

European Deaf Tennis Championships 2016
4-12th June Portoroz, Slovenia

CRITERIA FOR SELECTION FOR REPRESENTING GREAT BRITAIN

1. Introduction

The Tennis Foundation (the **TF**) shall be selecting a maximum of 4 males and 4 females (senior events) and 2 males and 2 females (junior events) to compete at the European Deaf Tennis Championships based on the Selection Criteria below.

2. Selection Timeline

24 Jan 2016 TF Selection Panel to convene to decide which players shall be selected for the European Deaf Tennis Championships.

25 Jan 2016 Players will be informed of selection in writing by 3pm. Should a player wish to appeal the decision of the TF Selection Panel, he/she must follow the Selection Appeals Procedure (attached).

Please note that the above dates are subject to change.

3. TF Selection Panel

It is the responsibility of the TF to select the players for the European Deaf Tennis Championships. The TF delegates this responsibility to the TF Selection Panel. The Selection Panel will consist of:

- a) Geraint Richards – Chair;
- b) Cathy Fletcher – National Deaf Coach;
- c) Stuart Wilkinson – TF Disability Tennis National Lead Coach;

The TF Selection Panel will meet on 24th January 2016 to determine which players meeting the Essential Eligibility Criteria at clause 4 and the Specific Selection Criteria at clause 5 (together the **Selection Criteria**) will be selected for the European Deaf Tennis Championships. In making these decisions the TF Selection Panel will assess players eligible for consideration against the Specific Selection Criteria. The TF Selection Panel will use its expert knowledge of both the sport and elite performance sport to make such decisions.

If any member of the selection panel has a perceived conflict of interest on a selection matter, the member shall declare that interest and the Chair will rule how the conflict will be dealt with to ensure fairness.

Should there be a tie, the Chair shall have the casting vote.

4. Essential Eligibility Criteria

To be eligible for consideration by the Selection Panel, each player must:

- have British nationality and hold a British Passport and be eligible to represent Great Britain under the Rules of the Lawn Tennis Association Limited (the **LTA**) (see the LTA website under LTA rule 35(a) and Appendix 2 – Player eligibility, www.lta.org.uk);
- be in good standing with the TF;
- be medically fit and, if required, attend a medical examination by a physiotherapist/sports therapist appointed by the TF; and
- have no pending or outstanding anti-doping violations.

5. Specific Selection Criteria

Players will be selected taking into consideration the factors below.

- Being a member of the TF Deaf Tennis Performance Programme.

- Making the finals of the National Deaf Championships.
- Performance at training and perceived ability to translate this into a top 4 final result at the European Deaf Tennis Championships performance.
- Having the ability and drive to progress to medal potential at future Deaf Tennis major events.
- Track record of performance representing Great Britain.
- Being a role model for GB Deaf Tennis.
- Showing evidence of a comprehensive fitness and injury prevention programme.
- Additional factors including potential GB doubles pairings, court surface, team goals and team cohesion.
- Having a detailed competition programme.
- Attendance at 90% of the group training camps in the 12 months preceding the selection panel.
- Making the necessary improvements during the 12 months preceding the selection panel as notified by the TF.
- Adherence to the Performance Player Code of Conduct.
- Exceptional circumstances, including those related to a player's individual performance needs, which are relevant to the player's suitability for selection.

6. Communication of Selection

Players will be notified of their nomination (or, in some instances, otherwise) by 3pm on 25th January 2016. The TF will endeavour to contact all players in contention for selection to communicate the decision of the TF selection panel, giving non-selected athletes an opportunity to seek clarification on reasons for non-selection. If the decision is communicated to a player verbally, this will be followed up with confirmation of the decision in writing.

7. Confidentiality

All players, coaches, members of the support team and any other individuals involved in the selection process must keep all information relating to the selection process confidential and not disclose any information regarding the process, the nominated athletes and the team selected unless authorised to do so by the TF.

8. Changes to the Selection Process

The TF will have the right to amend or vary this Selection Policy and the Selection Criteria where necessary at any time in order to meet the requirements of the International Committee of Sports for the Deaf selection policy. These changes and amendments, having been discussed and agreed, will be clearly communicated to all parties.

