"RAPID RESPONSE" POLICY 2027

Purpose

To support players on the cusp of achieving performance tennis milestones aligned to the LTAs ten year performance strategy in circumstances where a short-term performance or development intervention could make a significant trajectory difference, but the player does not have the ability to put this intervention in place without LTA support. Primarily this refers to the achievement of PSP or PTP selection standards or achieving the ranking required for Grand Slam qualification or main draw participation. The Rapid Response Policy allows for players to receive, finite support (including where necessary reasonable investment) when players:

1. Are not presently on an LTA Supported or Delivered programme (e.g. finishing from a US/UK college) but are showing an exceptional trajectory towards the next level of the player pathway. This includes, but is not limited to, circumstances where a player has already made selection shortlisting standards for LTA Supported or Delivered programmes prior to Q4 but their existing support presents limitations to maintaining this trajectory and momentum.
2. Are on an LTA Supported or Delivered programme and are showing an exceptional trajectory towards the next level of the player pathway including having already met selection shortlisting standards for the next stage of LTA Delivered programme prior to Q4 but their existing support presents limitations to maintaining this trajectory and momentum.
3. Are already at Grand Slam qualification level and on a trajectory to achieve a Top 100 ranking within six months if they can access the right tournaments and deliver the requisite results, but their existing support presents limitations to maintaining this trajectory and momentum.

The intention of this policy is to offer a quick turnaround option for providing, normally short term (six months or less) but defined and high impact interventions to a handful of priority players as defined above where their continued progress and performance successes will contribute to the objectives of the LTAs ten year performance strategy.

Key points

Eligibility

Players would be eligible to be considered for Rapid Response support if:

1. They are on an LTA Supported or Delivered programme and are on a trajectory that includes having met selection shortlisting standards for the next stage of LTA Delivered programmes prior to Q4 and their existing support presents limitations to maintaining their trajectory.
2. They are not currently on an LTA Supported or Delivered programme but are on an exceptional trajectory arc and have been or are likely (based on age and trajectory for grand slam participation or meeting minimum selection consideration criteria prior to Q4 for PSP or PTP) to be selected onto a programme at the next selection/start opportunity or achieve Grand Slam participation by right in the next six months, but their existing support presents risks and limitations to maintaining their trajectory.
3. Are already at Grand Slam qualification level and are assessed to be on a trajectory to achieve a Top 100 ranking within six months if they are able to deliver the requisite tournament results.

Priority order:

a) Players who have been selected on to an LTA Programme at the annual selection meeting with a deferred start date (to bridge the gap from a current programme ending to the deferred start date).

b) Players who are already playing at Grand Slam qualification level and are assessed to be on a trajectory to achieve a Top 100 ranking within six months if they are able to deliver the requisite tournament results.
c) Players who meet the shortlisting or selection criteria for PSP or PTP prior to Q4 (to bridge the gap from that point in the year to the selection meeting and potential start date) or are on a trajectory likely to result in Grand Slam qualification participation within six months and would significantly benefit from additional support.

Decision making process

For non-financial based interventions (e.g., provision of performance support or National Coach assistance) the relevant Head of Tennis and the Head of Performance Science and Medicine have the authority to deploy such services in line with the processes and procedures already in place across the NTC Access and [deployment of Science and Medicine Services] policies.

For interventions involving a direct or indirect (e.g., deployment of coaching paid for by the LTA) award:

- A direct or indirect award of £2,000 or less and funded within the Men's Tennis, Women's Tennis, Wheelchair Tennis or National Performance Pathway Budgets can be approved by the relevant Head of Tennis.
- A direct or indirect award of £2,000+ must be approved by the relevant Head of Tennis and the Performance Director

What could be awarded:

- Financial grant for:
  - Travel - towards competition trip costs (flights, hotel, agreed expenses)
  - Coaching / Training – towards fees of an approved coach or SSSM practitioner
- In kind coaching – utilising coaches from the LTA Tennis teams for an agreed short-term period (at base or on the road as agreed)
- SSSM support – utilising S&C, physio, medical, nutritional etc. services from the LTA SSSM team
- Competitive opportunities – Wild Cards into domestic international events
- Insurance for:
  - Travel – for cover whilst away competing using LTA financial grant
  - Medical in the UK – TBC
- Increased access to an LTA training venue (e.g., National Tennis Centre, Nottingham Tennis Centre)

Restrictions

- Financial grants will only be provided for named activities and spend areas for a pre-specified period no longer than six months. Any financial awards will normally, but not exclusively, be awarded based on a specific and defined cost the Rapid Response grant is seeking to meet or using a pro-rata calculation based on whether the player is realistically next targeting Grand Slam Junior (International Junior grants), Grand Slam qualification (PTP grants) or Grand Slam main draw (PSP grants) competition in that six month period.
- A player normally is not eligible for financial grants through Rapid Response support in consecutive years, unless educational commitments or exceptional circumstances

prevent them from competing in a full schedule, in which case the grant may then be spread across multiple years.

- There is a fixed pot annually to be allocated on a first-come basis. The pot may vary year on year depending on the budget available and once the funding pot is spent no more funds will be allocated for the year through Rapid Response.

Proposed Process

- Someone meets the criteria and is put forward by a member of the Men's, Women's, National Pathway or Wheelchair Pathway team to be considered for the support. Information needed is:
  - Who? Player's name and details (age, ranking etc.)
  - Why? What reason are they seeking Rapid Response support.
  - What? How much or what support are they requesting.
- The relevant Head of Tennis needs to confirm / endorse the proposal.
- If less than £2,000 and only drawing support within the approval rights of the relevant "Head of" then the nominating "Head of" can approve the proposed support. If more than £2,000 and/or requires access to support outside of the relevant "Head of" remit to approve the Performance Director and relevant other 'Heads of' will convene to make a decision.
- The outcome is communicated via the relevant case manager or the Performance Ops Team.
- All proposals and awards are recorded by the Performance Ops Team.
- No appeals process will be in place.
- No financial assistance should be awarded until any relevant programme enhancements are agreed with the case manager.

Request of Players in Receipt of Rapid Response Support

Players who benefit from Rapid Response support and are not currently on an LTA Delivered Programme may be asked to provide up to half a day (4 hours) of their time to support LTA initiatives in the proceeding six months. It is anticipated the player will make reasonable endeavours to meet any request made of them as long as this does not distract from training or competition activity.