PRO TRANSITION PROGRAMME SCHOLARSHIP SELECTION POLICY 2027

1. INTRODUCTION

The purpose of the Pro Transition Programme (PTP) is to support players who are showing the potential to transition to the Pro Scholarship Programme (PSP) normally within a two-year window. The programme will also consider supporting players transitioning from NCAA tennis who are showing the potential to compete at Grand Slam Qualification Tournament level within two years. The PTP provides a range of support to players normally aged 16+ to facilitate this purpose, with the primary focus of support being to optimise coaching and daily training, the competition programme and the development of physical readiness for tour level tennis. Full information on all areas of support across the wider Men's and Women's Programme can be viewed on the LTA website.

Players selected for the PTP will be offered a financial grant scholarship of normally between £15,000 and £40,000 (subject to conditions of funding) in order to facilitate a full-time coaching programme. If selected for the PTP, 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 PTP Selection Panel.

2. PROGRAMME SUPPORT

The LTA Men's and Women's tennis teams will collaborate with the players selected for the PTP 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 PTP will be eligible to:

- Receive a scholarship grant or one of the other coaching support options outlined above;
- 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 PTP 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 PTP but there is a budget limit for scholarships across all LTA Programmes.

Acceptance of a Scholarship grant (or alternative coaching set-up) 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 PTP).

A player will not be eligible for the PTP 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).

For all key dates in this selection process, please see appendix 1.

3. CONSIDERATION FOR SELECTION (SHORTLISTING) FOR PTP

The PTP caters for players aged 16-22 (in exceptional cases younger*) who are showing the potential to meet the selection criteria for the PSP within a two year window, or, secondarily, for players transitioning from NCAA tennis who are showing the potential to compete at Grand Slam Qualification level within two years. In determining the level of grant allocated to selected players, the following factors may be considered:

- Current ranking trajectory relative to the PSP selection targets for age (appendix 2).
- 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 PTP will normally be available to players 16+. However, players aged 13 to 15 years old who meet the criteria outlined in 3.2.1, will also be considered for selection.*

3.1 Eligibility

The following players are eligible to be considered if they meet the relevant shortlisting criteria:

- Players aged:
    - between 16 and 22 (inclusive) on 31/12/26; or
    - between 13 and 15 on 31/12/26 as outlined in 3.2.1 or
    - up to 23 on 31/12/26 if they have finished at a UK/US University in 2025 or 2026.
- Players are eligible to represent Great Britain in Davis Cup or Billie Jean King Cup as outlined by the ITF and make themselves available to play for Great Britain in Davis Cup or Billie Jean King Cup events.
- Players are expected to be playing a full tournament schedule relevant to their age and stage to be eligible.

3.2 Shortlisting Criteria

To be considered for selection, players must meet either:

i. the shortlisting ranking criteria (3.2.1); or
ii. the NCAA shortlisting criteria (3.2.2);

Only players who fulfil one of the requirements above will be considered by the Selection Panel unless there are exceptional circumstances (3.2.3).

3.2.1 Shortlisting ranking criteria

Players aged 16-22 inclusive who have met the following ranking criteria at any point between Monday 20 July 2026 and the Monday of the week of the Selection Meeting (inclusive) will be considered for selection. The ages referred to in the tables below are the age of the player on 31 December 2026.

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

*Players younger than 16 years of age who meet the 16+ ranking criteria will be deemed to meet the shortlisting ranking criteria and therefore will be shortlisted for consideration.
***Please note, the ranking criteria for players aged 23 on 31 December 2026 is only applicable to those who have finished at a US or UK University in 2025 or 2026.*

The shortlisting ranking targets have been created using a combination of the following evidence sources:

- The expert opinions of the LTA National Junior Coaches and the LTA Men's and Women's National Coaches.
- An analysis of current players on the ITF junior ranking broken down by age and ranking bracket; and
- A ranking prediction tool which establishes a level of probability that a player will reach a certain ranking in the future based on their current age and ranking. This considers all weekly ATP / WTA ranking data from January 2000.

Based on the evidence, these targets also reflect the difference between men's and women's tennis and the current distribution of players of each age and gender on the ITF Junior, ATP and WTA rankings.

3.2.2 Shortlisting criteria for NCAA players

Players who will have finished at a US university anytime in 2026 or by 30 June 2027, must meet a minimum of two out of the four below criteria between December 2025 and the selection meeting to be eligible for shortlisting.

