

WORLD TEAM CUP 2021

Selection Policy

Venue: Sardinia

Competition dates: 27th Sept – 3rd October 2021

Aim

The stated aims of the Wheelchair Performance Pathway for the World Team Cup are:

- To achieve medals in a minimum of 2 of the divisions
- To qualify prospective players for Paris 2024
- To support optimal preparation for Paris 2024 performances

CRITERIA FOR SELECTION FOR REPRESENTING GREAT BRITAIN

1. Introduction

The International Tennis Federation (the **ITF**) offers each nation up to 4 places for each of the men's, women's, quad and junior teams (juniors must be 18 or under on 31.12.2021) at the World Team Cup 2021 (the **WTC**).

The LTA will be selecting up to 4 players for each of the divisions based on the Selection Criteria set out below.

All players on the Wheelchair Performance Pathway (the **WCPP**) must make themselves available for selection.

2. Selection Timeline

20 th May 2021	LTA WTC Selection Panel to convene to decide which players shall be selected for the WTC.
24 th May 2021	Players will be informed of selection in writing by 5pm. Should a player wish to appeal the decision of the LTA WTC Selection Panel, he/she must follow the Selection Appeals Procedure (attached).

Please note that the above dates are subject to change.

3. WTC Selection Panel

It is the responsibility of the LTA to select the players for the WTC. The LTA delegates this responsibility to the WTC Selection Panel (the Panel). The Panel will consist of:

- a) Rob Cross – WCPP Head Coach
- b) Helen Reesby – Head of Performance Operations & Wheelchair Performance Pathway (Chair)
- c) Cain Berry – WCPP Performance Support Lead

The Panel will first determine which players meet the Essential Eligibility Criteria at paragraph 5. The Panel will then assess the players who meet the Essential Eligibility Criteria against the Specific Selection Criteria at

paragraph 6 to determine which players will be selected for the WTC. The Panel will use its expert knowledge of both the sport and elite performance sport to make such decisions.

If any member of the Panel has a conflict of interest on a selection matter, the member shall declare that interest and the Chair will rule how the conflict will be dealt with to ensure fairness.

The Panel reserves the right not to select as many players as there may be places available if it is felt it is in the best interests of the team achieving the stated aims.

4. Selection Meeting

- The Panel may consult specialists including, but not limited to, the programme physiotherapists, psychologist, medical practitioners and National Coaches as appropriate.
- Where such specialist input is obtained, the advice and/or recommendations will be minuted.
- If there is ever a situation resulting in a split decision, the WCPP Head Coach will have the casting vote.

5. Essential Eligibility Criteria

To be eligible for consideration by the Panel, each player must:

- Be eligible to represent Great Britain under the Rules of the Lawn Tennis Association Limited (the **LTA**) (see the LTA website under LTA rule 34.1 and Appendix 2 – Player eligibility, www.lta.org.uk).
- Be in good standing with the LTA.
- Be medically fit and, if required, attend a medical examination by the Programme Doctor or a physiotherapist appointed by the LTA
- Have no pending or outstanding anti-doping or anti-corruption violations.

6. Specific Selection Criteria

Players will be selected taking into consideration the factors below.

- Being a member of the Great Britain Wheelchair Performance Pathway Team
- Performances in singles and doubles on the ITF Wheelchair Tennis Tour over the previous 12 months.
- Track record of performance representing Great Britain.
- Potential for selection for the Paralympic Games in 2024 and 2028, based on player profile, current ranking, ranking progression and results.
- Additional factors including potential GB doubles pairings, seedings, court surface, team goals and team cohesion.
- Adherence to the Code of Conduct in the Player Agreement.
- Exceptional circumstances, including those related to a player's individual performance needs, which are relevant to the player's suitability for selection.
- Positive progression in training and competition performance indicators evidenced from coach reports, athlete reviews and objective test results, including content in IDPs

7. Communication of Selection

Players will be notified of their nomination (or, in some instances, otherwise) by 5pm on 24th May 2021. The LTA will endeavour to contact all players in contention for selection to communicate the decision of the Panel, giving non-selected athletes an opportunity to seek clarification on reasons for non-selection. All selection decision communications will be followed up in writing.

8. Confidentiality

All players, coaches, members of the support team and any other individuals involved in the selection process must keep all information relating to the selection process confidential and not disclose any information regarding the process, the nominated athletes and the team selected unless authorised to do so by the LTA or once information has been made public by the LTA.

9. Changes to the Selection Process

The LTA will have the right to amend or vary this Selection Policy and the Selection Criteria where necessary at any time in order to meet the requirements of the ITF selection policy. These changes and amendments, having been discussed and agreed, will be clearly communicated to all parties. This Selection Policy may be updated periodically; for example changes may be made to the selection process and timeline, and dates and processes may be subject to change as a result of COVID-19 requirements. Any amendments shall be published on the LTA website so please check for changes on a regular basis.

10. Appeals

Should a player wish to appeal against the LTA selection decision, the player must do so in writing or by email within 5 working days of receiving written notice of the decision to the Performance Director of the LTA (Michael Bourne) at the National Tennis Centre, 100 Priory Lane, Roehampton, London, SW15 5JQ, email address jasmina.lazarevic@lta.org.uk. Full details of the Selection Appeals Procedure are attached at Schedule 1.

No appeals will be allowed against the content of this Selection Policy and the Selection Criteria (both as amended from time to time).

11. De-selection

In the circumstances listed below, the Panel will be convened to consider the de-selection of a player.

- **Illness or injury**
A player may be required to prove his/her fitness to compete by attending a medical examination and/or a fitness test with the Programme Doctor or LTA physiotherapist. The criteria for this will be made available. In the event of an injury or illness following selection, the player (and any coach or member of staff working with the team) must pass a medical examination and/or fitness test prior to travelling.
- **Level of Performance**
In the event that a player's performances result in a substantial fall in ranking or are well below expectations, consideration will be given to withdrawing the invitation to the WTC, unless there is an exceptional reason for this.
- **Discipline**
Any breach of discipline under the Performance Player Code of Conduct and the applicable Rules of the LTA or ITF and non-adherence to the conditions of the WCP will be taken into account when considering any action to be taken, including the withdrawal of the invitation to compete at the WTC.
- **Anti-Doping**
Any investigation or disciplinary action taken in respect of an alleged anti-doping violation, whether in or out of competition. A proven anti-doping offence will result in immediate de-selection.

The Panel has the power to de-select a player should any of the above circumstances arise. In the event that a decision to de-select a player is taken, the player will be informed of the decision of the Panel within 24 hours and will be entitled to appeal the decision. The Selection Appeals Procedure attached at Schedule 1 will be followed in such circumstances with the dates amended appropriately to the circumstances.

12. Replacements/Reserves

Should a selected athlete be unable to compete, the Panel reserves the right to nominate a replacement. A replacement player must meet all the published eligibility criteria.

13. General

All players, coaches and support staff selected will be expected to stay with the team in the allocated hotel.

Schedule 1

Selection Appeals Procedure

Players who have not been selected by the Selection Panel are entitled to appeal against the Selection Panel's decision. Such an appeal is to be made in writing (with full reasons and supporting evidence) within 7 days of the applicant receiving his/her written selection decision to the LTA Performance Director or their nominee (the Appeal Chair) but only on one or both of the following grounds:

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

The Appeal Chair can decide, based on the written appeal and any supporting written evidence provided, to either:

1. set aside the Selection Panel's decision as it was based on an error of fact or procedurally flawed and remit the matter to the Selection Panel for reconsideration; or
2. uphold the Selection Panel's decision.

The player will be informed of the appeal decision in writing. 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.