

NATIONAL AGE GROUP PROGRAMME 16U SCHOLARSHIPS SELECTION POLICY 2026

1. INTRODUCTION

The National Age Group Programme 16U (NAGP 16U) provides a range of support to a select group of National Academy level players, normally aged between 14 – 16, who have not taken up a place at the Loughborough University National Tennis Academy (LUNTA) and are not yet eligible for the Pro Transition Programme (PTP) or Pro Scholarship Programme (PSP).

Players selected for an NAGP 16U Scholarship (normally for players aged 14-16 who meet the relevant National Academy selection criteria) will be offered a Scholarship grant of normally between £5,000 and £20,000.

If selected for the NAGP 16U, any player who has been offered a place at Loughborough University National Tennis Academy (LUNTA) but rejected the place, or attended LUNTA but subsequently chose to leave, will not be offered a place at, or able to use funding for an equivalent domestic or international academy before the age of eighteen without the agreement of the NAGP 16U Selection Panel.

2. PROGRAMME SUPPORT

The LTA Men's and Women's tennis teams will collaborate with the players selected for the NAGP 16U and their teams to establish an individual development plan (IDP) and programme of support to help optimise player progression. In addition, players selected for the NAGP 16U will be eligible to:

- Receive a scholarship grant;
- Receive a funding agreement for minimum of 1 year or maximum of 2 years;
- Receive regular visits from their designated LTA National Coach to understand and support the implementation of the IDP and competition schedule;
- Receive targeted Sports Science/Sports Medicine profiling and programme guidance and/or support based on the needs identified in their IDP and as outlined in the [NTC Access Policy](#).
- Access to the National Tennis Centre (NTC) facilities in line with the [NTC Access Policy](#).

Players selected for the NAGP 16U will be required to enter into a formal player funding agreement with the LTA which will detail their grant and the players responsibilities, commitments, and accountabilities as a member of the programme, including their engagement with their designated LTA National Coach and the NTC base coach to arrange access to their allocation of training time at the NTC.

Number of places

There is no minimum or maximum number of places available on the NAGP 16U but there is a budget limit for scholarships across all LTA Programmes.

Acceptance of a Scholarship grant is encouraged but optional. If a player chooses to decline the offer for any reason, they will still be eligible for other elements of the wider Men's and Women's Team support, such as Wildcards and Tournament Bonus Scheme (TBS), but there will be no formal programme place available (including SSSM services and NTC access that comes with the NAGP 16U).

A player will not be eligible for the NAGP 16U during any period that they are the subject of 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 not limited to in relation to any anti-doping and/or anti-corruption offence).

3. CONSIDERATION FOR SELECTION FOR NAGP 16U

The NAGP 16U has several components including:

- Scholarships for players who are deemed to be on track to meet purpose A of the National Academy selection policy.
- Potential selection for official LTA camps, trips and junior grand slam grants for players who are deemed to be on track to meet either purpose A or B as outlined in the National Academy selection policy

The National Academy selection policy can be viewed on the LTA website [here](#).

NAGP 16U scholarships will target players aged 14-16 (in exceptional cases younger*) who are showing the potential to meet purpose A of the National Academy selection policy and transition onto the PSP by the age of 18. Scholarships are normally between £5,000 to £20,000 per year and will be offered for between one to two years until the end of the players 15th year. In determining the level of grant allocated to selected players, the following factors may be considered:

- Current ranking trajectory relative to the PTP & PSP shortlisting and selection targets for 16 year olds (appendix 1)
- Observations and LTA National Coaches expert opinions (which may include scouting reports, LTA physical testing data, performances at National Camps or official trips and match reports), demonstrating the potential / progress of the player
- Needs of the player's programme / tournament schedule (where possible linked to an IDP)
- Total budget available

**Please note, selection for the Scholarship will normally be available to players 14 - 16. However, players aged 12 and 13 years old who meet the below criteria, may also be considered for selection.*

Eligibility

Players can only be considered for NAGP 16U support if they meet the eligibility criteria outlined in the National Academy selection policy They also then need to meet the National Academy selection criteria and are deemed to be on track to meet purpose A as outlined in the National Academy selection policy at the time of the National Academy selection meeting (April 2025).

