

“RAPID RESPONSE” POLICY

Purpose

To maximise the opportunities for players to reach the player pathway objectives by bridging short-term potential gaps in support (including where necessary small-scale investment) for players who:

1. Are not presently on an LTA Supported or Delivered programme (e.g. finishing from a US/UK college or a National /International Academy) but have already made selection shortlisting standards for LTA Delivered or Supported programmes in future years
2. Are on supported programmes and who are on trajectory that meets selection shortlisting standards for the next stage of LTA Delivered programmes and their existing support presents limitations to maintaining their trajectory and for whom we wish to maintain momentum

This policy offers a quick turnaround option to provide short term solutions to a handful of priority players to ensure time is not lost and they continue the right trajectory.

Key points

Eligibility

Players would be eligible to be considered for Rapid Response support if:

1. They are on supported programmes and are on trajectory that meets selection shortlisting standards for the next stage of LTA Delivered programmes and their existing support presents limitations to maintaining their trajectory
2. They are not currently on an LTA Supported or Delivered programme and therefore have a period without support but have been or are likely (based on meeting minimum selection consideration criteria) to be selected onto a programme at the next selection/start opportunity.

Priority order:

- a) Players who have been selected on to an LTA Programme at the annual selection meeting with a deferred start date (to bridge the gap from a current programme ending to the deferred start date).
- b) Players who meet the shortlisting or selection criteria for an LTA Programme earlier in the year therefore will be considered at the next selection meeting (to bridge the gap from that point in the year to the selection meeting and potential start date).

Panel

Where a panel is required, the Panel will consist of the Performance Director (Chair) and at least two of the following: Head of Men’s Tennis, Head of Women’s Tennis, Head of National Performance Pathway, Head of Wheelchair Performance Pathway and Head of Performance Science and Medicine.

The opportunity for the meeting/panel will be as required up to once a month as part of the SMT meeting.

What could be awarded:

- Financial grant for:
 - Travel - towards competition trip costs (flights, hotel, agreed expenses)
 - Coaching / Training – towards fees of an approved coach or SSSM practitioner
- In kind coaching – utilising coaches from the Tennis teams for an agreed short-term period (at base or on the road as agreed)
- SSSM support – utilising S&C, physio, medical, nutritional etc. services from the LTA SSSM team
- Competitive opportunities – Wild Cards into domestic international events
- Insurance –
 - Travel – for cover whilst away competing using LTA financial grant
 - Medical in the UK – TBC
- Increased access to an LTA training venue (e.g., National Tennis Centre, Nottingham Tennis Centre)

If the financial value offered is £2,000 or less and it falls within the Men's Tennis or Women's Tennis budget the relevant Head of can approve this without a full voting panel. If the financial value is £2,000 or more or if it cannot fall within the Men's Tennis or Women's Tennis budget then the Panel will vote on this decision.

Restrictions

- Financial grants of normally no more than £5,000 will be awarded and financial assistance will only be provided for named activities and spend areas.
- A player normally is not eligible for financial grants through Rapid Response support in consecutive years, unless educational commitments or exceptional circumstances prevent them from competing in a full schedule where the grant may then be spread across multiple years.
- There is a fixed pot annually to be allocated on a first-come basis. The pot may vary year-on-year depending on the budget available and once the funding pot is spent no more funds will be allocated for the year through Rapid Response.

Proposed Process

- Someone meets the criteria and is put forward by a member of the Men's, Women's, National Pathway or Wheelchair Pathway team to be considered for the support.
Information needed is:
 - Who? Player's name and details (age, ranking etc.)
 - Why? What reason are they between programmes.
 - What? How much or what support are they requesting.
- The relevant Head of Tennis needs to confirm / endorse the proposal.
- If less than £2,000 and only drawing support within the approval rights of the relevant "Head of" then the nominating "Head of" can approve the proposed support. If more than £2,000 and/or requires access to support outside of the relevant "Head of" remit to approve the Panel vote in the next SMT meeting (minimally monthly).
- The outcome is communicated via the relevant case manager or the Performance Ops Team.
- All proposals and awards are recorded by the Performance Ops Team.
- No appeals process will be in place