LTA WHEELCHAIR ELITE PROGRAMME SELECTION POLICY 2027

1. INTRODUCTION

This policy explains how players will be selected to the Wheelchair Performance Pathway (WCPP) Elite Programme for 2027. The following players are eligible to be considered:

- Male and female players who are achieving major tournament success and have the potential to win Grand Slam titles and Paralympic medals.

Players selected for the WCPP Elite Programme will be required to enter into a formal player contract with the LTA which will detail their grant and their responsibilities, commitments, and accountabilities (such as agreeing an Individual Development Plan (IDP), structuring daily training and planning annual schedules) to the LTA's WCPP Elite Programme.

To be eligible for the WCPP Elite Programme the Player must be eligible to represent Great Britain in the World Team Cup (WTC) events and Paralympic Games.

A player will not be eligible for the WCPP Elite Programme during any period that they are the subject of a provisional sanction, or a sanction (or other investigation outcome) accepted or imposed under the LTA Disciplinary Code or by any other tennis or sporting national or international body (including but not limited to in relation to any anti-doping and/or anti-corruption offence).

2. CONSIDERATION FOR SELECTION (SHORTLISTING)

To be considered for selection, players must:

a) meet the shortlisting ranking criteria (2.1), or
b) meet the exceptional circumstances requirements (2.2) or
c) be currently (2026) receiving support through the WCPP Elite Programme

2.1 Shortlisting ranking criteria

Any players who have met the following singles ranking criteria at any point between Monday 13th July 2026 and Monday 2nd November 2026 will be considered for selection. These shortlisting targets have been established using multiple evidence sources to determine likely competitive performances at Grand Slams, Paralympic Games and Super Series level events.

Division	Shortlisting Criteria
Women's	**7**

Men's	**7**
Quads	**7**

If you do not wish to be considered for selection, please email Chantal Cunningham (Chantal.cunningham@lta.org.uk) by 5pm on Thursday 29th October 2026.

For all key dates in this selection process, please see appendix 1.

2.2 Exceptional circumstances – Injury/illness

If a player has had a long-term injury / illness (resulting in the player missing a minimum of 3 consecutive months of competition) during 2026, or has missed a minimum of 3 consecutive months of the 2026 season due to another exceptional reason, then they must supply in writing to the Wheelchair Tennis Operations Manager (via email Chantal.Cunningham@lta.org.uk), by 5pm on Thursday 29th October 2026.

- Details of the injury / issue including the full period missed; and
- Medical / physio or other reports confirming the injury and / or reason for absence.

The Head of Wheelchair Performance Pathway, and the WCPP National Coaches (or their nominees), will then consider the evidence and impact of the injury or issue and decide whether this factor alone prevented the player from meeting the shortlisting ranking criteria. Evidence will include match observations, progress against a players Individual Development Plan (IDP) and ranking progress in 2026. Where this is not available, match observations from the previous 12-24 months will be considered together with their ranking profile and ranking trajectory for their age and years in the sport prior to the period of absence.

If it is deemed to be the case that the impact of the injury or issue was the sole factor that prevented the player from meeting the shortlisting ranking, then the player will be shortlisted due to exceptional circumstances. If not, then they will be notified accordingly. Players will be informed by Monday 2nd November if they have or have not been shortlisted due to exceptional circumstances.

All shortlisted players will then be considered for selection by the Selection Panel.

3. THE SELECTION PROCESS

3.1 The Selection Panel

The Selection Panel will comprise of the Head of Wheelchair Performance Pathway and the National Coaches (or their nominees):

The Selection Panel may also have an independent professional wheelchair tennis expert (typically a leading coach, senior administrator, or former player). The Head of Wheelchair Performance

Pathway will chair the Selection Panel. The Chair may nominate additional members of the LTA's WCPP Team to the Selection Panel to provide further relevant expertise from time to time. If invited by the Head of Wheelchair Performance Pathway to formally sit on the Panel, then they will have a vote.

A member of the LTA's legal team may attend meetings of the Selection Panel to advise on procedural issues and adherence to the Policy but shall not have voting rights. A member of the LTA Performance Operations Team may also be invited by the Chair to attend to record the selection decisions.

At the start of the Selection Meeting the Selection Panel members will declare any potential conflicts of interest. The Chair will decide if there is a conflict of interest. If there is, that Selection Panel member must leave the meeting during the consideration of that player.