9. Appeals

Should a player wish to appeal against the TF selection decision, the player must do so in writing or by email within 7 working days of receiving written notice of the decision to the Executive Director of the TF at the National Tennis Centre, 100 Priory Lane, Roehampton, London, SW15 5JQ, email address geoff.newton@tennisfoundation.org.uk. Full details of the Selection Appeals Procedure are attached at Schedule 1.

No appeals will be allowed against the content of this published Selection Policy and the Selection Criteria (both as amended from time to time).

10. De-selection

In the circumstances listed below, the TF selection panel will be convened to consider the de-selection of a player.

- **Illness or injury**
A player must prove his/her fitness to compete by attending a medical examination and/or a fitness test by a TF appointed physiotherapist/sports therapist. The criteria for this will be made available. In the event of an injury or illness following selection, the player (and any coach or member of staff working with the team) must pass a medical examination and/or fitness test prior to travelling to the European Deaf Tennis Championships in Portoroz, Slovenia.
- **Level of Performance**
In the event that a player's performances result in a substantial fall in ranking or are well below expectations, consideration will be given to withdrawing the invitation to the European Deaf Tennis Championships, unless there is an exceptional reason for this.
- **Discipline**
Any breach of discipline under the Performance Player Code of Conduct and the applicable Rules of the TF, LTA or ITF and non-adherence to the conditions of the TF Performance Programme will be taken into account when considering any action to be taken, including the withdrawal of the invitation to compete at the European Deaf Tennis Championships.
- **Anti-Doping**
Any investigation or disciplinary action taken in respect of an alleged anti-doping violation, whether in or out of competition. A proven anti-doping offence will result in immediate de-selection.

The Selection Panel has the power to de-select a player should any of the above circumstances arise. In the event that a decision to de-select a player is taken, the player will be informed of the decision of the Selection Panel within 24 hours and will be entitled to appeal the decision. The Selection Appeals Procedure attached at Schedule 1 will be followed in such circumstances with the dates amended appropriately to the circumstances.

11. Withdrawal

The TF recognises the player's right to withdraw from the European Deaf Tennis Championships post-selection. Any intention to do so must be communicated by email or letter to the Chair of the Selection Panel (Geraint Richards).

12. General

All players, coaches and support staff selected will be expected to stay with the team in the allocated hotel.

Schedule 1

Selection Appeals Procedure

1. If a player wishes to appeal against any decision taken, they must do so in writing to the Executive Director of the TF within 7 working days of receiving written notice of the decision. The player must set out the reasons for the appeal in writing.
2. After receiving the written appeal, the Executive Director of the TF, or a person nominated by the Executive Director of the TF to hear the appeal, shall write to the player inviting them to attend an appeal meeting. The player will be given at least 5 working days' notice of this meeting where possible and is required to make every effort to attend.
3. The player may be accompanied by another player to the appeal meeting (subject to that person not being implicated in the matter). The identity of the player's companion must be communicated to the Executive Director of the TF (or their nominee) prior to the meeting so that the Executive Director of the TF (or their nominee) can confirm their attendance. The Executive Director of the TF (or their nominee) shall be accompanied at the meeting by a nominated individual to take notes of the meeting.
4. All evidence which was taken into account in making the initial decision will be put before the appeal meeting and will be provided to the player in advance of the appeal meeting. Where new evidence arises in the course of the appeal, the player, or their representative, will be given the opportunity to comment before any action is taken. Where appropriate, it may be necessary to adjourn the appeal meeting in order to undertake further investigation or consideration. If the player intends to rely on new evidence coming to light in the appeal meeting they should, where possible, provide a copy of such evidence to the Executive Director of the TF (or their nominee) in advance of the appeal meeting.
5. The Player will be informed in writing of the decision of the Executive Director of the TF (or their nominee) and their reasons. The Executive Director of the TF (or their nominee) may change the decision of the Selection Panel.
6. The decision of the Executive Director of the TF (or their nominee) following the appeal hearing is final and there is no further right of appeal.