A scholarship will only be awarded in this instance if the player chooses not to attend the National Academy as agreed with the Head of Men's/Women's Tennis or their nominee and subject to available budget and an appropriate programme being agreed. Any player meeting the National Academy shortlisting criteria but not the selection criteria will automatically be considered for wider Men's and Women's programme support.

Players selected onto the NAGP 16U from the National Academy Selection Meeting will be given contracts of between one to two years, and only up to the end of their 15th year.

4. POST SELECTION PROCESSES

4.1 Reselection and non-renewal of existing NAGP 16U players

At the end of each player's agreement period, each player will be formally reviewed by the Selection Panel in/or near to the Selection Meeting. A player will then either have their agreement renewed (in line with the maximum length of support) or not. In making this decision the Panel will be asked to consider:

1. A player's progress against their IDP.
2. A player's ranking trajectory against the Pro Transition Programme (PTP) and Pro Scholarship Programme (PSP) shortlisting targets (outlined in appendix 1) and what improvements have been made towards them since joining the programme (if not met), and the likelihood of them achieving the selection criteria for the PSP by the age of 18.
3. Any mitigating circumstances (e.g. injury) that have occurred which have prevented the targets being met and what would need to be done differently to increase the likelihood of targets being reached in the next 1-2 years.

As per the player's contract, funding levels may be reviewed as part of any renewal. All decisions will be recorded, and players notified as outlined in 4.3.

4.2 Deferral of NAGP 16U selection

A player will normally be selected onto the NAGP 16U at the National Academy Selection Meeting (end of Q1 / start of Q2) and normally their agreement will commence from July 1. However, the Performance Team have the discretion to defer the start date if deemed acceptable by the Head of Men's or Women's Tennis.

4.3 Recording and Communication of Decision

All NAGP 16U decisions to select or not select a player will be recorded.

The Chair of the relevant Selection Panel will make reasonable efforts to ensure that all shortlisted players are notified within one week of the conclusion of the Selection Meeting through the LTA Men's and Women's Tennis Teams (or their nominee). Players will be informed that they have either been selected or not selected with all decisions being confirmed in writing.

All selected players must complete a medical review and physical testing with the LTA Sport Science and Medicine team before their position on the programme is officially confirmed.

4.4. Agreement and Programme Induction

All selected players must sign the LTA's NAGP 16U Player Agreement to receive any benefits selected players are eligible to receive. All selected players will be required to attend a programme induction. This will be a multi-disciplinary process and will be led by the National Coach of Men's Tennis, the National Coach of Women's Tennis and the LTA Senior Performance Lifestyle Advisor. This will clearly explain the relationship between the LTA and the player for the duration of the Player Agreement as well as highlighting what players should expect from LTA support team as a NAGP 16U player. If players would like to know more about this prior to entering the selection process, then please contact Imogen Woodham (imogen.woodham@lta.org.uk).

5. APPEALS

Applicants 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 with full reasons and supporting evidence submitted in writing to be received within 7 days of the applicant receiving his/her selection decision. This is to be sent to the nominated member of the LTA Executive Team or their nominee (the Appeal Chair) via email to Imogen.Woodham@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. To 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 influences 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, are not eligible to appeal.

This policy may be updated periodically; for example, changes may 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 changes on a regular basis.

Appendix 1 – PSP and PTP shortlisting ranking criteria

PSP:

Women

Age	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23*	24
Shortlisting criteria	WTA 800 or ITF 40	WTA 650 or ITF 20	WTA 500	WTA 350	WTA 300	WTA 275	WTA 250	WTA 250	N/A

Men

Age	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24
Shortlisting criteria	N/A	N/A	ATP 700 or ITF 10**	ATP 550	ATP 400	ATP 350	ATP 300	ATP 250	ATP 200

* The 23 year old female ranking criteria is only applicable to those players who have graduated university at 22 years old.

** ITF 10 ranking only - Along with demonstration or evidence of competition and progression at M15 or Pro Tour Level.

PTP:

Women

16*	17	18	19	20	21	22	23**
WTA 900 or ITF 100	WTA 750 or ITF 50	WTA 600 or ITF 25	WTA 450	WTA 375	WTA 350	WTA 300	WTA 300

Men

16*	17	18	19	20	21	22	23**
ITF 150	ITF 75	ATP 850 or ITF 35	ATP 600	ATP 450	ATP 400	ATP 350	ATP 300