LTA WHEELCHAIR NATIONAL AGE GROUP PROGRAMME SELECTION POLICY 2027

1. INTRODUCTION

This policy explains how players will be selected to the Wheelchair Performance Programme National Age Group Programme (WCPP NAGP). It is designed to support junior players considered to be demonstrating early sings of potential to succeed at Grand Slam and Paralympic level in the long-term future.

Delivered as a series of national camps, visits, and trips, along with a structured Individual Development Plan (IDP), it focuses on providing transformational training and competition opportunities to Britain's highest potential juniors. The programme is geared towards the player's long-term development, with the aim of supporting them on the journey towards selection for the WCPP Pro Transition Programme (PTP).

Players selected for the WCPP NAGP 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 NAGP.

2. BENEFITS

The LTA will work in collaboration with the player and their team to establish and support the delivery of a world class IDP which is appropriate to their age and stage. Those players selected for the WCPP NAGP will be eligible to:

- Receive a minimum funding grant, in line with their IDP, to support their coaching programme and agreed tournament schedule.
- Receive player visits to their training venue/club from their designated LTA National Coach, based on the support required and outlined in their IDP.
- Receive Sports Science / Sports Medicine education and support (camp delivered); and
- Invitations to attend National Camps or training sessions at the NTC (NAGP under 18)

3. THE SELECTION PROCESS

There are a maximum number of WCPP NAGP places in 2027, there will be places on the programme for up to 12 players. The Selection Panel will consider players based on this number of places but are not obliged to fill every available place.

Where possible, places will be split equally across potential Men, Women and Quad division players. This is subject to the number of players who meet the criteria. In the event there are fewer eligible players meeting the selection criteria of a particular division than places available, the remaining WCPP NAGP places may be taken up by other divisions.

Accepting a WCPP NAGP place is encouraged but optional. If a player chooses to decline the WCPP NAGP selection for any reason (including failure to sign the player contract) they will not be restricted in selection for representative competitions, but there will be no form of financial support or, unless approved otherwise by the LTA, access to Wheelchair Tennis Performance Support Services.

4. JUNIOR REPRESENTATION FOR GREAT BRITAIN

Decisions made by the Selection Panel are made in isolation from any decision in respect of selection for National or International events, including World Team Cup. Players do not need to be on the WCPP NAGP to be considered for selection for these events. Furthermore, selection for these events does not automatically mean that a player will be offered a place on the WCPP NAGP. Further information on the selection fo these events will be published on the LTA website.

5. PLAYER ELIGIBILITY

All players must first meet the Eligibility Criteria set out below before they are assessed against the Selection Criteria. Players are only eligible to be considered for selection to the NAGP provided all of the following is true:

a) He/she is eligible to compete for Great Britain at the Paralympic Games (i.e., is a British Passport holder and meets ITF Rules relating to Paralympic Games participation); and
b) He/she is not currently serving a suspension for a doping violation and/or a breach of the anti-corruption rules*
c) He/she is 17 years of age or under on 31 December 2026

*Where a player is serving such a suspension, but the suspension is due to end during the period for which selections are being made, the Selection Panel may, at its discretion, choose to consider the player for selection. Should the player be selected, they would only be part of the NAGP once their suspension has ended.

All players who meet the Eligibility Criteria set out above can then be considered for shortlisting in line with section 6.

6. SELECTION PROCESS

Selection of players for the WCPP NAGP is for a period of 12 months.
The process the LTA will follow to select players on the WCPP NAGP is detailed below.

6.1 Shortlisting including LTA WCPP National Coach Nominations

The WCPP National Age Group Coach (or their nominee) with the support and input from the WCPP National Coaches and the Talent Pathway Manager, will prepare a list of shortlisted players for the Selection Panel to consider for selection to the NAGP, based on the World Tennis Division of Men, Women and Quads. The list will consist of:

a) Any player who is currently on the NAGP.
b) Any player nominated by an LTA WCPP National Coach. In making a nomination, the National coach must outline why the player is being nominated including:
    a. Training, camp and competition assessments by the LTA National Coaches and performances in tournaments over the last 12 months
c) A player who has experienced performance limiting factors

A 'performance limiting factor' is an injury, illness (or combination of injuries and illnesses) or other Sport/life factor (s) which results in a significant interruption or impact upon playing for at least three months (intermittent or continuous) in any single year. Those considered for selection that have had a performance limiting injury during 2026 may be required to provide the following details:
1) Details of the injury/illness including the full period missed; and'
2) Any medical/physio reports confirming the injury. If this information is required, players will be contacted by a member of the LTA WCPP Team.

7. SELECTION CRITERIA

If a shortlisted player is 17 years of age and under on 31 December 2026 (NAGP U18) and the player fulfils the requirements in section 5 and 6, they will be evaluated against the criteria below, with consideration given to the player's future performance potential and their capability to be selected for the WCPP PTP within 2 to 4 years.

Under 18

1. First Contact: The player has the ability to serve with different pace, spins & directions on both first and second serve, creating pressure with consistency. The player has the ability to neutralise the first serve and create pressure off the second serve with demonstrating good perception skills.
2. Weapons: The player has the ability to recognise and convert opportunities, showing signs of a game style to compliment potential weapons.
3. Matchplay Competitor: The player demonstrates strong competitive skills at National & International level, with an enjoyment to thrive in competition.

