



Kent Tennis – County Training and County Cup

This document is designed to inform you the parent and the player, of what the county offers in terms of training programmes and team competition. An explanation is given as to what these are, and how they work. If your child is just starting out in county tennis, I would urge you to read this entire document. If you have been involved in county tennis for some time, whilst you may already have a good understanding, I would suggest that you still take the time to read through as it may clear up some misconceptions.

Please see below a brief explanation of county camps, training and county cup, and how they are linked in some way.

County Camps are held monthly for players aged 7&8U and act as an introduction to Kent Tennis and the county pathway. These players will have been nominated by their clubs and coaches to attend an Open Day in September, from which an invitation process takes place. Where possible these camps will be held in Bromley and Canterbury, to ease the travel for parents.

County Training is a 'training programme' for 9U-18U players in Kent. Bringing together the best players from around the county, whilst receiving coaching from some of the county's top coaches. The focus of the programme is to teach the British Tennis Doubles System and to support the general development of each player. These sessions are often held monthly and will cater for as many players as possible, considering court availability, compatibility, and quality of the session.

County Cup is an LTA inter-county **team competition** and runs at the following junior age groups 8U/9U/10U/11U/12U/14U/18U through to senior tennis. Aside from 18U which is currently based on league promotion and relegation, the events run through regional qualifiers into National finals. Each county team includes between 4-10 players, depending on the age group. Every county will attempt to field the very best teams as they compete to top the national leader board. This is a very prestigious title in county level tennis and one that Kent are proudly in contention for every year.

County Training - Invitation

Players will be invited to be part of the county training programme from September. Where a player has not been part of the programme before, they will be invited for a trial at the start of the programme. A trial can also be granted if a player makes a significant move up the rankings during the year. The coaches will gauge if the player's playing level is compatible with the rest of the group, as well as their attitude and work rate.



County Cup - selection

Whilst the county training programme is designed to cater for 'more' players, county cup is about fielding the team that has the best possible chance of success. With fewer players involved than that of county training, it will subsequently cause disappointment amongst the players who are not selected. The coaching team are very mindful of this but have a duty to choose, based on evidence and their professional opinion, the strongest players for the event. The selection panel consisting of the CPM, captain and vice-captain for each age group will go through an extensive selection process.

We understand we will not please all, but it is our aim to ensure the player, the parent, and the coach not only understand the process, but trust it, respecting the professionalism and integrity of the selection panel. The panel will show no bias towards any club or player throughout the process

The county training and county cup selection policies will give you a better understanding of the considerations and process for selection.

County Training and County Cup selection policies

This policy outlines the process for selection of the 2023-2024 county training programme and 2024 county cup teams, the policy will be reviewed for 2024-2025.

County Training – 9U to 18U

The CPM will prepare lists of players to be considered for each age group, these will be drawn from the LTA Rankings including all players that were in the programme the previous year. The county coaching team will meet at the end of August to select players for the new programme starting in September. The following criteria will be used to make these selections...

1. Attitude, behaviour, work rate and game development in the previous year of county training (if they attended)
2. LTA Ranking/recent form lists and any head-to-head results
3. Competitive profile/frequency of competition
4. Coach recommendation

Please note: Players who were in the programme the previous year will be considered along with any new players appearing in the rankings. There is no guarantee of players staying on the programme, a full selection process is carried out each year.

Please see the table below, illustrating the number of players invited for county camps, county training and county cup, along with the county cup format.



Age Group	County Training	County Cup	
	Approximate no. of players invited	No. of players selected	Format
7U mixed	Up to 24	No event	n/a
8U mixed	Up to 40 (A and B squads)	Up to 5 boys & 5 girls	8 singles 2 doubles
8U East Kent	Up to 24	n/a	n/a
9U mixed	Up to 15 (per gender)	Up to 5 boys & 5 girls	4 singles 2 doubles
10U	Up to 10 (per gender)	Up to 6 boys & 6 girls	4 singles 2 doubles
11U*	Up to 12 (per gender)	Up to 6 boys & 6 girls	4 singles 2 doubles
12U*	Up to 12 (per gender)	Up to 6 boys & 6 girls	4 singles 2 doubles
14U	Up to 16 Boys & 12 Girls	Up to 6 boys & 6 girls	4 singles 2 doubles
16U	Up to 16 Boys & 12 Girls	** Up to 6 boys & 6 girls	4 singles 2 doubles
18U	Up to 16 (per gender)	Up to 10 boys & 10 girls	6 singles 3 doubles

* The CPM reserves the right to bring the 11/12U age groups together as one, this will reduce the total number of players invited

**The 16U event is not a county cup competition, it is named the South-East Trophy and held on finals weekend of the Surbiton pre-Wimbledon tournament.

