



PLAY YOUR WAY TO WIMBLEDON



VENUE ORGANISER GUIDE
CLUBS, PARKS AND SCHOOLS



WELCOME TO PLAY YOUR WAY TO WIMBLEDON 2024

I'm delighted to welcome you to Play Your Way to Wimbledon, powered by Vodafone.

This exciting competition, run in conjunction with the LTA and Vodafone, continues to offer fantastic player experiences at their local venue with the opportunity to compete for a place at the National Finals, which will take place in August on the grass courts of the All England Club.

In 2023, a record breaking 15,000 players took part in a Play Your Way to Wimbledon event at their local club, park or school. We also welcomed new players with the introduction of the adult doubles and disability pathways.

Inside your Organiser Pack you'll find all the information you need to run a successful Play Your Way to Wimbledon competition, including prizes, winners medals and certificates for your competitors. If you require any further information, or if you have any questions, please get in touch by contacting playyourwaytowimbledon@lta.org.uk

Venue stage winners will progress to their County and/or Area Finals with the winners of these Finals then progressing to the National Finals in August. Although Play Your Way to Wimbledon is designed to be competitive, our collective aim is for the players to have a lot of fun and inspire them to compete more often and it is my sincere hope that every player enjoys their time in the competition.

I would like to extend my gratitude to Vodafone for their continued support and enthusiasm. Together we have opened up the competition to new audiences, and we look forward to welcoming even more new players to the grass courts of Wimbledon this year.

Finally, on behalf of the All England Club, I would like to take this opportunity to thank the LTA, the local LTA County Organisers and the many club volunteers in England, Scotland and Wales for your tremendous support of Play Your Way to Wimbledon. It is your hard work and energy that provides thousands of tennis players across the country with the opportunity to compete for a place at the National Finals here at the All England Club in August.

As a token of my appreciation, I would like to extend an invite to Venue Stage Organisers to attend the National Finals in August, to experience what I am sure will be a great finale to Play Your Way to Wimbledon. If you wish to join us please email playyourwaytowimbledon@aeltc.com

I wish you, and all the players competing at your venue, a very positive and successful experience in 2024.



Jamie Baker,
Tournament Director









BENEFITS OF STAGING A PLAY YOUR WAY TO WIMBLEDON EVENT

- An opportunity to provide your players with fun, competitive tennis at your venue.
- A certificate and player prizes as well as a winner's medal.
- The winner (and possibly runner-up) of your event to represent your venue at the County Finals and/or Area Finals.
- Flexible competition format enabling you to run your event to suit you and your players.
- The organiser (and guest) invited to the All England Club to watch the National Finals in August.

2024 DATES

- Host your venue stage event anytime between 2 March – 26 May.
- Complete the 'Venue Winners Form' by 28 May.
- Singles County Finals: 13– 14 July (NB 15 – 16 June in Scotland).
- Doubles Area Finals: 22 – 23 June.
- National Finals: 11 – 17 August.

2024 OVERVIEW

NATIONAL FINALS		
 COUNTY FINALS 	 AREA FINALS 	 COUNTY FINALS 
BOYS AND GIRLS AGES 11–14 CLUBS, PARKS AND SCHOOLS WTN: 23.0–40.9	BOYS AND GIRLS AGES 11–18 CLUBS, PARKS AND SCHOOLS WTN: 23.0–40.9	MEN AND WOMEN AGES 19+ CLUBS AND PARKS WTN: 23.0–40.9
JUNIOR SINGLES	JUNIOR DOUBLES	ADULT DOUBLES

GUIDELINES FOR STAGING A PLAY YOUR WAY TO WIMBLEDON EVENT

VENUE STAGE

- All venues hosting a Play Your Way to Wimbledon competition must be LTA registered venues (clubs, parks & schools).
- Venues can run an 'Open' event for all eligible players to enter via the LTA Competition Management System (CMS) or a 'Closed' event for members only. We strongly encourage all venues to run 'Open' events, to allow local players the opportunity to compete in the event.
- Venues can run a maximum of one 'Open' event and/or one 'Closed' event at their venue during the competition period.
- Venues can run Singles and/or Doubles events for boys, girls or both and/or Doubles events for men, women or both. All events run by venues must be open to all eligible players.
- Organisers can choose a format relevant to their venue, however, we recommend delivering the event over half or one day using an abbreviated format such as FAST4.
- Player entry will be on a first come, first served basis.
- All venue stage events will be Grade 6 if 'Open' and Grade 7 if 'Closed.'
- Venues must stage separate girls, boys, women's and/or men's events between 2nd March – 26th May 2024.
- Venues must submit their 'Venue Player Winners Form' online by 28th May 2024. Late returns may not be accepted.
- Venues must publish or enter the event by 4th February and will receive a venue pack w/c 26th February.
- We encourage all organisers to make their Play Your Way to Wimbledon event a fun, social and enjoyable competition experience for the players. Try and encourage as many eligible players as possible to take part, including less experienced players.
- There must be a minimum of 3 players/pairs in the venue stage for the winner(s) to be eligible for the next stage of the competition.