4. Physical Attributes: The player demonstrates the physical ability and mobility to compete at an international level.
5. Training Environment: The player has consistent high level training schedule with matchplay opportunities and access to interdisciplinary teams that maximises the training environment.

Under 14

1. First Contact: The player has the ability to demonstrate a competent throwing action with or working towards the correct grip, supporting the potential to have a consistent serve. The player demonstrates the basic movement patterns with good perception and reaction skills.
2. Weapons: The player demonstrate repeatable techniques that supports the development of future weapons.
3. Matchplay Competitor: The player demonstrate basic competitive skills in competition/gameplay scenario.
4. Physical Attributes: The player demonstrates competent chair skills and potential strengths to compete in the designated category.
5. Training Environment: The player has access to a consistent high standard coach environment.

When evaluating a player against the criteria above, the Selection Panel will reflect on the following (between dates of 1st January 2026 and the selection meeting date):

- Performances and observations at NAGP camps and / or selection / assessment camps.
- Performances and results at national competitions.
- LTA WCPP Team observations in training; and
- Physical testing and assessments carried out by LTA WCPP Team personnel.

The Selection Panel will discuss factors that may limit or enhance future performance potential in the context of the criteria set out above. This may include a player's maturational status, time competing in tennis, and whether their programme is aligned with the goals of the WCPP NAGP.

Where the Selection Panel is unable to reach an agreement, the Head of Wheelchair Performance Pathway will have the final decision, taking into consideration the evidence presented and the deliberation of the Selection Panel.

8. THE SELECTION MEETING

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

- WCPP National coaches
- Wheelchair Tennis Performance Support Lead

The Head of Wheelchair Performance Pathway, or their nominee, will chair the Selection Panel and will retain the right of a casting vote in the case of a tie should this be required. The Chair may nominate an additional member(s) of the LTA's WCPP Team, or an independent tennis expert (typically a leading coach, senior administrator, or former player) to the Selection Panel to provide further relevant expertise from time to time, but this person shall not have voting rights.

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 take notes and record the selection decisions but shall not have voting rights.

The Selection Panel will consider the shortlisted players for selection to the WCPP NAGP in accordance with this Policy and assess them against the Selection Criteria set out in section 7 of this policy. The Selection Panel will have available to it any evidence, statistics and feedback or other information relevant for the purposes of assessing players in accordance with the Selection Criteria set out in this Policy.

The Selection Panel may also set conditions and targets for each player on the NAGP as part of their Individual Development Plan (IDP), some of which may have to be met and reviewed periodically in order to maintain their place on the NAGP.

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.

9. SELECTION OUTCOME

Following successful WCPP NAGP selection, individual players will only be formally accepted onto the respective level of the WCPP NAGP once they have signed and returned the respective Player Agreement (the "Player Agreement") and completed a satisfactory medical review by the WCPP doctor within the agreed timeframes. Every player selected to the WCPP NAGP will undergo this medical review to ensure their potential place on the programme does not pose significant risk to their health and wellbeing and that they will be able to take part in the WCPP NAGP.

The Player Agreement will include amongst other matters obligations regarding coaching, physical training and competitions, commitments to anti-doping and anti-corruption and adherence to a code of conduct and disciplinary procedure.

Accepting a WCPP NAGP place is encouraged but optional. If an athlete chooses to decline the selection for any reason (including failure to sign the Player Agreement) they will not be restricted in selection for representative competitions, but there will be no form of financial support or, unless approved otherwise by the LTA, access to coaching or sports science/sports medicine.

10. SELECTION TERM

Players will be selected for a 12-month term running from 1 January 2027 to 31 December 2027

11. NOTIFICATION OF SELECTION DECISIONS

The chair of the Selection Panel will make reasonable efforts to ensure that all shortlisted players are notified within 7 days of the conclusion of the selection meeting through the LTA WCPP Team.

The decisions that will be formally notified to athletes are:

(i) Confirmation of selection of NAGP and the respective NAGP level
(ii) Confirmation that an existing NAGP player has not been selected.
(iii) Confirmation that a shortlisted player has not been selected.

12. AGREEMENT AND INDIVIDUAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN

All selected players must sign the LTA's NAGP Annual Player Agreement in order to receive any benefits selected players are eligible to receive.

All players on the WCPP NAGP will have an IDP in place, containing a set of individualised development objectives. These objectives will be established by the WCPP National Coach, in discussion with players and their coaching team, and are intended to show whether the player is achieving the standards and progress necessary to show that they are on track to gain selection for the next stage of the Player Pathway. All objectives will be set at the discretion of the LTA.

13. 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 within 3 days (72 hours) of the applicant receiving his/her selection decision, and will 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 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.

For the avoidance of doubt, players who are not shortlisted for any reason, including those due to performance limiting factors (as outlined in 6.1) 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 for any changes on a regular basis.

Appendix 1 – Key dates in WCPP NAGP Selection process

5 November 2026	WCPP NAGP selection meeting
Within one week of the selection meeting	WCPP NAGP 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 NAGP player induction (NTC)

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