

South Wales County Performance Programme 2026/27 - Selection Policy

1. Introduction

The [County Performance Programme](#) provides the best players in the county with the opportunity to attend county training sessions, and compete for a place in the county cup team. The purpose of the programme in South Wales is to provide regular, best vs best training, and prepare all of our junior teams for inter-county matches including the annual LTA County Cup events.

This document outlines the criteria for players to achieve selection for the County Performance Programme. There are a limited number of spaces available to players in each age-group which can make the selection process competitive. The selection process is led by the Tennis Wales Head of Performance.

Tennis Wales may amend this policy periodically. Any amended policy shall be accessible via the Tennis Wales website.

Should you have a query regarding selections for the U8, U9 and U10 age-groups, please contact the South Wales U10 County Pathway Coach, Becca Strelzyn-Powell at rstrelzyn@gmail.com

Should you have a query regarding selections for the U11, U12, U14 and U18 age-groups, please contact the Tennis Wales Head of Performance, Chris Lewis at chris.lewis@tenniswales.org.uk

2. Eligibility

2.1 To be considered for the 2026/27 programme, players must be eligible to compete in the appropriate LTA competition age-group for 2027.

2.2 Players must be eligible to represent South Wales according to the current LTA guidelines or be able to demonstrate that they will be eligible ahead of the LTA County Cup competition for their age-group. The rules governing a player's eligibility to represent a county are detailed [here](#) on the LTA website (rule 66 on page 33-35).

2.3 Players will initially be selected for their own age-group unless the selectors feel that the playing standard of any player warrants them being invited to an older age-group instead. In these instances, the player may still be invited to attend county training at their own age-group depending on the circumstances.

2.4 If there are any age groups in which there are too few players to be confident of forming a county cup team, selectors may look outside of the selection criteria to increase the number of players selected or look to combine training groups together. Any players selected from outside of the criteria would need to commit to trying to achieve the selection criteria by the next review meeting.

3. County Performance Programme Calendar

Age-Group	Squad Selection Finalised by (2026 dates)	Start of Training period (2026 dates)	End of Training period (2027 dates)	County Cup Team Selection	County Cup Event (2027 dates)
U8	7 th September	September	June	6-9 weeks prior to events	April
U9	3 rd August	September	June	6-9 weeks prior to event	March
U10	3 rd August	September	June	6-9 weeks prior to event	May
U11	17 th August	October	May	6-9 weeks prior to event	June
U12	17 th August	October	July	6-9 weeks prior to event	September
U14	17 th August	October	March	6-9 weeks prior to event	April
U18	17 th August	October	February	6-9 weeks prior to event	March

3.1 U8, U9, U10 age-groups will be offered monthly training for a period of 10 months from September to June inclusive.

3.2 U11, U12, U14, and U18 age-groups will be offered monthly training sessions starting in October, culminating in the LTA County Cup at that age-group. There will be no county training sessions after the LTA County Cup event has taken place.

3.3 The selection process to select LTA County Cup teams will start approximately 9 weeks prior to the date of the event, and team selections will be communicated approximately 6 weeks prior. The South Wales County Cup Selection Policy is published on the Tennis Wales website.

4. Selection criteria

4.1 Selection decisions are always challenging with the objective being to select the **best competitive players** in the county at each age-group. The criteria evolve through the age-groups but do have consistent threads in terms of the regularity and standard to which players are competing:

U8 CPP Training Group

Part of U8 CPP in 2026/27 AND has played 4 x Grade 5 or better singles competitions in previous 12 months.

OR

Part of U8 CPP in 2026/7and demonstrated to the county coaches the following -

- a good attitude to training and learning during CPP sessions
- ongoing improvement in playing level whilst on the programme

OR

Attended a County Development Session and shown -

- a good attitude to training and learning
- a foundation playing level including basic control of the ball and understanding of how to play the game.

U9 CPP Training Group

Top 6 2018s on U9 Recent Form AND has played 6 x Grade 5 or better singles competitions in previous 12 months (at least 4 of which must be U9 singles competitions).

The selectors will then determine which players who were part of the U8 CPP in 2025-26 will be selected for any remaining places. This will be based on:

- Competitive profile at Grade 5 or better singles competitions in previous 12 months
- Attitude to training and learning during 2025-26 CPP sessions
- Improvement in playing level during the 2025-26 CPP programme

U10 CPP Training Group

Top 6 2017s on U10 Recent Form AND has played 6 x Grade 5 or better singles competitions in previous 12 months (at least 4 of which must be U10 singles competitions), and at least 1 x G4/G3 (U9 or U10) singles competition other than the South Wales County Closed.

