

# LTA COMPETITION REGULATIONS

## SUMMARY OF MAJOR CHANGES – JANUARY 2021

### Terminology Changes

**LTA Official Competitions changed to LTA Sanctioned Competitions** – LTA Official Competitions is not a term currently used so the terminology has been changed throughout the regulations.

**The Organiser/Organising Committee** – This was previously only included as The Organising Committee. As many competitions, particularly at the lower grades of competition, do not have an Organising Committee so the terminology has been changed throughout the regulations.

**Removal of sponsors** – the previous regulations included many references to specific sponsors which have all been removed.

**8U, 9U and 10U Events** – All references to mini tennis have been removed and replaced with 8U, 9U and 10U events.

### Major Changes

**1.4 & 1.7 Circuits** – Following the integration of Padel into the LTA and Disability Competition from the Tennis Foundation, these regulations fully integrate both into the same standard operating procedures including the LTA Disciplinary Process and Code of Conduct.

**2.4 Age Groups** – The new regulations now include up to date information on age groups since the LTA changed to a year of birth system in April 2020.

**3.9 Terms & Conditions** – The terms and conditions of online entry and those a player would agree to if entering on a paper entry form have been updated.

**3.19 Late Entries** – Organisers are prohibited from charging an administration fee for accepting a late entry into any event.

**3.23 Refunds** – We have changed the terms and conditions of online entry to charge an administration/cancellation fee on any player withdrawing prior to the withdrawal deadline. This is to cover the organiser's transactions fees where a player withdraws.

**4.8 Doubles Withdrawals** – This has been changed to be consistent with ITF Seniors Circuit regulations enabling a player who is forced to withdraw up until their first match to be replaced by of similar standard or in the case on an unseeded team someone of lower standard.

**5.27(a) Seconds Between Points** – this has been changed from 20 to 25 seconds to be consistent with the ITF Rules of Tennis which was updated in 2020 with the same change.

**5.31 Time Violations** – this has changed from a loss of point for the second and subsequent offences to loss of first serve for the server and loss of point for the receiver to be consistent with the ITF Rules of Tennis which was updated in 2020 with the same change.

**5.46 & 5.49 Clothing Regulations** – We have altered the regulations to state that clothing regulations are to be enforced at national level competition only. Leggings and mid-thigh compression shorts are now also permitted to be worn with or without a skirt or shorts.

**5.66 Reasonable Adjustments** – This is something that was already provided by the Competitions Team but is now included in the regulations. Instances where we can support players with a medical condition or learning disability are becoming more common and the regulations have been updated to include the relevant guidance for the benefit of players and officials/organisers.

**8.1 Complaints** – We have removed the time limit to file a complaint of 7 days. Complaints should now be addressed to [complaints@lta.org.uk](mailto:complaints@lta.org.uk).

**Appendix 5** – Following the LTAs decision to adopt the ITF World Tennis Number as the new LTA Rating system, the World Tennis Number has been added to regulations. The regulations will cover how the World Tennis Number will be used in the UK and what results will count however the calculation remains under the jurisdiction of the ITF. The existing yellow ball rating system will remain in this version as a definitive go live date is not known yet. The mini tennis rating system has been removed and replaced by LTA Youth Competition Rewards.

### **Appendix 7 Code Violation Points**

Point 2 & 5 - We have provided clarity on the issue of players deliberately failing to complete matches which should be recorded as an immediate default and result in the player receiving 6 code violation points.

Point 7 – This is an update to the full regulations which were covered in an amendment to the regulations. Players can only challenge code violation points if they believe it is a case of mistaken identity or they have been defaulted immediately.

Point 12 (c) – There have been a number of cases where the code violation points (due to the 12 month rolling period) have become inactive during an investigation. This clarifies that the investigation continues, and that points remain active for that purpose.

Point 13 (a) – This provides further clarity on suspension dates. There has been some confusion previously where a suspension has ended before an event has started in a competition. This clarifies that if a suspension starts or ends at any time during a competition, they suspended player will be unable to play.

### **Appendix 8 Withdrawing from an LTA Sanctioned Competition**

**1(c) Withdrawal Deadlines** – We have changed the time that the penalty of withdrawal points changes the day before the tournament. Previously, a player could withdraw up to 8pm the day before a tournament and incur only two withdrawal points. We have changed the time to 2pm the day before the start of the event to allow more time for the Referee/Organiser to source a replacement, and for the player/parent to make the necessary arrangements.

**1(e) Reserves** – The Competition Management System has enabled the Competitions Team to review entry procedures. This new rule will consider a reserve not committed to the tournament unless called upon by the referee. A player can therefore withdraw from the tournament penalty free (subject to an admin fee) up to the point they are informed they have been accepted into the competition by the referee. This is in line with all ITF Circuits.