

# **BOLTON ARENA**

## **Selection Policy & Criteria**

### 1. Introduction

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 2015, 2014, 2013, and 2012
- b. Selected on the Regional Pathway List
- c. Annual Re-Selection Process to ensure players meet Bolton RPDC Performance Level Requirements.

### 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. 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 1<sup>st</sup> 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 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+
NAGP Match plays	1	2	2	2
National Ranking	Top 40	Top 30	Top 20	Top 15
International Ranking	NA	NA	Top 300	Top 150

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

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

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 enquire via email*

2. Once receiving the Regional Longlist Selection email, players interested in joining Bolton RPDC will be required to email the Acting Head Coach Simon Thornewill – [simonthornewill@boltonarena.com](mailto:simonthornewill@boltonarena.com) (contact ASAP as a limited number of full-time and access spaces will be available.)

3. After receiving an expression of interest email, all players must attend the RPDC open day. No charge will be required for the session and the players' individual coach is welcome and encouraged to attend. During the open day, 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. The Open Day will take place on Friday 6<sup>th</sup> June 9am – 12pm.

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

### FAQ around player programming:

What happens if my child misses sessions due to coaches being away?

Unfortunately, we do not offer refunds for missed sessions due to coaches or players being away. It is important for parents to understand that they are buying into a holistic approach to player development, through which players schedules are not costed out on hour-by-hour basis. Players schedules may fluctuate from week to week both increasing and decreasing as necessary. Refunds may be discussed in cases of prolonged illness or injury.

What happens when my child competes at the weekend?

After competing on the weekend, it's important for your child to have a rest day during the week this will be judged on an individual basis. Regardless of any scheduled sessions, a rest day will be required and discussed to ensure your child's well-being and recovery after the competition. This is crucial for their physical and mental health, as well as their performance in future sessions and competitions.

My school won't let my child come out in the day, what should I do?

Training programming and school schedules is one of the most difficult things to coordinate. We will do our best to make both work together, however there will be instances where the player may need to miss core subjects to ensure their programmes are optimal for their age and stage and optimal training loads. As the player continues through the RPDC more sessions will be required in the daytime between 9-4pm and tournament travel will take place during term time. If this is something you are not comfortable with then this programme will unfortunately not work for you as a Full-Time RPDC Player.

## 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 June. 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 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 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 Regional player Longlist, as if not they will be removed from the list the following April/May.