

INTRODUCTION

The County Training programme provides for the best and most committed players in the County with the opportunity to train and compete with one another. The purpose of the programme in Wiltshire is to add to a player's programme, accelerate the development of players, help retain players in regular training and to make selections for County Cup competitions. We aim to develop a culture of players wanting to and being proud to represent Wiltshire.

The Programme will be delivered by local highly qualified coaches who all have specialised training and a track record of working with county performance players. All Lead Coaches delivering the session are LTA Level 3 Accredited + coaches and the Assistant Captains are minimum LTA Level 2 Accredited coaches.

To better cater to the needs of the players and to maximise their development, there are two squads for each age group at 9U-14U – a County Squad and a Development Squad. By creating two distinct squads, we aim to address the differing needs of players at various stages of development. This structure will ensure that our top players receive the focused training they require, while also giving emerging talents a clear pathway to progress. The 8U and 18U age group will remain as one County squad.

County Squad

The squad will consist of players who are likely to be selected for the County Cup based on their current standard of play, rankings, and tournament participation. Selection will be influenced by the amount of tennis players are engaged in on a weekly basis, as well as the structure of their individual programmes.

Development Squad

This squad will cater to players who are between club level and county level – those who are developing at a slower pace but show great potential. Any player who improves, playing more tournaments, along with fair results and showing good commitment, will be given the opportunity to be invited to the county team squad.

Players need to be invited to attend and there are a limited number of spaces available to players in each age group. This document outlines the criteria for players to achieve and maintain selection for County Training. The selection process is led by the County Performance Co-ordinator, in consultation with the County Captains.

Any queries regarding selections should be emailed to: performance.8u-14u@wiltshiretennis.org.uk for the 8U – 14U age groups and to neilcwatts@yahoo.co.uk for the 18U age group.

ELIGIBILITY

- Players will predominantly be selected for their own age group, but there may be exceptional circumstances where players are too strong for their current age group (based on captains and co-ordinator's decision) and will be invited to attend training at an older age group.
- Players must be eligible to represent Wiltshire Tennis according to the current LTA guidelines or be able to demonstrate that they will be eligible within the next six months. The LTA rules governing a player's eligibility to represent the County are:
 - Born in Wiltshire
 - Lived in Wiltshire for at least the past six months
 - At any time, the place of permanent residence has been Wiltshire for a period of five consecutive years
 - Not represented another County for at least six months

SELECTION CRITERIA

- Players must have an LTA membership number.
- The selection process will consider any rankings / ITF World Tennis Number / Recent Form points a player has.
- Performance and application in previous county training camps and county cup events is important.
- Account may also be taken of a player's strength of commitment to County tennis in the previous year.
- The weekly training programme to which a player is committed to will be considered (although in some cases this will be an area of development during the County training programme). Players attending County Training would ideally be training regularly on a weekly programme overseen by an individual coach at their club.
- The competitive programme to which a player is committed to will be considered (although in the younger age group this will be an area of development). 8U and 9U players should be competing internally at their club and externally at other local clubs. 10U and 12U players should ideally be competing at LTA Sanctioned tournaments in the County and other regions. The 14U -18U players should be competing accordingly to and annual plan which includes Regional and National events.
- Players wishing to be considered for County Teams are strongly advised to compete in the Wiltshire County Junior Championships which takes place at the end of August each year.

NOMINATION FOR SELECTION

Players can be considered for selection through a coach nomination from their individual coach, a County Captain, or the County Performance Co-ordinator. This can happen at any time during the year.

SELECTION COMMITTEE

The below will meet to select the county training squads:

- County Performance Co-ordinator
- County Squad Captains
- Wiltshire Tennis Management Representative

COMMUNICATION OF SELECTIONS

- Players will receive an email from Wiltshire Tennis notifying them of their selection for County Training. The email will detail the age group a player has been selected for, dates and venues.
- Players will be notified in the Autumn/Winter ahead of the year of the county training programme.

SELECTION REVIEWS

- The attendance and attitude of players will be monitored by the County Captains during the training sessions. The County Captains will have the opportunity to review the selections of players, if they feel there is a need to do so. Following these reviews, players may be warned about the potential for de-selection or de-selected.