Please see the timeline laid out below, outlining each stage of the process. For the duration of the programme and in the lead up to county cup selection, all players will be constantly monitored by the age group coaches and the County Performance Manager (CPM) on termly scheduled visits.

August – County Coaching team meet at the County Championships to go through player lists and agree invites for county training age groups 9U – 18U.

September – County training invites are emailed out. Players will receive an email if they are invited for the full programme or for a trial. **Players that turn down their county training place, without consultation and agreement with the County Performance Manager, will not be eligible for County Cup selection.** Players eligible for an exemption or a reduced commitment to the programme, must be on the LTA Regional Player list. All decisions are at the discretion of the CPM.

October to April – The CPM will monitor the performance, attendance, ranking and results of all players in the county programme. A player's place in the programme will be at risk if they do not compete in LTA sanctioned tournaments at grade 5 and above, for 3 months+ without a valid reason.

January to June – County cup season for selection begins, starting with the 18U age group. The captain, vice-captain, and the CPM will follow the process for each group as shown below...



County Cup

1. Closely monitor the players in county training and evaluate their performance in the drills and game situations set out in the sessions. CPM will plan to attend two county training sessions of each age group and gender.
2. Compile a shortlist of players to be considered for county cup selection in the lead up to the selection date.
3. The selection panel consisting of the captain, vice-captain and CPM, will then by the date set out on the annual plan, follow the selection process and make their team selections from the short-list of players. This process will be overseen by the Kent Performance Committee.
4. Emails will be sent to all players in county training notifying them of whether they have been selected for county cup or not.
5. Parents are welcomed to ask the captain for specific feedback regarding their child's development and performance in county training.

Please see the table below displaying the specific timeline of communication and selection for county training/camps and county cup for each age group.

Dates & Age Group	County Training/Camp invites	County Training/Camp Programme	County Cup Selection & Communication	Team Training	County Cup Event
7U	October	October - June	n/a	n/a	n/a
8U	October	October - June	February	n/a	April
9U	Late August	September - June	February	n/a	March/April
10U	Late August	September - March	March/April	April/May	May/June
11U	Late August	September - April	April/May	May/June	June/July
12U	Late August	September - June	July	September	September/Oct
14U	Late August	September - March	March	April	May
16U	January	March - June	n/a	n/a	n/a
18U	Late August	September - Feb	Jan/Feb	February	March



Player Selection – Boys and Girls

Selection & Age Group	Direct Acceptance	Selection Panel	Total Players (Up to max)
8U	n/a	Up to 5	5
9U	0	Up to 5	5
10U	2	Up to 4	6
11U	3	Up to 3	6
12U	3	Up to 3	6
14U	3	Up to 3	6
18U	5	Up to 5	10

Direct Acceptance

This number of players will be automatically selected based on their county ranking or recent form lists (10U) when selection takes place. However, the county reserve the right to omit any players if any concerns have been communicated to the parents and player regarding their attitude or behaviour in training or competition prior to selection.

If a player who qualifies for the team as a direct acceptance, declines their place, the spot **will not** be filled by the next ranked player. All remaining places in the team will go through the selection process and be decided via the selection panel.

Selection Panel

All players who made the short-list, will go through an extensive process where the selection panel will look closely at the areas detailed below. The selection panel will decide the number of players to be added to the direct acceptances, resulting in confirmation of the squad who will represent Kent at county cup.

PLAYING LEVEL - Doubles:

Observed by the coaches in county training sessions, witnessed in tournaments, indication of performances in competition. Specific consideration will be given to each player's doubles ability, including their understanding of the British Tennis Doubles system, their skill competency in the specific tactical areas and the general development they have displayed in the county training sessions. ,

ATTITUDE:

The captain and vice-captain will monitor each player's general attitude and behaviour in county training sessions, along with their ability to play as part of a team. Where possible they may also be observed when playing in tournaments. Contact may be made with the individual coaches or programme managers for more information where required. Any concerns



over a player's attitude/behaviour will be communicated to the parents before selection takes place.

FORM

The selection panel will look at the county and national ranking of each player, their recent results (age group selecting for only), and head-to-head matches in any age group against other players in contention in a 3-month period leading up to selection. Consideration will also be given to a player in a younger age group, who has successfully competed at a national or international level.

Please note: Any player selected for an older age group of county cup, must make themselves available for their own age group. If they do not, they may not be considered for any teams the following year.