The selectors will then determine which players who were part of the U9 CPP in 2025-26 will be selected for any remaining places. This will be based on:

- Competitive profile at Grade 5 or better singles competitions in previous 12 months
- Attitude to training and learning during 2025-26 CPP sessions
- Improvement in playing level during the 2025-26 CPP programme

U11 CPP Training Group

Top 8 2016s on U10 Recent Form OR part of U10 CPP in 2025/26,

AND

Has played 6 x Grade 5 or better singles competitions (U10 or U11) in previous 12 months, and which must include at least 1 x G4/G3 singles competition other than the South Wales County Closed.

Note: The U11 LTA Combined rankings of players from January 2027 onward will be considered when making any additional selections into this training group.

U12 CPP Training Group

Top 8 2015s on U12 LTA Rankings OR part of U11 CPP in 2025/26,

AND

Has played 6 x Grade 5 or better singles competitions in previous 12 months, and which must include at least 1 x G3 singles competition other than the Cymru National Championships. International events will also qualify.

U14 CPP Training Group

Top 8 2013s/2014s on U14 LTA Rankings,

AND

Has played 6 x Grade 5 or better singles competitions in previous 12 months, and which must include at least 1 x G3 singles competition other than the Cymru National Championships. International events will also qualify.

U18 CPP Training Group

We are looking to include players who are in and around the top 500 in the U18 LTA Rankings and who have a competitive profile which would include regular competition at international level and/or domestic Grade 3 level events and better.

4.2 For a competition to count towards a player's selection, the match results will need to be visible on the player's LTA competitive profile. As such a player will need to have an LTA Advantage Membership and the results of the competition will need to be submitted to the LTA by the referee/organiser.

4.3 Account may also be taken of the level of a player's commitment to county tennis in the previous year.

4.4 Substantial injuries or illnesses which have had a major impact on rankings held and the competitive profile of a player can be considered during the selection process. 'Substantial' will be defined as a minimum period of 3 months during the previous 12 months when a player hasn't been able to compete.

4.5 If any players meeting the criteria achieve selection but do not have the playing standard required to train appropriately within the county sessions, they may be de-selected with advice provided as to key areas of development for them.

4.6 Players can be considered for selection through the year either through elevating their ranking and competitive performances, or through a coach nomination. Nominations can be submitted by an individual coach, a County Captain, the U10 County Pathway Coach, or the Tennis Wales Head of Performance at any time during the training period.

4.7 The weekly training programme to which a player is committed will not be used as a factor for initial selection decisions but is a potential area of monitoring and development during the training period. Players who are part of the County Performance Programme would ideally be training regularly on a weekly programme overseen by an individual coach at their venue. As a guide:

U8 – U10 = Three tennis sessions per week including one individual lesson with a coach

U11 to U18 = Four tennis sessions per week including a minimum of one lesson with a coach and completing an age and stage appropriate strength and conditioning programme

5. Selection Reviews

5.1 The attendance and attitude of players will be monitored by captains during training sessions. Captains will have the opportunity to review the selections of players with the U10 County Pathway Coach or Tennis Wales Head of Performance at specific times during the year if they feel there is a need to do so:

End of November 2026, End of February 2027

5.2 Selection reviews will be used to consider players for older training sessions within the county programme due to their playing standard, and to de-select players from the programme. Any players who are offered the opportunity to attend older sessions could be asked to continue to attend their own age-group.

6. Communication of selections

Players will receive a letter by email from Tennis Wales notifying them of their selection for the County Performance Programme. The letter will detail the age-group a player has been selected for, the captain and assistant captain in charge of the County Training sessions and details of how to accept their place.

7. Cost

7.1 The programme offers players a chance to train with the best players across the county under the guidance of our highly skilled and respected county captains. In addition to the training sessions, players will have the opportunity to be selected to play for their county, have access to discounted Castore kit through our partnership with Kitlocker, and benefit from subsidised trips to the U18 event, and the GB National Finals at U12 and U14 should a team qualify.

U8, U9, U10 fee = £16/month over a 10-month period to be paid by monthly Direct Debit
U11 = £16/month over a 8-month period to be paid by monthly Direct Debit
U12 = £16/month over a 10-month period to be paid by monthly Direct Debit
U14 = £16/month over a 6-month period to be paid by monthly Direct Debit
U18 = £16/month over a 5-month period to be paid by monthly Direct

7.2 Any friendly matches will be charged for @ £12.50 per fixture to cover the costs of court bookings and the presence of a team captain to oversee the matches.

7.3 Any county camps which are arranged in addition to the monthly training sessions will be charged at £8/hr.

7.4 Tennis Wales reserves the right to alter fees during the programme term.