



GLOUCESTERSHIRE TENNIS

Gloucestershire County Team Selection

Foreword by Nick Edwards, County Junior Performance Co-Ordinator (CJPC)

The purpose of county training is to provide regular high-performance training for players who aspire to represent their county, and to improve their competitive tennis level. The training focuses on tactical awareness, in both singles and doubles, and provides players the opportunity to develop their team skills. Attending the county training programme provides players with the opportunity to be selected to represent Gloucestershire in both inter-county competitions and the annual County Cup event. It is also seen as part of the LTA Player Pathway:

<https://www.lta.org.uk/play-compete/performance-tennis-players/player-pathway/player-pathway-overview/>

We want to ensure the way in which players are selected to represent Gloucestershire is objective and transparent to both players and parents. We also want to ensure those players have regular tournaments experience.

For this reason, we use rankings points, which are gained through playing in tournaments as an objective measure for the top players in 11-18U age groups, and as an indication of recent form for 9U and 10U. You can find out more about how to win ranking points on the LTA website:

<https://www.lta.org.uk/play-compete/competing/player-ratings-rankings/lta-rankings/>

It is therefore beneficial that players who aspire to represent Gloucestershire attend county training and compete regularly in tournaments to gain rankings points to be eligible for selection.

Gloucestershire Tennis compete in inter-county team competitions and in the LTA County Cup events. We believe that team competition in tennis, which is a very individual sport, is important for the following reasons:

- Playing as part of a team builds confidence and communication skills and is great fun!
- Supporting each other through the highs and lows of competition helps to bring players together who might otherwise see themselves as opponents and teaches motivation and leadership.
- Sharing the experience of competition can build friendships that last a lifetime.



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General

The team selection for County Cup is an impartial process led by the County Junior Performance Coordinator with the support of Gloucestershire Tennis and the Junior Committee.

Selection across all age groups is based upon four indicators (in order), namely:

1. LTA ranking (national, regional, county)
2. County training attendance
3. Coach feedback from county training sessions
4. Recent match results in singles and doubles

Exceptions may be made where:

- Players are unreliable, have injuries or have demonstrated bad behaviour during county training.
- Players have been warned or disciplined by Gloucestershire Tennis for bad behaviour at an event(s) in the previous 6 months.
- Players live and train weekdays outside of the county and are therefore unable to attend county training.
- A player lives and trains in Gloucestershire yet fails to attend county training.

Parents are required to notify Gloucestershire Tennis if players cannot attend county training yet wish their child to be considered to represent the county.

The County Junior Performance Coordinator is responsible for notifying all parents of selection decisions within six weeks prior to the event with player feedback given.

Individual Age Group Requirements

Each age group has specific requirements relative to that age group. Players that meet the direct entry requirements, based on the previous 12 months, as recorded on the LTA website, are eligible for automatic selection based upon their national, regional and county ranking.

Players who do not meet the direct entry requirements are eligible for wildcard selection. Wildcard selection does not guarantee matches.

Should sufficient players fail to meet the direct entry requirements, selection will be based upon the remaining three performance indicators as details above (Section: General).



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The individual age group requirements are:

Age Group	Team Size	Automatic Entry	Wildcard	Direct Selection Events *
18U	6 + 2 reserves	4 players	4 players	16 singles & 1 doubles
14U	4 + 2 reserves	3 players	3 players	16 singles & 1 doubles
12U	4 + 2 reserves	3 players	3 players	16 singles & 1 doubles
11U	4 + 2 reserves	3 players	3 players	12 singles
10U	4 + 2 reserves	3 players	3 players	12 singles
9U	4 + 2 reserves boy and girls	3 boys & girls	3 boys & girls	12 singles

* Minimum number of matches played within the previous twelve months to receive direct entry.

1. For direct selection to apply, a player must have played the required number of competitions in the last 12 months, as recorded on the LTA website. Each eligible player will be selected in order based upon their LTA ranking prior to the event. The exact cut-off date for selection will be specified on the Gloucestershire Tennis website:

<https://gloucestershiretennis.co.uk/county-tennis/junior-county-tennis/>

2. If a selected player is unavailable, a nominated wildcard will be selected.

3. Wildcard players may be selected based upon (in order of priority):

- a. County training head-to-head results
- b. Captain selection
- c. LTA national ranking

4. To be eligible for one of the two reserve places, a player must have played at minimum four competitions during the previous term.

5. Parents must return all required paperwork two weeks prior to the event, along with any associated payments.

6. The captain reserves the right to change the team should the general exception criteria apply to one or more individuals.

7. Selection for each age group will take place approximately 5 weeks prior to the County Cup



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event to give the parent/guardian ample notice to confirm availability, and if not available, for a replacement to be nominated. For inter-county events, the notice period may vary.

Selection Decisions

Gloucestershire Tennis wishes all selection decisions to be open and transparent, with all players given feedback as to their strengths, areas for improvement and the reasons for being selected or not selected.

Each county team (first name of player only) will be published on the Gloucestershire Tennis website, including any wildcards and reserves, following player notification.

Invitation to County Training

Gloucestershire Tennis relies upon club coaches to put forward players for selection, as well as directly contacting parents of players who take part in the Gloucestershire County Championship event (a.k.a. County Closed) each August.

If you wish your child to be considered for county training, please contact info@gloucestershiretennis.co.uk, and ideally enter your child in the County Closed event.

Concerns and Feedback

Gloucestershire Tennis welcomes feedback and thoughts for improvement.

If parents have any concerns over selection criteria or selection decisions, please contact junior.committee@gloucestershiretennis.co.uk for the attention of the Junior Committee Chair. The committee will review and respond promptly with an explanation of the selection process and any supporting evidence.