

North Wales County Performance Programme 2024/25 - 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 as a team for their county. The purpose of the programme in North Wales is to provide regular, best vs best, year-round training for our U8 - U14 players, 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 very competitive. The selection process is led by the Tennis Wales Head of Performance and any county coordinator in place at the time.

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, 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 2024/25 programme, players must be eligible to compete in the appropriate LTA competition age-group for 2025:

U8 = Players born 2017 and 2018
U9 = Players born 2016
U10 = Players born 2015
U11 = Players born 2014
U12 = Players born 2013
U14 = Players born 2011 and 2012
U18 = Players born 2007 - 2010

2.2 Players must be eligible to represent North 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 would still be invited to attend county training at their own age-group.

2.4 If there are any age groups in which there are very few players meeting the selection criteria, selectors may choose to look outside of the selection criteria to increase the number of players selected, or look to combine training age-groups together. Any players selected from outside of the criteria would need to commit to achieving the selection criteria by the next review meeting.

3. County Performance Programme Calendar

Age-Group	Squad Selection (2024)	Start of Training period (2024)	End of Training period (2025)	County Cup Team Selection	County Cup Event (2025)
U8	August 7th	September	June	6-9 weeks prior to event	April
U9	August 7th	September	June	6-9 weeks prior to event	March
U10	August 7th	September	June	6-9 weeks prior to event	May
U11	August 7th	September	June	6-9 weeks prior to event	June
U12	August 7th	October	July	6-9 weeks prior to event	September
U14	August 7th	September	June	6-9 weeks prior to event	April
U18	August 7th	September	February	6-9 weeks prior to event	March

3.1 All junior age-groups, except for U18, will be offered monthly training for a period of 10 months as above.

3.2 U18 age-groups will be offered a minimum of 6 training sessions starting in September, culminating in the LTA County Cup at that age-group. There will be no U18 county training sessions after the LTA County Cup event has taken place.

3.3 The selection process to select the county cup team will start approximately 9 weeks prior to the date of the event, and teams will be communicated approximately 6 weeks prior. The North Wales County Cup Selection Policy will be 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.

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 It should be noted that regularity of competition will increase from 3 events in previous 12 months to 6 events in previous 12 months for players to remain on the county programme from 1st January 2025.

4.4 The selectors will take into consideration exceptional circumstances of players who do not meet the criteria such as injury/illness, competition cancellation.

U8 CPP Training Group

Part of U8 CPP in 2023/24 AND

has played 3 x Grade 6 or better singles competitions in previous 12 months OR

has 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 Fun Day or one-off county training 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 on a red court

U9 CPP Training Group

Top 8 2016 born players on U9 Recent Form rankings OR part of U8 CPP in 2023/24 AND has played 3 x Grade 6 or better singles competitions in previous 12 months.

OR

Part of U8 CPP in 2023/24 and 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 Fun Day or one-off county training 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 on an orange court

U10 CPP Training Group

Top 8 2015s on U9 or U10 Recent Form rankings OR part of U9 CPP in 2023/24

AND

Has played 3 x Grade 6 or better singles competitions in previous 12 months, and which must include at least 1 x G5 or better singles competition.

U11 CPP Training Group

Top 8 2014s on U10 Recent Form rankings OR top 5 2014s on U11 LTA rankings OR part of CPP in 2023/24

AND

Has played 3 x Grade 6 or better singles competitions in previous 12 months, and which must include at least 1 x G5 or better singles competition.

U12 CPP Training Group

Top 8 2013s on U12 LTA Rankings OR part of CPP in 2023/24

AND

Has played 3 x Grade 5 or better singles competitions in previous 12 months.

U14 CPP Training Group

Top 8 2011s/2012s on U14 LTA Rankings

AND

Has played 3 x Grade 5 or better singles competitions in previous 12 months, and which must include at least 1 x G4 or better singles competition.

U18 CPP Training Group

We are looking to include players who are in and around the top 2000 in the U18 LTA Rankings

AND

Have played 3 x Grade 5 or better singles competitions in previous 12 months, and which must include at least 1 x G4 or better singles competition.

4.4 If any players meeting the criteria are selected 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

4.5 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.

4.6 Players can be considered for selection through the year either through elevating their ranking and/or competitive performances, or through a coach nomination process. Nominations can be submitted by an individual coach, a County Captain, a County Coordinator, 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 club. 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 County Coordinator 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 2024, End of February 2025

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 - U14 = £15/month over a 10-month period to be paid by monthly Direct Debit
U18 = £15/month over a 6-month period to be paid by monthly Direct Debit

7.2 Friendly fixtures will be charged for @ £12.50 per fixture.