3.2 Selection criteria

All players shortlisted for the WCPP Elite Programme will be considered by the Selection Panel in a formal selection meeting on Thursday 5th November 2026. Each player will be considered against two types of criteria:

- Type 1: – a set of ranking and results factors which suggest the player is on the right trajectory of winning Grand Slam titles and Paralympic medals and

- Type 2: – a set of development and performance-based criteria which take into account the player's overall development and performance profile and likelihood of continuing to achieve the WCPP Elite programme selection criteria.

There are two ways a player can meet the selection criteria:

1) The player achieves both Type 1 criteria; or
2) The player achieves one of the Type 1 criteria and a minimum of four of the five Type 2 criteria.

Type 1:
Players must have achieved the Type 1 criteria at any point between Monday 13th July and Monday 2nd November 2026.

Players will be assessed upon the following two performance outcome factors:

A. Ranking – the player's current ranking and their career ranking trajectory over time indicate the player remains on track to maintain elite player status. The player's ranking progress over time will be assessed against World ranking data of current and previous Grand Slam winners and Paralympic Medallists.
B. Results – the player's recent results (typically within the respective calendar year) against higher ranked opponents indicates likely future competitiveness to win Grand Slam titles and Paralympic medals. The player's results over the year (and in some cases, previous years) will be assessed to determine the likelihood of achieving greater consistency of performance at a higher level in the near future.

Type 2:

The following Type 2 criteria will be applied and therefore performances in relation to Top 7 players will be the primary factors for consideration:

1. First Contact / Starting the Point:
The player has the ability to consistently create pressure through targeted serves with pace, spin, and accuracy. The player has the ability to consistently create pressure through targeted returns with pace, spin, and accuracy.
2. Weapons: The player has the ability to consistently create & convert opportunities, using physical attributes and weapons.
3. Matchplay Competitor: The player has the ability to consistently showcase the skills and behaviours to adapt and thrive in match play situations and competition environment.
4. Physical attributes: The player is maximising their physical attributes and mobility to support weapons, the execution of 'game style' and sustained performance throughout the year.
5. Training environment: The player is maximising the impact of training opportunities to enhance potential & performance.

3.2.1 Determining a Players readiness for the Elite Programme

For all players who meet the above Selection Criteria before being offered a place on the programme the Panel will determine if they are ready to meet the demands of the WCPP Elite Programme. In making this decision the Panel will consider the below areas:

- has the player demonstrated the ability to transition and compete on the professional tour with consideration given to the number of events the player has competed in during the current calendar year.
- commitment to a full-time playing schedule.
- relevant coaching and training programme.
- composition of ranking with consideration given to the consistency of the player's performance, the average points scored per event and the ranking of players beaten during the current calendar year.

If the Panel deem the Player is not ready to meet the demands of the Elite Programme even if they have met the selection criteria in 3.2, they will not be selected for the programme.

All selected players must complete a full medical review and physical testing with the LTA Sport Science and Medicine team before their position on the programme is officially confirmed.

3.3 Using evidence and expert opinion to support decision making

The following sources of evidence and expert opinion will be used to inform the decision making during the selection meeting:

- Match scouting reports captured in an online reporting app by the LTA WCPP team, including statistics and comments.
- Match footage and statistics from video captured by the LTA Performance Analysis Team, LTA WCPP Team, or other verified sources (e.g. ITF / IBM etc.).
- Statistical analysis of game styles at the top of Women's, Men's, Quads professional Wheelchair tennis.
- WCPP National Coaches expert judgement.
- Consideration of a ranking trajectory against WITTW model for Grand Slam success and Paralympic medallists, which establishes a level of probability that a player will reach a certain ranking in future based on their years in the sport, current age, and ranking; and
- LTA Physical testing data and relevant match / training monitoring information.

In the case of a tie as to whether a particular criterion has been met, the Chair will have the casting vote.

3.4 Finalising numbers

There is no set number of spaces available each year, the number of players able to be selected is dependent on a budget limit. If more players meet the selection criteria than there are places available, the following priority order will be applied to establish a rank order of candidates and the distribution of budget:

1. Players who have met the Type 1 criteria
2. Players who have met the most Type 2 criteria

If players are tied on the number of criteria, they have met and there are more players than there are places (and budget) available the Chair will have the casting vote. In doing so, the Chair will consider, the evidence presented to and the deliberations of the Selection Panel and which players he or she believes are most likely to achieve the objectives of the WCPP Elite Programme.

