



Tennis

Player Selection Process & Tournament Support

Eligibility

For a player to be eligible for Bolton Arena RPDC Programme they must meet both 2.a. and 2.b

a. Age Eligibility. Players born in 2013, 2012, 2011, and 2010

b. Selected on the National Pathway List

c. Annual Re-Selection Process to ensure players meet Bolton RPDC Performance Level Requirements.

The maximum number of Full Time Players is 13. Access Players are assessed on a case-by-case basis.



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Programmes available

a. Full Time Bolton RPDC Player

This entails a bespoke programme including individuals, squads and strength and conditioning. We will also provide annual competition schedules and offer coach support at all the National and Tennis Europe events. These players will receive financial support for their programmes. At current there are only 2/13 spaces total available on this programme.

b. Access Bolton RPDC Player

This includes squad-based training with other members of the RPDC players and team. We will also offer tournament support to the majority and the National and Domestic Tennis Europe events for these players if requested. The spaces on this programme are dependent on space and availability of the squads.



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Academic options

a. Bolton School (Independent, Private)

We have a partnership with the local Private school, Bolton School. The RPDC coaching staff have a great relationship with the teachers, and they work well with the players that need to miss classes due to training programmes or tournaments.

b. Minerva Online Education

Virtual online school for elite athletes allowing freedom to train at any time whilst maintaining a high level of education.



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Performance Level Requirements

The selection process for Bolton Arena RPDC is to ensure that we can provide players with an environment that will challenge and support players to optimize their tennis potential.

As an RPDC, our goal is to prepare players to meet the demands of the international junior stage (ITF Juniors) as they graduate out of U14. We understand that players develop at different rates and stages, but it is important to state that some players, if placed in this environment too early, might have a negative experience which could hinder their development in the future.

We will complete a selection process each year, so if players are not selected in the 1st year, there is still an opportunity to join the programme the following year if we feel they are ready to meet the demands of the program. This will also give us a chance to assess if the RPDC programme is the right fit for players based on their development.



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Performance Level Requirements

The following criteria will be assessed on a case-by-case basis.

a. Competitive profile

Is or has the potential to compete & win matches in G1 National Tour & Tennis Europe Events. Those in year 4 of RPDC (last year U14), should be competing in ITF events).

Please see below Bolton Arena RPDC tournament expectations. All players will receive a 12-month tournament schedule to help guide parents and players into relevant tournaments. As you can see, international travel is expected to be a priority for all players. We want Bolton Arena's RPDC players to be fully aware of the demands of international competition and are well-conditioned and ready for the demands of the National Academies tournament schedule.

Tournaments	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4
Grade 2 National Events	3	3	4	4
Grade 1 National Events	3	4	4	4
Domestic Tennis Europe	4	5	5	8
International Tennis Europe	1	3	4+	5+
Total Tennis Europe (ITF)	5	8	9+	13+
Tennis Europe Play off?	3	N/A	N/A	N/A
NAGP Match Plays	1	2	2	2
National Ranking	Top 40	Top 30	Top 20	Top 15
International Ranking	N/A	N/A	Top 500	Top 200



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Performance Level Requirements

b. Commitment to a Full Time RPDC Programme

All players will be offered a bespoke weekly training programme. We understand that there are a lot of elements to balance to make this a success, however, we expect complete cooperation with players and parents to make this happen.

* To follow a full-time programme, time out of school – mornings/ afternoons and evenings will be expected on a couple of weekdays. The coaching team are happy to collaborate with schoolteachers to ensure standards are maintained at the highest level.



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Performance Level Requirements

c. Displaying qualities that are consistent with Bolton
Arena's OWN IT philosophy

Ownership

Work ethic

No excuses

Innner determination

Teamwork





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Performance Level Requirements

d. Super Strength

Players must be showing signs of a Physical, Mental, Technical and/or tactical strength that we can build their games around these.

3. Love of the game

Players must be 100% passionate about tennis and accept the highs and lows that tennis brings along the journey. Parent cooperation is also especially important to us as a team at Bolton Arena, trust in the process and coaches' decisions is vital to ensuring optimal improvement.



