

D&L Pro Tennis Academy RPDC Selection Policy

1. Introduction

This policy describes how players will be selected for a place at D&L Pro Academy RPDC for the 2025/2026 academic year. Places at the RPDC are subject to the terms and conditions of the player agreement as well as our Academy Behaviour Policy.

2. Location & Facility

D&L Pro Tennis Academy is based at Bisham Abbey National Sports Centre, widely renowned as one of the best sporting facilities in the country and has been a training base to many of Great Britain's most successful players. Johana Konta, Laura Robson, Martin Lee, Dan Evans and Kyle Edmund to name a few.

With 4 indoor acrylic courts, 4 floodlit outdoor acrylic courts and 4 artificial clay courts as well as state of the art gym, our high performance players train at one of the best facilities in the country. In addition to excellent tennis facilities and full boarding on-site, Bisham Abbey NSC houses the English Institute of Sports' facility for world class athletes as well as being home to many GB governing bodies, such as GB hockey and GB rowing.

2. Programme Purpose

We strive to create a high performance environment that nurtures HAPPY but GRITTY players, through hard work, purposeful and creative training and a PERSON FIRST approach.

As well as an inspiring training environment and excellent tournament schedule, full board residential accommodation is also available as well as an integrated academic programme at our partner school Claire's Court. Players receive a significant discount on the Claire's Court fee's if they are a full-time member of the RPDC.

Through this approach D&L RPDC will increase the number of nationally relevant players aged 10+, who can transition effectively to the International Junior Stage of the LTA Player Pathway by 14.

Please see LTA Player Pathway here:

<https://www.lta.org.uk/compete/performance/player-pathway/>

3. D&L RPDC Programme

3.1 Full-time Programme (38 term time training weeks)

- 2 – 5 hours of individual lessons per week
- 7.5 hours of squad tennis training per week
- 5 hours of squad S&C training per week
- Programme management of the player
- Tournament support at G1, G2 and TE events throughout the year

3.2 Access Programme (38 term time training weeks)

- 7.5 hours of squad tennis training per week
- 3 hours of squad S&C training per week
- Tournament support at G1, G2 and TE events throughout the year

4. Eligibility

Players must be on the LTA RPDC longlist to be eligible for selection. The LTA longlist selection criteria and further details can be found at the LTA website at the following link:

<https://www.lta.org.uk/49b86a/siteassets/pro-players/national-pathway-list-policy-2022-23-final.pdf>

4.1 Number of places

The number of places available for September 2024 will be the following:

- i. Full time programme: maximum of 12 players
- ii. Access programme: maximum of 10 players

5. Application & Selection Process

5.1 Express Interest by contacting:

proacademy@livingtennis.co.uk

Please provide:

- Full name & DOB
- Parent contact details
- Current training centre and individual coach
- Current weekly training schedule
- Interest in Full time or Access programme
- Interest in our partner school Claire's Court

- Interest in our boarding options

5.2 Selection Process

- Mon 9th May: Players express interest
- Players will be invited to a trial morning, afternoon or evening where they will meet the team and discuss programme options
- Fri 28th June: All players will receive communication of programme offering

6. Selection Criteria

6.1 Selection Panel

All players who express interest for a D&L RPDC programme will be evaluated by the selection panel which consists of the following members:

- Academy Head Coach
- RPDC Lead Coach
- Head of Strength & Conditioning

6.2 Evaluation of player suitability

When considering which players have the potential to meet the aims of the programme, the Panel will be looking for players that either currently are or have the potential for NAGP selection, GB selection, and future National Academy selection. The following factors will be assessed:

- **Game style:** The player has an all-round game which can be developed into a clearly defined and successful game style for the future.
- **Strengths & Weapons:** The player has emerging strengths which can be developed into successful weapons.
- **Head:** The player demonstrates smart decision making, good problem solving abilities and a level of focus in matches, irrespective of the match situation.
- **Heart:** The player's drive and attitude in training and competition shows a willingness to learn and a desire to win matches.
- **Athlete:** The player has a robust athletic foundation which can be developed into physical attributes that could positively influence the outcome of matches.
- **Performance:** The player has competitive domestic results at G1 and G2 level, and shows signs of being competitive at International Level
- **Readiness:** The player is ready to engage and meet the demands of the programme

When evaluating a player against these factors, the Panel members will use professional opinion to reflect on match observations from relevant international and/or domestic events and activity.

When discussing the factors described in 5.2 the Panel may also take into account any of the following matters that influences their opinion on the player's potential:

- The player's age and physical maturation;
- The player's historic training programme and tournament schedule;
- Any other considerations that have led to a significant interruption or impact on tennis (e.g. illness, injury).

6.3 Selection

All successful and unsuccessful candidates will be communicated verbally and in writing by 30th June 2024. Successful players will be required to read and abide by the D&L RPDC player agreement, behaviour policy and terms and conditions of the programme.

6.4 Re-selection

Players who are on the programme (Full-time or Access) will be subject to the D&L RPDC application and selection policy each year.