at least 2 out of the Legal Director, Finance Director, Performance Director and CEO). Other LTA staff or relevant stakeholders may also be consulted including: the National Junior Coach Manager; the Head Coach of Men's Tennis; the Head Coach of Women's Tennis; and certain colleagues, parents, players and relevant security advisors. If this decision is taken, the LTA is not responsible for informing any players on the entry list of the particular tournament except for those who were due to be on the official trip. Instead, these players should seek advice or follow the direction provided by the FCO online (www.gov.uk/foreign-travel-advice).

If, once a decision has been made not to travel to an unstable region, an LTA member of staff proceeds with any travel plans and visits this country in an official capacity, they should be aware that this may be a disciplinary offence.

The Men's and Women's Tennis Coordinator will keep a detailed Risk Assessment log of all incidents. Players, parents and coaches with any questions or queries about travel to an unstable country can contact Sophie Thomas to enquire into the decisions made by the LTA.

- Sophie Thomas Sophie.Thomas@lta.org.uk or 0208 487 7136.