

Selection Criteria for Devon County Training

The LTA have stipulated that the criteria for selection should be based on future potential & rating / ranking. The selection committee comprising of: -

Will McNally - Devon Performance Manager (Level 5); Liam Storey - Exmouth Head Academy Coach (Level 4); John Cooksley – South Devon Tennis Centre Performance Coach (Level 4); Other coaches will assist with the selection process where required.

All players that have applied will be looked at under the headings below.

HEAD - Does the player demonstrate an appetite for learning and development; and/or can they look for solutions and ways to win in competitive situations?

HEART - Does the player demonstrate characteristics that suggest they could develop into a player that consistently fights and competes in competitive situations; and do they apply themselves in training?

LEGS - Does the player demonstrate athletic qualities that suggest they can positively influence the outcome of matches physically in the future?

WEAPONS – Does the player possess weapons or have the ability to develop weapons that will suit their game style? What are the weapons?

RATING / RANKING – Are the players competing regularly and progressing their rating / ranking?

Greater detail of what is required is listed below in no particular order: -

1. Level of Performance

- Ranking (yellow ball) and rating
- Recent tournament and match results (from past 6 months). It is expected that players will play a minimum of 6 appropriate singles competitions or events over a 6-month period. However, please note that the fewer events played the harder it is to achieve a good ranking! Red & Orange players new to the programme will be looking to work towards this number of events as a minimum.
- It is an expectation that 12U yellow ball players will have a minimum of a 9.1 rating and for boys a county ranking of 15 or better and girls a county ranking of 10 or better. Players moving from green to yellow ball will be expected to work towards this within their first season of yellow ball.
- It is an expectation that players in the age groups - 14's, 16's & 18's - will have a county ranking of 10 or better.
- It is an expectation that all green ball players will have a rating of 11.2 or better

2. Great approach to training

- Players will be expected to conduct themselves in a way that contributes to the smooth running of Devon County Training sessions and to show a **positive approach** to training.
- The County Team want to see a constant appetite from every player for improvement and a 'personal best' mentality from every session regardless of the squad they are in.
- Behaviours we want to observe include:
 - Great work ethic
 - Displaying a clear enthusiasm to work hard on and off the court.
 - Listening well and responding positively to instruction
 - The ability to focus on the process of training
 - Great attitude to every ball, challenging themselves to never let the ball bounce twice.
 - The ability to 'Bounce-back' after any disappointments
 - Respect to fellow Academy players, coaches, staff and parents

3. Physical development

- Players will need to demonstrate their athletic qualities that suggest they can positively influence the outcome of matches physically in the future.
 - Good level of agility, balance and coordination to support future athletic development for their age group.
 - Show levels of conditioning that allows them to train well from start to finish.

4. Competitive profile

- Competition is important for players. We would expect them to be competing in tournaments and show the following attributes:
 - Spirit, determination and a fair attitude to match play
 - A willingness to compete positively when under pressure
 - Developing high percentage tennis during rallying, attacking and defending phases of play
 - Strong and positive body language
 - Bounce-back-ability

5. Programme

- A training plan that has the appropriate volume and intensity for county (or above). This will include a minimum of 5 hours of structured (coached) tennis per week for yellow ball players. Red, orange and green players should have a minimum of 5 hours tennis a week and be working towards 5 hours minimum of structured tennis per week.
- It is highly recommended, but not essential, that this will include an hour of individual coaching. Please note that this is a minimum for county training and if you have aspirations of playing at a higher level then it will require even more tennis!

6. Team Work

- Commitment to the Devon team, and the other individuals within the team of all ages, so that together we can develop and grow.
- A willingness of players and parents to want to work with us as a county and the county coaching team. Devon are passionate about working with players (and parents) who want to be part of the Devon team and are looking to develop their tennis.