

National Performance Pathway (NPP) International Travel Grant (ITG) Policy

Introduction

The National Performance stage of the pathway is for those aged 11-14 who compete regularly at a national level and in Tennis Europe and/or ITF events. The aim of this stage is to increase the number of internationally competitive 14U players with the potential to transition strongly to the international Junior stage.

This document outlines the criteria to be considered for a NPP International Travel Grant, which is a financial grant to contribute towards travel to specified international tournaments, with the plan created in cooperation with and approved by your allocated National Age Group Coach (NAGC).

There will be two grant allocation meetings per year (typically in March and September) whereby players that have met the NPP International Travel Grant eligibility (2.1 -2.4) may be considered by the panel in line with the grant allocation criteria.

Any grant awarded, can only be used towards accommodation and travel costs (flights, trains, or car hire) for the player and coach* (or the parent if they are the accompanying person), and a contribution towards coach expenses for food.

**The coach would need to be LTA Coach accredited + to be eligible.*

Eligibility

To be eligible to be considered for a NPP International Travel Grant, a player must meet the requirements in 2.1, 2.2, 2.3 and 2.4. Players meeting these 4 eligibility requirements, will then be considered for a NPP International Travel Grant by the panel in the grant allocation meeting:

2.1 (Age eligibility)

Age eligibility - A player must be in their 12U, 13U or 14U year on the 1 January e.g. in year 2025, players born 2011, 2012 or 2013 *

**Players younger will be considered in exceptional circumstances.*

2.2 (Eligible to represent Great Britain)

Eligible to represent Great Britain - Players must hold, or be in the process of obtaining, a British passport, be a British Citizen and have not represented any other nation in a representative team event. Evidence may be asked for to prove eligibility.

2.3 (Subject of any disciplinary process)

A player will not be eligible if they are the subject of an investigation, or subject to 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 limited to in relation to any anti-doping and/or anti-corruption offence).

2.4 (Minimum Performance Criteria for Consideration (MPCC))

The player will need to have achieved the following minimum performance criteria between Monday 9th September 2024 – Friday 28th February 2025 (for the March 2025 meeting), or between 1st March 2025 – Monday 8th September 2025 (for the September 2025 meeting).

For the avoidance of doubt, a player meeting the criteria (2.1 – 2.4) is not guaranteed funding, but is eligible to be considered as part of the grant allocation meeting.

- 12U: A semi-final or beyond performance at a TE 12U Cat 1 or,
- 13U: Semi-final or beyond at the 14U G1 (East Gloucester) and/or 14U Nationals Championships; or a final or winner of a TE 14U Cat 2 tournament in any country or,
- 14U: A semi-final or beyond performance at a TE 14U Cat 1, or a quarter-final or beyond performance at a TE 14U Super Cat tournament, or a semi-final or beyond performance in an ITF event, in Europe (including the UK).

**A player will need to meet the standard (as outlined above) for their own age, or the age group above within the timescale outlined to be considered. Players born 2011 will not be considered for a NPP International Travel Grant at the September 2025 selection meeting due to graduating out of the National Performance Pathway at the end of August 2025.*

Grant allocation meeting

NPP International Travel Grant awards will be determined by the budget available and number of players meeting the criteria.

The grant amount may vary depending on the events location and duration and the impact this may have on travel costs, and priority will be given to those players who are showing the potential to meet the selection criteria for National Academy selection.

All players in receipt of a grant, must sign the LTA's NPP 14U International Travel Grant Player Agreement to receive the grant (which must be claimed back as outlined in the agreement). The contract will typically be a 6-month agreement.

Grant allocation panel

The panel will be made up of the Head of the National Performance Pathway (or their nominee) and at least four of the National Pathway Team (this could include a National Age Group Coach and/or RPDC Network Lead).

The panel has complete discretion regarding allocation decisions and will be guided by the purpose of the NPP stage of the pathway, and the players potential to meet the selection criteria for National Academy selection. The panel will exercise their discretion fairly and without bias.

Grant allocation criteria

The panel in making their decisions, will use multiple sources of evidence available to them, including but not limited to results profiles, ranking trajectory, progress against their individual development plan (IDP), Performance Pathway scouting data, as well as their expert judgement.

When considering which players have the potential to meet the selection criteria for National Academy selection, the panel will consider the following factors

- **Game style:** The player is developing an all-round game, with an emerging gamestyle which can be successful at the international junior stage and beyond,
- **Strengths & Weapons:** The player has emerging strengths which can be developed into successful weapons at the international junior stage and beyond,
- **Head:** The player demonstrates smart decision making, good problem-solving abilities and a level of focus in matches, irrespective of the match situation,
- **Heart:** The player's drive and attitude in training and competition shows a willingness to learn and a desire to win matches,
- **Athlete:** The player has a robust athletic foundation which can be developed into physical attributes that could positively influence the outcome of matches,
- **Performance:** The player has competitive results, ranking and rating (at current year of birth or above) and a

capability to beat players of a higher level than themselves.

When evaluating a player against these factors, the panel will use professional opinion to reflect on match observations from relevant international and/or domestic tournaments and National Activity for the 6-month period leading into the selection meeting.

Considerations relating to limiting factors

When discussing the above factors, the panel may also consider any of the following matters that influences their opinion on the player's potential:

- The player's age and their stage of physical maturation,
- The player's training programme and tournament schedule,
- Any injury and/or illnesses that led to a significant interruption (minimum of 3 consecutive months) or impact on tennis,
- Any other significant considerations (e.g., illness in the family).

Key Dates

The panel will meet the week commencing 3rd March 2025, with all players successful in receiving a NPP International Travel Grant advised by the week commencing 17th March 2025.

Players not receiving a grant in March 2025 may be reconsidered at the next NPP International Travel Grant allocation meeting in September 2025 (if meeting the eligibility criteria (2.1 -2.4) at that point).

Appeals process

For the avoidance of doubt, players who do not meet the eligibility criteria (2.1, 2.2, 2.3 and 2.4) and/or are not awarded a NPP International Travel Grant are not eligible to appeal.

Amendments

The LTA may amend this policy from time to time. Any amended policy will be published on the LTA website.

Please reach out to playerpathway@lta.org.uk if you have any questions.