

County Training and Talent Identification

The aim of this document is to provide clear information on the existing county training programme within Yorkshire Tennis, as well as providing insight into 'Talent ID' and what to do if you feel as a coach you have a player who is of the level to access county training.

If you are reading this as a parent not yet in touch with a Club or a coach please see as well our separate note on talent identification for parents.

<https://www.yorkshiretennis.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/Young-player-development.pdf>

What is *County Training*?

County training within Yorkshire is a wide-ranging programme of squads planned and run by Yorkshire Tennis, for the county's best and most promising junior players. The age range for these sessions is from U8 through to U18. Sessions are ran on average once every three weeks in each age group. The sessions are all held on indoor courts, with the majority taking place at John Charles Centre for Sport in Leeds. The programme of squads is organised by the 'County Performance Team' which consists of the Yorkshire Tennis head coaches, with the county administrator. Sessions are led by both the Yorkshire Tennis Head Coaches, alongside coaches from the Yorkshire Tennis performance network. Many of these coaches also play a role in captaining a specific age group team (and will be referred to forthwith as 'age group captains') <https://www.yorkshiretennis.org.uk/yorkshire-captains/>

Is there any more information on this?

Yes, the following (taken from <https://www.lta.org.uk/play-compete/performance-tennis-players/player-pathway/county-training/>) gives further information regarding county training:

What's the purpose of this programme?

- To provide regular opportunities for the best players in the county to train and compete with one another
- To accelerate the development of players aged 7-14 to create competition for places at Regional Training & the NAGP (national age group programme)
- To retain more young players in regular training and competition through to age 18

Who's it for?

The best junior players in the county.

What will this programme be like?

- There will be high intensity, fun squad training on *at least a* monthly basis – the cost of which will be subsidised by the LTA
- Players *may* get opportunities to represent their county as part of a county team

- County training will be delivered by local coaches who have specialised training and a track record of working with county performance players
- The programme will be supported by the LTA National Player Pathway Team

Where does sit with the LTA national programme?

Further information about the LTA's player pathway, and where county training sits in the pathway, can be found at <https://www.lta.org.uk/play-compete/performance-tennis-players/player-pathway/>

How does your player get selected for county training?

Selection for county training is made by the Yorkshire Tennis Head Coaches. To qualify for consideration for selection for county training, players should as a minimum, be eligible to represent Yorkshire and be competing in local tournaments. Following this, the factors that influence selections vary between age groups, but are summarised below.

U11, U12, U14 and U18

- **Player results and rankings:** They will play a large part guiding selection, but will not dictate selection. There will be opportunities for players of lower ranking to be selected if the head coaches feel there is mitigating circumstance for the low ranking, or if the head coaches feel there will be a significant rise in a player's ranking once a player is involved in county training.
- **Player performance and attitude in events, in particular at the annual county championships:** Good performances, and signs that a player has the game or attitude to succeed in the future (even if not directly leading to winning in the present), will be taken into account. There is no better event to see this, than at the Yorkshire County Championships, which gives every junior player in Yorkshire the chance to compete in an event with all of their peers
- **Feedback/recommendation from coaches within the Yorkshire Tennis Network:** Opinions of age group captains, alongside other senior Coaches within the Yorkshire Tennis network will be taken into account
- **Attitude and performance at previous county training activity**

U9 and U10

- **Player results:** At this age player results will play a much lesser part in selection. But nevertheless, they will be taken into account.
- **Player performance and attitude in events, in particular at the annual county championships:** Good performances, and signs that a player has the game or attitude to succeed in the future (even if not directly leading to winning in the present), will be taken into account. There is no better event to see this, than at the

Yorkshire County Championships, which gives every junior player in Yorkshire the chance to compete in an event with all of their peers

- **Feedback/recommendation from coaches within the Yorkshire Tennis Network and from relevant LTA Player pathway coaches:** Coaches within the Network, will be asked for recommendations/opinions of U9 and U10 players. In addition, these will also be sought from the relevant member of the LTA's 'Player Pathway Team' who will have knowledge of players at this age group within the county.
- **Attitude and performance at previous county training activity**

U8

- **Player performance and attitude in events, in particular at the annual county championships:** Good performances, and signs that a player has the game or attitude to succeed in the future (even if not directly leading to winning in the present), will be taken into account. There is no better event to see this, than at the Yorkshire County Championships, which gives every junior player in Yorkshire the chance to compete in an event with all of their peers
- **Feedback/recommendation from coaches within the Yorkshire Tennis Network and from relevant LTA Player pathway coaches:** Coaches within the Network, will be asked for recommendations/opinions of U8 players. In addition, these will also be sought from the relevant member of the LTA's 'Player Pathway Team' who may have knowledge of players at this age group within the county.
- **Attitude and performance at previous county training activity**
- **Selection via 'county open days':** See 'TALENT IDENTIFICATION' below

What is Talent Identification and what are County Open Days?

Twice per year (usually November and May) Yorkshire Tennis holds 'County Open Days' for U8 players within the county. The county open days are ran by the County Head Coaches alongside coaches/assistants from the network, and players take part in a variety of enjoyable physical and tennis activities. The open days have two purposes : 1) to give all the young people who attend a fun, challenging and inspiring experience in one of their first county tennis related activities 2) To identify any young athletes who would have the potential to be selected for county training either in the present or in the future. EVERY single accredited coach in the county is contacted in the lead up to these days and is given the opportunity to nominate ANY U8 players in their club/programme who they feel are showing potential. These players are then all invited to attend the upcoming open day. Following the open day, all parents/guardians of players who attend are subsequently contacted to notify them if their child will be invited to attend regular county training or not. **All parents/guardians who attend the open day are also offered advice for their child's development**, and coaches of the players are invited to attend the day and are also invited to contact the County Head Coaches for feedback on their players.

If as a coach you feel you have a child who shows potential, and is aged 8 and Under, then the above is the best route to follow. If your child is over this age, or is unable to attend the open day, then please contact the County Head Coaches directly who will be able to advise as to the next steps to follow. If you have a child who you feel is showing potential but isn't currently accessing a coaching programme with an LTA licensed coach, then as above, please contact the County Head Coaches directly who will advise.

Who runs the *County Performance Team*?

Karen Mitchell: Karen is the lead volunteer for performance tennis in Yorkshire and sits on the Yorkshire Tennis Management Committee and chairs the performance sub-committee. Karen oversees and monitors the County Performance Team and in addition is the Yorkshire Tennis Safeguarding Officer and can be contacted by emailing info@yorkshiretennis.org.uk or **01226 107092** for reporting a safeguarding concern for any Yorkshire related training, county cup/matches

Dave Kitchen: Dave is the county administrator. He provides administrative duties for all aspects of Yorkshire tennis, but specifically with regards to all county training and county team activity. davekitchen77@gmail.com

Tom Loughton: Tom is one of the County Head Coaches, with specific responsibility for U8, U10, U11, U12 and U14 age groups. Loughton.t@gmail.com

Elliot Chang: Elliot is one of the County Head Coaches, with specific responsibility for U9, U16 and U18 age groups elliotchang@hotmail.co.uk

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