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How to express your interest

1. Players must be born in the eligible years above (2.a) and have been selected for the LTA RPDC Longlist to be considered for the RPDC programme.

Note: that we are open to players outside our Region. To learn more about our accommodation and schooling options, click the link here. – this needs to be taken to the academics section.

2. Once receiving the National Pathway Selection email, players interested in joining Bolton RPDC will be required to email the Head Coach Sabrina Federici –

sabrinafederici@boltonarena.com contact ASAP as a limited number of full-time and access spaces will be available.



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How to express your interest

3. After receiving an expression of interest email, all players must attend 3 of our current RPDC Sessions. No charge will be required for the session and the players' individual coach is welcome and encouraged to attend.

During these sessions, the RPDC coaches will have a chance to get to know the players' personalities and playing abilities. They will also undergo physical testing with our Head S&C Coach. Times and dates of these sessions will be emailed.

Note that only due to exceptional circumstances will we review this stage of our selection process.

4. Once players have attended the sessions, the Head Coach will discuss players with the rest of the RPDC team and review Performance Level Requirements (Selection Criteria). Please note that we have a maximum capacity of 13 Full Time spaces available.



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RPDC Team Selection Panel

Sabrina Federici – Head of RPDC

Simon Thornewill – RPDC Assistant Coach

Steven Fathers – Director of Tennis

Howard Green – Strength & Conditioning Coach

Once the decision has been made, parents will receive an email with selection & next steps and non-selection information.



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Re-selection process / policy

All players selected for Bolton RPDC are subject to annual reselections. All player selections and reselections are made whilst considering the players progress and suitability of international junior tennis by the end of their 14U year .

The Process:

The RPDC coaching team will meet with parents, and where appropriate, players, termly with a final decision on reselection made by the end of June 2024.



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Re-selection process / policy

Areas Considered:

1. IDP (Individual Development Plan)

Goals set at the start of the year are being met / has been significantly improved.

2. Performance Criteria

We will be following the same criteria as the LTA. Head, Heart, Athlete, Gamestyle, Strengths and Weapons, Readiness, Performance.

3. Commitment to programme

Players are ready to increase their weekly programmes year by year and Full Time Players are in for a minimum of 3 days per week.



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Player Selection Process & Tournament Support

Re-selection process / policy

Areas Considered:

4. Adherence to programme

Parents and players are fully invested in the project. The main motivation behind being a part of the programme is to reach an optimal level and be ready for ITF level tennis by the end of the 4 years. 100% dedication with tennis requirements being a priority.

5. Commitment to tournament schedule:

Players are following the tournament expectations domestically and internationally outlined for their year on the RPDC. The Players' rankings will also be reviewed to determine if they can compete in the National G1 and G2 as expected for the RPDC.



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Player Selection Process & Tournament Support

Re-selection process / policy

Areas Considered:

6. OWNIT philosophy

We will monitor players' attributes weekly in relation to our philosophy. This is mostly linked to behavior and attitude.

7. Parent Cooperation

As a team, we believe the best work is done when there is full autonomy between all parties involved in the player's development.



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What happens next...

Once we have assessed the previous year, we will sit down as a team to make the decision.

Successful Reselection

If successfully reselected, we will begin to plan for the start of the term in September. Communication with schools to piece together weekly programme.

In-development Reselection

If the player is making small improvements but is struggling to keep up with the demands of the game, we will renew the contract under a probationary period. These players will have 6-12 months to reach bespoke individual goals that will be set and agreed with the RPDC coaching team.



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What happens next...

Unsuccessful Reselection

If as a team we have decided not to renew a player's RPDC contract, then we will allow time for parents to find an alternative programme for the players to attend. We may still be able to offer an access placement that will consist of squads they can still participate in. Players can contact other RPDC venues to join.

Note: if a player is not involved in an RPDC, they must ensure they are still reaching the LTA Selection Criteria for the National Pathway List, as if not they will be removed from the list the following April/May.