

BOLTON ARENA

Selection Policy & Criteria

1. Selection Policy & Criteria

Bolton Arena Regional Performance Centre aims to provide selected U10-U14 players from the LTA National Longlist with quality daily coaching in a challenging and professional environment to equip players with the skills required for National Academy selection by the time they reach the age of 14.

**If the player is unsuccessful in achieving National Academy Selection, Bolton Arena performance pathway caters to all ages and stages, meaning we can still accommodate players aged 14+ in our FTA (Full Time Academy). **

2. 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 2014, 2013, 2012, and 2011
- 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 12. Access Players are assessed on a case-by-case basis.

3. 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 by the age of 14. 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 programme. This will also give us a chance to assess if the RPDC programme is the right fit for players based on their development.

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 guidelines. 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	NA	NA	Top 500	Top 200

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*
*

c. Displaying qualities that are consistent with Bolton Arena’s philosophy

OWNIT

O = Ownership
W = Work Ethic
N = No Excuses
I = Inner Determination

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.

e. 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.

Selection Process – 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 school, please contact us via email.

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. It's also possible to contact via enquiry link on the RPDC page of the website

3. After receiving an expression of interest email, all players **must** attend 2 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 **12 Full Time spaces**.

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

RE-SELECTION PROCESS / POLICY

Each year, as a team, we will review all players' development from the previous 12 months. This meeting will take place in July. As mentioned, we understand that players develop physically and emotionally at different rates, however, to ensure we reach our objective as an RPDC we must make sure that we have 12 players on our programme that do or have the potential to reach the National Academy standard by the time they reach the age of 14 years.

The areas we will be considering are:

1. IDP (Individual Development Plan) – goals set at the start of the year are being met / has been significantly improved.
2. 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
3. Commitment to tournament schedule: Players are following the tournament expectations domestically and internationally outlined for their year on the RPDC. The Players' rankings & UTR will also be reviewed to determine if they can compete in the National G1 and G2 as expected for the RPDC.
4. OWNIT philosophy – we will monitor players' attributes weekly in relation to our philosophy. This is mostly linked to behavior and attitude. (Please click here to view the document).
5. 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.

What Happens Next...

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

1. 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

2. 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.

3. Early Termination of contract

If as a team we feel it is not working & it's in the best interests of the player to leave the RPDC programme early termination is an option.

PAYMENT POLICY

No refunds will be offered to players unless they have taken a significant time off training due to injury/sickness. All cases will be reviewed on an individual basis.