

## Essex County Teams Selection Policy – Padel

### 1. Purpose

The Essex Padel Committee will select players to represent Essex in county padel teams across all competition categories (Men's, Women's, Juniors, and Seniors) for County-sanctioned national events. The primary objective is:

- To achieve the highest possible finishing position at LTA-sanctioned team competitions (e.g. County Padel Championships) within each eligible age group and gender in any given year.

### 2. Eligibility

Players will be considered for selection if they meet the following criteria:

- 2.1 Are eligible to represent Essex in LTA-approved competitions. No player may represent more than one area (county) in any one competition, and no player may represent an area (county) if that player has represented another area (county) during the previous twelve months (six months in the case of a Junior).
- 2.2 In addition to the age requirement, players are eligible to represent a county if they fulfil one of the three following criteria: 1. They have been a permanent resident within that county for at least 12 months prior to 15th November 2025. 2. They were born within the county. 3. They have lived in that county for a period of over 5 years at some point during the course of their life.
- 2.3 Meet the age eligibility requirements for the relevant team category during the calendar year of the competition. Subject to FIP confirmation, categories may include:

- **Juniors:** U18
- **Open:** No age restriction
- **Seniors:** 40+, 50+, 60+

- 2.4 Hold a current LTA Advantage membership (Play, Play+ or Compete) [www.lta.org.uk/advantage](http://www.lta.org.uk/advantage)

- 2.5 Are not currently disqualified or suspended under the rules of the LTA, or any other recognised federation.

- 2.6 Have submitted a signed declaration confirming their intention to be considered for selection by the published deadline.

- 2.7 Are not serving a sanction under anti-corruption or anti-doping rules.

- 2.8 Agree to comply with the LTA Code of Conduct ([link](#)) and, if selected, commit to:

- Adhering to LTA travel and event arrangements;
- Wearing official team kit;
- Respecting all LTA protocols and partner/sponsor guidelines.

### **3. Team Composition**

Team composition will vary depending on the age group and in line with LTA tournament regulations. For clarity, **each team is selected per gender** (i.e. separate teams for males and females, including boys, girls, men and women, as appropriate to the age category).

- **Open Teams, Seniors Teams & Junior Teams:** For each age category (e.g. 40+, 50+, 60+), Teams will typically consist of 4 selected players per gender, with up to two additional reserve players. The final number will be decided by the Essex LTA Padel.
- All final decisions on pairings, the use of reserves, and competition line-ups will be made at the discretion of the Essex LTA Padel and the appointed team captains or coach.

### **4. Selection Criteria**

Selections will be made in accordance with the purpose outlined in Section 1. All decisions will be evidence-based, free from bias, and reflect fair consideration of all eligible players.

Only results and relevant information from the 12-month period preceding the application deadline will be considered.

#### **4.1 Competition Profile**

Performance at the following events will be assessed:

- FIP World Ranking
- LTA Padel Ranking
- Previous LTA County Championship results
- LTA-sanctioned tournament performances
- LTA Tour results (including Juniors, Open, and Seniors)
- Other domestic or international events deemed relevant
- Players will be required to have played a minimum of four LTA events in the last 12 months to be considered.

#### **4.2 Key Performance Factors**

The panel may also consider:

- Current form and consistency
- Commitment, professionalism, and preparation
- Compatibility and contribution to team dynamics
- Physical condition and match fitness
- Conduct during previous County representation
- Any other factor relevant to the team's success

### **5. Application Process & Deadlines**

Players must complete and return the official declaration of intent by the deadline published by Essex LTA Padel. All relevant documentation and timelines will be communicated in advance of each selection cycle.

### **6. Selection Process**

#### **6.1 Pre-Competition**

Essex LTA Padel, as the Governing Body for padel in Essex, will make all final selection decisions. The panel may consult with relevant coaches or performance staff to inform them of their assessment.

#### **6.2 In-Competition**

Essex LTA Padel will appoint a team captain or coach to manage daily decisions during competition. This individual may be a player or a non-playing team lead. They will be responsible for final decisions on pairings, line-ups, and reserve involvement.

## **7. De-Selection**

A player may be removed from a selected team in the following circumstances:

- 7.1 They are no longer eligible (see Section 2);
- 7.2 They breach the LTA Code of Conduct;
- 7.3 Their condition or performance is no longer consistent with selection standards;
- 7.4 They fail to disclose an injury, illness, or fitness concern.

Any decision to de-select a player will be communicated directly and clearly by Essex LTA Padel.

## **8. Appeals**

There is no formal appeals process. However, players may request feedback from Essex LTA Padel to support future development.

## **9. Kit & Funding**

All selected players will be notified of kit, costs, and logistical arrangements in writing.

- **Open, Junior & Senior teams:** While Essex LTA Padel will cover the registration and entry fees, players may be required to contribute towards costs depending on the level of funding available. Essex LTA Padel ability to fund is subject to annual budget and strategic priorities.

## **10. Injury, Illness or Fitness Declaration**

Players must notify Essex LTA Padel immediately if they experience an injury, illness, or condition that could impact their ability to prepare for or compete at the event.

## **11. Parent & Guardian Guidance (Junior Teams Only)**

Essex LTA Padel welcomes the support of parents and guardians and seeks to ensure that their involvement enhances, rather than disrupts, the team experience.

Parents/guardians are encouraged to:

- Promote responsibility and independence in their child
- Support the authority of coaches and staff
- Avoid giving instructions or feedback during matches
- Demonstrate respectful behaviour on and off court
- Trust the appointed personnel to make decisions in the best interests of all players

Where parental conduct is deemed to compromise the team environment or player wellbeing, Essex LTA Padel reserves the right to take appropriate action, including access restrictions or eligibility review.

## **12. Acknowledgement**

Each player is required to confirm they have read, understood, and accepted the terms of this selection policy by signing the separate Acknowledgement Page, which must be returned to Essex LTA Padel by the closing date stated in the accompanying acknowledgement form or as published on the Essex LTA Padel website.

Only the signed Acknowledgement Page must be returned – please do not send back the full policy document.