Men's shortlisting criteria:

- Achieving an end of year NCAA ranking of 10 (as of the published rankings in June)
- Achieving an ATP ranking high of 500 (within the 6-month period post College graduation and prior to the selection meeting)
- Performance based results. These being either:
    - finalist of an ATP Challenger 50
    - winner of an ITF M25 event and/or
    - winner or runner-up of NCAA Individual Championships
- Illustrating an 'ATP point ranking average' based on competing in a minimum of 8 ATP / ITF Pro Tour events and linking this to our PTP minimum ranking criteria at 3.2.1

Women's shortlisting criteria:

- Achieving an end of year NCAA ranking of 10 (as of the published rankings in June)
- Achieving a WTA ranking high of 600 (within the 6-month period post College graduation and prior to the selection meeting)
- Performance based results. These being either:
    - qualifying for a WTA 250, 500 or 1000 Tour Event
    - quarter-finalist or better of WTA 125 or ITF 100
    - semi-finalist of W50 or W75
    - winner of a W35 or finalist in two W35 events
    - accumulate 25+ points across the 4 domestic ITF events in July & August and/or
    - winner or finalist of the NCAA Individual Championships
- Illustrating a 'WTA point ranking average' based on competing in a minimum of 8 WTA / ITF Pro Tour events, and linking this to our PTP minimum ranking criteria at 3.2.1

3.2.3 Exceptional Circumstances – Injury/illness

If a player has had a long-term injury / illness (resulting in the player missing a minimum of 3 consecutive months of competition) during 2026, or has missed a minimum of consecutive 3 months of the 2026 season due to another exceptional reason, then they must supply in writing to the Performance Operations Manager (by 5pm on Friday 6 November) via sophie.disley@lta.org.uk to .

- Details of the injury / issue including the full period missed; and
- Medical / physio or other reports confirming the injury and / or reason for absence.

The LTA National Coaches and the Head of Performance Science and Medicine (or their nominees) will then consider the evidence and impact of the injury or issue and decide whether this factor alone prevented the player from meeting the shortlisting targets. Evidence will include match observations and ranking progress in 2026, where this is not available match observations from the previous 12-24 months will be considered together with their ranking profile and ranking trajectory for their age prior to the period of absence in relation to their age and ranking targets outlined in 3.2.1.
If it is deemed to be the case that the impact of the injury or issue was the sole factor that prevented the player from meeting the shortlisting criteria, then the player will be shortlisted due to exceptional

circumstances. If not, then they will be notified accordingly. For the avoidance of doubt, players with exceptional circumstances do not need to have met either the ranking targets in 3.2.1 or the criteria in 3.2.2.

All shortlisted players will then be considered for selection by the Selection Panel.

3.3 The Selection Process

3.3.1 The Selection Panel

The Selection Panel will consist of the following (or their nominees):

- Performance Director (Chair)
- Head of Men's Tennis
- Head of Women's Tennis

The Performance Director will chair the Selection Panel. The Selection Panel may also have an independent professional tennis expert (typically a leading coach, senior administrator or former player). The Chair may nominate additional members of the LTA Performance Team to the Selection Panel to provide further relevant experience from time to time. If invited by the Chair to formally sit on the Panel, then they will have a vote.

A member of the LTA's legal team may attend the meeting to advise on procedural issues and adherence to the policy but shall not have voting rights. A member of the LTA Performance Operations Team may also be invited by the Chair to attend and record selection decisions.

3.3.2 Selection criteria

The selection criteria below will be applied with consideration to the overall objective of the PTP, this being the likelihood of a player achieving the selection criteria for the PSP (or grand slam qualification status for players transitioning from NCAA) in the next two years.

1. **Strengths, Weapons and Limitations**: The player has clearly defined and consistently applied weapons (or strengths) (consistent with their game style and not limited by other game-based weaknesses) which can be successful now and in the future at the next stages of the Player Pathway and ultimately at Tour level.
2. **Heart**: The player consistently gives their best effort and displays fight, grit and determination no matter what the score.
3. **Head**: The player consistently shows good focus and concentration, tactical awareness and composure at key moments throughout the match.
4. **Athlete**: The player has the ability:

a) to tolerate and thrive in the required training and competition workload now and on the PSP or NTC Pro Access;

and either

b) to deliver the required movement on court; or

c) to tolerate and thrive in high intensity periods on court.

