



## County Teams selection criteria – Embrace the Olympic Spirit

### Review and future proposals

As we near the end of the summer season it feels about the right time to review the County Cup Selection Criteria, adopted last year and to gain your feedback to help us improve it for the future.

Tennis Cornwall adopted a selection criteria for its county teams in November 2023 to make selection a more open and transparent process. Here are my thoughts on the future development of the selection criteria.

You can view the selection criteria on the Tennis Cornwall website. [Tennis Cornwall County Selection criteria](#)

The investment from the LTA demands that we operate in a fair and open way.

#### MY VIEW

The best sport in my view includes uncertainty, jeopardy as well as being open and giving everyone a chance. Sport is about now and not what you did in the past.

Tennis is mainly an individual sport. County Cup allows players to be a part of a team, represent the county with pride, and an inspiration to keep improving. County cup is the pinnacle of county tennis and needs to support the rest of the county's work. It might not be for everyone.

#### RECAP

The selection criteria identifies four events which by competing in 'qualify' a player to be available for selection. Three county closed events and the ITF at Newquay are the qualifying events.

This approach uniquely brings the best county players together to compete and strengthens local competition. The county closed events are underwritten by Tennis Cornwall and its sponsors.

#### THE FUTURE

We want to build a culture of fair, open and transparent selection for our county cup teams as the basis over time of becoming increasingly competitive in as many age groups as possible.



We want to be a progressive county whereby any player can set out to make the county team and be given the opportunity. Even in Cornwall, things are never static. New players move into the county, players start playing again for the first time since juniors and others aspire and set out to improve.

The selection criteria provides an open, objective and transparent selection process. In simple terms you would not expect to be selected for the Olympic Games without qualifying for the team. County Tennis teams -same Olympic spirit principle.

In reviewing the selection criteria, here are my current thoughts and proposals;

**Proposal 1: Qualifying events will remain and will be the only way to 'qualify' to represent Cornwall from August 2024.** The additional opportunities offered in the first year will not exist in the future. Exceptions for young players who are away at tennis schools and injured players will remain. Qualifying to represent the county will be on a rolling 12 month basis. For example, if you want to represent the county at Winter County Cup in November 2024, you need to have qualified over the previous 12 months. The County Closed from last year, August 2023 will not count.

**Proposal 2: Win a qualifying competition and you are automatically in the team.** This is based on the principle that sport is about now, as well as being an extra incentive to play in a county level qualifying event. The Olympic Spirit in action.

**Proposal 3: Players will first of all need to make themselves available for their own age group before being considered to play in any other age group.**

If we placed all of our players, juniors through to seniors in their correct age groups we would undoubtedly achieve a higher position in the county cup race. The county cup race is a national event which scores counties on their performance, across all age groups and awards points for each age group's performance. This would raise Cornwall's profile nationally.

All players will be expected to play as far as is possible in recognised county team kit.

**Proposal 4: We will invite Expressions of Interest from players who would like to captain a county age group team in 2025.** The more teams we field the better our ranking in the county cup race. In turn, increasing the belief in what we can achieve, growing enthusiasm and the desire for more players to be a part of it.

**Proposal 5: Captaincy – senior teams.** Captains to be appointed for an initial three years. This will allow captains and Tennis Cornwall to review progress before agreeing to a further three years. Allows captains to view captaincy positively and not an indefinite commitment.

If there are people who you think might be interested in playing for the county, please let them know about the selection criteria review. Make sure that no one you know can say "I didn't know about the selection criteria"



Let's grow this great game of tennis together. Be proud to play for Cornwall.

If you have a view on the Cornwall County Cup selection criteria which you would like to share, whether in agreement or with an alternative view we would like to hear from you as part of our review. The review is open for comment until Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> September.

Feel free to contact me by mobile 07914257521 or email [chaircornwalltennis@gmail.com](mailto:chaircornwalltennis@gmail.com)

Many thanks,

Mike

Mike Thomas  
Chair  
Tennis Cornwall

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