3.5 Calculating the level of support

Once selection decisions have been reached, the Selection Panel will consider the level of financial grant and length of contract that will be offered to each successful player.

The level of the financial grant will take into account all the evidence presented to the Selection Panel with specific consideration being given to the probability of the player to win Grand Slams and Paralympic Medals based on current age, years in the sport and ranking, and the expert judgement of the WCPP National Coaches. In addition, consideration will also be given to the players training and competition plan (and commitment to this plan) and the overall WCPP budget. The level of support available may therefore only be confirmed after the player's IDP has been discussed and agreed. Based on all the above, the level of support available may differ from player to player.

All selected players will be offered an initial 1-year term.

The Selection Panel may also set conditions and targets for each player on the WCPP Elite Programme as part of their Individual Development Plan (IDP). Progress against these will be

reviewed and monitored within IDP meetings and twice-yearly reviews to maintain their place on the WCPP Elite Programme. In addition, all agreements will be subject to annual review against agreed multidisciplinary progression targets.

4. COMMUNICATION OF DECISION

The Chair of the Selection Panel will make reasonable efforts to ensure that all shortlisted players are notified within one week of the conclusion of the selection meeting through the LTA WCPP Team (or their nominee). Players will be informed that they have either been selected for the Elite Porgramme or not selected with all decisions being confirmed in writing.

5. ELITE INDUCTION AND INDIVIDUAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN (IDP)

5.1 Induction

The induction for all players will normally take place during December and is mandatory for all players. This will be a multi-disciplinary induction and will be led by the WCPP Team. This will clearly explain the relationship the LTA would like to have with the player and their support team for the duration of the player's involvement on the programme. It will also explain what players and their support teams should expect from the LTA WCPP Team as well as provide important information on areas such as safeguarding, wellbeing & player representation.

5.2 Individual Development Plan (IDP)

As part of the induction process, each player, together with their team and an assigned LTA National Coach, will be required to develop and agree an IDP with at least three clearly defined and detailed development goals and ranking targets for the following year. This will form the basis for allocating and finalising support, as well as tracking and monitoring progress during the year.

All players will then be expected to sign a player contract before any funding will be released.

6. APPEALS

Shortlisted players who have not been selected by the Selection Panel are entitled to appeal against the Selection Panel's decision. The intent to appeal is to be made in writing 3 days (72 hours) of the applicant receiving his/her selection decision, and with full reasons and supporting evidence submitted in writing to be received within 7 days of the applicant receiving his/her selection decision to the nominated member of the LTA Executive Team or their nominee (the Appeal Chair) via email to Chantal.cunningham@lta.org.uk 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. To uphold the Selection Panel's decision.

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

Should a decision be set aside and be reconsidered 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 reconsidered and changed if necessary.

For the avoidance of doubt, players who are not shortlisted for any reason, including exceptional circumstances (as outlined in 2.2) are not eligible to appeal.

This policy may be updated periodically; for example, changes made be made to the selection process and timeline, and dates and processes may be subject to change. Any amendments shall be published on the LTA website so please check regularly for updates.

Appendix 1 – Key dates in WCPP Elite Programme Selection process (all 2026)*

Date	Milestone
Between 13th July – 2nd November	Players need to achieve the shortlisting ranking criteria during this period.
Thursday 29th October @ 5pm	Deadline for players with exceptional circumstances to inform the Performance Operations Manager via e-mail (Chantal.cunningham@lta.org.uk) (as outlined in section 2.2)
Thursday 29th October @ 5pm	Deadline for players to email Chantal.cunningham@lta.org.uk if they meet the shortlisting criteria but do not wish to be considered.
Monday 2nd November	Players will be informed by this date if they have or have not been shortlisted due to exceptional circumstances
Thursday 5th November	WCPP selection meeting
Within one week of the selection meeting	WCPP communication of decisions
Within one week of the selection decisions being communicated	Deadline for any appeals to be submitted to Chantal.cunningham@lta.org.uk
TBC in December	WCPP Elite Programme player induction (NTC)

* Please note all dates are provisional and remain subject to change