



**YORKSHIRE  
TENNIS**

## **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.

### **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 8U through to 18U. Sessions are ran every month with the exception of July and August. The sessions are all held on indoor courts, at various venues across Yorkshire. 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') County Cup Team Captains – Yorkshire Tennis

### **Is there any more information on this?**

Yes, the following (taken from Performance Tennis Player Pathway ([lta.org.uk](http://lta.org.uk))) 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 prepare squads for County Cups and scenarios surrounding this.
- 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 based on player ranking, Captain selections and competition performances.

### **What will this programme be like?**

- Players may get opportunities to represent their county as part of a county team.
- County training will be delivered by age group captains and vice captains chosen from 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 this 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 Performance Tennis Player Pathway ([lta.org.uk](http://lta.org.uk))

### **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:

#### **11U, 12U, 14U and 18U**

- 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 captain and/or 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.

#### **9U and 10U**

- 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 9U and 10U 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.

#### **8U**

- 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

County Cup Selection in all the Under 10 age groups will be made by the Under 10 Head Coach John Loughton along with the relevant age group captains and assistants. Criteria for selection are listed below:

**9s and 10s:** In the Under 10s recent form will be used as a base for selection. However, performances, teamwork and attitude at County training alongside recent developments will also be very much considered in these younger ages

**8s:** Performances and attitude at County Training sessions alongside players showing a desire to get out and compete. Please note the LTA guideline on this event:

“The 8U County Cup is a one day event for players and acts as an introduction to County Cup tennis and is aimed at players who have not competed in a County Cup event before”.  
Hence, if a player has been selected to play in the Under 9 County Cup a player will then not be considered for selection for the Under 8 age group.

### **What is Talent Identification and what are County Open Days?**

Twice per year (usually January and June) Yorkshire Tennis holds 'County Open Days' for 8U players within the county. The county open days are ran by the Under 10 Head Coach John Loughton 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 at least 6 weeks before the event and is given the opportunity to nominate ANY 8U players in their club/programme who they feel are showing potential. These players are then all invited to attend the upcoming open day.

At the Open day, all parents/guardians of players will receive a presentation from John giving further information on the next steps and offered advice for their child's development. 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 8U, 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?**

**Nick Fitzpatrick:** oversees and monitors the County Performance Team and is the lead volunteer for performance tennis in Yorkshire.

The County has two part-time Head Coaches:

- **John Loughton:** 10 and Under - [johnloughton@yorkshiretennis.org.uk](mailto:johnloughton@yorkshiretennis.org.uk)
- **Joe Gill:** 11 and Over – [joegill@yorkshiretennis.org.uk](mailto:joegill@yorkshiretennis.org.uk)

**Rosie Nicholl** and **Helen Longstaff** are the Yorkshire Tennis Safeguarding Officers and can be contacted by email [safeguarding@yorkshiretennis.org.uk](mailto:safeguarding@yorkshiretennis.org.uk) or 01226 107092 for reporting a safeguarding concern for any Yorkshire related training, county cup/matches.

**Steve Holmes:** is the county administrator and provides administrative duties for all aspects of Yorkshire tennis, but specifically with regards to all county training and county team activity his email address is [CountyTennis@YorkshireTennis.org.uk](mailto:CountyTennis@YorkshireTennis.org.uk)