To formulate a decision on whether a player has achieved the criteria, the Panel may reflect on the following sources of information:

- Performance at National Camps, NTC training sessions or on LTA Official Trips between January 2026 and the selection date;
- Existing scouting data, match and training reports from observations in 2025 and 2026;
- Results in ITF Junior, ITF Pro Circuit, ATP / WTA or Tennis Europe team competitions and relevant domestic events;

- Match footage and statistics from video captured by the LTA Performance Analysis team or other verified sources (e.g. ATP / WTA / ITF / IBM etc.);
- LTA physical testing data and relevant match / training monitoring information;
- Expert opinion of LTA National Coaches and Head of Men's/Women's Tennis (including but not limited to player visits)

Players who successfully achieve three or more of the criteria will be deemed to have met the selection criteria.

The Selection Panel will meet during the week commencing the 16 November 2026 to consider all shortlisted players for selection.

3.3.3 Determining a Players readiness for the PTP

For all players who meet the above Selection Criteria before being offered a place on the programme the Panel will determine if they are ready to meet the demands of the PTP and ultimately on track for PSP (or grand slam qualification status for players transitioning from NCAA) in the next two years. In making this decision the Panel will consider the below areas:

- demonstrated ability to transition and compete at the next level of the pathway with consideration given to the number of either senior and junior events or ITF to ATP/WTA events the player has competed in during the current calendar year;
- commitment to a relevant playing schedule with relevant tournament and match count;
- coaching and training programme suitable to the players development needs;
- composition of ranking with consideration given to the consistency of the player's performance, the average points scored per event and the ranking of players beaten during the current calendar year.
- Win to loss ratio against relevant / higher level players
- Fully committed to training and tennis lifestyle with an openness to learning

If the Panel deems the Player is not ready to meet the demands and objectives of the PTP even if they have met the selection criteria in 3.3.2, they will not be selected for the programme.

The Selection Panel will also meet at the time of the National Academy Selection meeting to discuss any existing National Academy players who met the PTP shortlisting criteria at the time of the 2026 PTP selection meeting (Q4 2026). They may be offered a place on the PTP at this time if the player chooses not to attend the National Academy for a further year(s) as agreed with the Head of Men's/Women's Tennis or their nominee and would start from July 1 and be pro-rata.

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

3.3.4 Calculating the level of support

Once the rank order list has been agreed based on the number of criteria met and the aim of the programme, the Selection Panel will consider the level of funding for players who have met the selection criteria in accordance with the purpose listed in section 1. All the evidence presented to the Selection Panel will be considered as well as the total budget available across all LTA supported programmes and an appropriate programme being agreed.

4. POST SELECTION PROCESSES

4.1 Reselection and non-renewal of existing PTP 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 Scholarship Programme (PSP) shortlisting targets (outlined in appendix 2) 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 in the next 1-2 years.
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.

Players transitioning from NCAA tennis will be given a maximum two-year term after which the player will be expected to have either reached PSP selection standards or grand slam qualification level. 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 PTP or International Junior Grant (formerly NAGP 16U) selection

If a player is selected onto the PTP at the end of the year normally their agreement will commence from January 1. However, the Performance Team have the discretion to decide when the programme commences during the year (January 1 or July 1) if a player is currently attending a National Academy, US/UK University or any other reason as deemed acceptable by the Head of Men's or Women's tennis.

4.3 Recording and Communication of Decision

All PTP 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 PTP 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 PTP player. If players would like to know more about this prior to entering the selection process, then please contact Sophie Disley (sophie.disley@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 Sophie.disley@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, including exceptional circumstances (as outlined in 3.2.3), 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 - KEY DATES (ALL DATES REFER TO 2026)

- Non-British passport holders (appendix 3) to email information by 30 October.
- Players with exceptional circumstances to submit their applications by 6 November at 5pm.
- The exceptional circumstances will be considered the week commencing 9 November.
- The Selection Panel will meet the week commencing 16 November to consider all shortlisted players for selection.
- All shortlisted players will be notified of a decision within 7 days of the Selection Meeting.

* Please note all dates are provisional and remain subject to change

Appendix 2 – PSP shortlisting ranking criteria

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.*

Appendix 3

Non-British passport holders

Those players who do not currently hold a British passport, but who are eligible for one, will be considered on a case-by-case basis. Such players who are interested in a Scholarship must email sophie.disley@lta.org.uk by 6 November 2026 and provide: 1) evidence on how they are eligible for a British passport, 2) where they are in the process of obtaining a British passport, and 3) details of their tennis background.