

# JUNIOR COUNTY TEAM SELECTION POLICY

- effective from 25<sup>th</sup> September 2023 and approved for 2025

Tennis West of Scotland enters junior teams to represent West of Scotland-county in LTA County Cup competitions at 8U, 9U, 10U, 11U, 12U, 14U and 18U age groups.

At these events, the West of Scotland team plays matches against other county teams. These can either be Scotland's other county teams or teams from any of the English or Welsh counties. In some age groups, the initial competition is a qualifying stage for national finals which are usually played two weeks after the qualifying stage.

Tennis Scotland also annually organises a Scottish Junior Inter-County team competition and a Scottish Junior Inter-District team competition into which Tennis West of Scotland enters teams.

Tennis West of Scotland is charged by Tennis Scotland to organise a county training programme as part of the agreement between the two organisations. The programme is run with the main aim of preparing players to represent the county in inter-county and inter-district competitions. Players benefit from training regularly with other players who may be in the same team, familiarizing themselves with the coaching team who may captain their teams and, on occasion, establishing possible doubles pairings.

For these reasons, Tennis West of Scotland has requested that players who wish to be considered for selection to a county team be a programme player unless it is logistically impossible for that player to attend. The county asks that a player attends only one session per week and appreciates that most of each player's weekly programme will be within his or her club. Tennis West of Scotland always aims to complement club programmes when it is possible to do so.

West of Scotland players who are invited to train weekly with a Tennis Scotland squad are excused from the above if there is a direct clash of sessions. Such players will be encouraged to attend any planned county session immediately prior to that player's county cup event and will be welcome to join the squad for any session if a Tennis Scotland squad is either cancelled or not running.

If players have been invited to a Tennis Scotland squad which does not directly clash with a county squad then such players should join the county programme unless their club or national programme is deemed to be of a level that weekly county training is not required. Such players must however attend a county session at least once per calendar month of the programme operating. As this arrangement impacts negatively on the programme budget, the fee must be paid in advance of sessions starting. This will usually equate to the cost of 7 sessions and will vary from player to player depending on the length of each session. The cost may be paid over the first two months on request. Such players will also be encouraged to attend any planned county session immediately prior to that player's county cup event. This can be one of the agreed sessions.

The above does not apply to players who are invited to occasional development camps run by Tennis Scotland. Such players will be requested to be full programme players unless their club programme is of a considered level that weekly county training is not required.

Tennis West of Scotland recognizes that, because of injury or illness, a player may not be able to commit to a programme place at the start of the training block. Parents of such players should discuss options with the programme manager. Any agreed arrangement will not exclude a player from being considered for team selection.

Parents must acknowledge that the county training programme cannot operate on a 'pay as you play' basis.

### **Integrated 14+/Student programme**

This initiative has been introduced to provide an opportunity for students at Glasgow universities who wish to continue with regular training. Students will apply to train with programme players who are 15 at the start of the programme or who have just moved out of the regional player development programme. Selection of players born in 2008 or 2009 to these sessions is on condition that the players attend their weekly county evening session unless there is an acceptable and approved reason not to do so.

Players born in 2007 or 2006 may attend early morning integrated session(s) solely but must attend at least three evening sessions prior to the 18 & U County Cup (early March) from January 2024 – suitable dates to be planned by the player. Payment of fees for these sessions to be paid in advance of the first session.

The above policy does not apply to players who may represent the county in 8 & U events.

Any of the above players are entitled to wear the Tennis West of Scotland training kit.

### **TEAM SELECTION INFORMATION**

1. Dates and venues of events will be published at [County Teams - Tennis West of Scotland \(tenniswos.co.uk\)](http://tenniswos.co.uk) once advised by either the LTA or Tennis Scotland.
2. As far as is possible, teams will be selected 5-6 weeks before the start date of the competition and players/parents advised. All team lists are posted, once selections are confirmed, at the same link for information to all players.
3. The number of players selected for each team can vary depending on the format of the competition, the venue and following discussion with the team captain.
4. (a) Selection is based mainly on ranking or recent form at the time of selection. Wild card places may be used in exceptional circumstances.  
(b) Selection is carried out in consultation with the team captain, the appropriate member of staff and the Tennis West of Scotland Director with that responsibility.
5. Current policy is that for the 8U-12U competitions inclusive, parents travel with players to the venue and arrange their own accommodation. When possible, the accommodation booked for the team captain will be advised so that parents may choose the same accommodation.
6. 14U and 18U teams will travel to a venue with the selected team captain(s) unless there are reasons not to do this.
7. Players in any team qualifying for a national final will be given a grant towards the cost of a second event.
8. Team players will be requested to wear the current West of Scotland kit at an event.