- We support venues introducing an entry fee for players to enter their competition to assist with the running costs of the event, if a venue wishes to do so. This should be no more than £15 per player per competition.
- Organisers must ensure that all the players competing in their venue event meet the eligibility criteria listed below.

PLAYER ELIGIBILITY

- Once a player has won an event in the relevant pathway, they can no longer compete in future events in the same pathway, as their place in the next stage of the competition is secured.
- Junior players are eligible to play in both the singles and/or doubles pathway. However, players will only be able to compete in one event at the National Finals.
- All players should have an LTA Advantage Membership number.
- All players must have an ITF World Tennis Number between 23.0 and 40.9 (or un-rated) at the time of the venue stage event they are competing in.
- A player's singles and doubles ITF World Tennis Number will be used for the relevant pathway, i.e. a player must have a singles ITF World Tennis Number between 23.0-40.9 to be eligible for the singles pathway and a doubles ITF World Tennis Number between 23.0-40.0 to be eligible for the doubles pathway.
- All players that qualify for the County or Area Finals MUST have an LTA Advantage Membership number.

SINGLES PATHWAY (JUNIORS)

- Players must be 14 & under and be born between 2010 – 2013.
- Players may only enter and compete in events located in their play county. The only exception to this is if the LTA Registered Venue the player is a member/pupil at is hosting an event. This would only be relevant if a player lives in a county over the border from the venue they are a member/pupil at.

DOUBLES PATHWAY

- Junior players must be 18 & under and be born between 2006 – 2013.
- Adult players must be over the age of 19 and born before 2005.
- In an event, one of the players from a pair must be from that play county. For example, if there is an event taking place at a Warwickshire venue, one of the players from the doubles pair must have a play county of Warwickshire.
- If two players pair up and one of the players subsequently withdraws or is unable to take part in the next stage of the competition, the whole pair are withdrawn from the event (reserve players may not come in to make up a pair).

SINGLES PATHWAY – COUNTY FINALS

- The girl and/or boy winner(s) of venue events will be invited to the County Finals on 13 - 14 July (Note, County Finals in Scotland will take place on 15 - 16 June).
- There is flexibility for counties to run their finals prior to this date. County Finals dates and venues will be published in April 2024 on www.LTA.org.uk/play-your-way-to-wimbledon
- County Finals will be Grade 4 events.
- 44 County Final winners (plus 4 lucky losers), boys & girls, qualify for the National Finals.

DOUBLES PATHWAY – REGIONAL FINALS

- The girl, boy, women and/or men winning pairs of venue events will be invited to the Area Finals on 22 - 23 June.
- There is flexibility for counties to run their finals prior to this date. County Finals dates and venues will be published in April 2024 on www.LTA.org.uk/play-your-way-to-wimbledon
- Area Finals will be Grade 4 events.
- 23 Area Final Boys, Girls, Men & Women pairs (plus one lucky loser pair) qualify for the National Finals.

NATIONAL FINALS

- The winner of each event at the County Finals and Area Finals will be invited to play at Wimbledon from 11 - 17 August in the National Finals.
- The proposed schedule for the National Finals is as follows:
 - **14U Singles:** 11 – 15 August
 - **18U Doubles:** 13 – 16 August
 - **Adult Doubles:** 14 – 17 August
- The National Finals will be Grade 3 events.
- All finals competitors will receive a Play Your Way to Wimbledon souvenir, Wimbledon Museum voucher, organised tours of the grounds and daily accommodation/meal allowance.





SCORING FORMATS

Instead of using a traditional scoring format for your matches e.g., two tiebreak sets and a match tiebreak, or best of three tiebreak sets, why not consider one of the following abbreviated formats. These will make matches shorter, more fun and exciting and make it easier to complete your event in a shorter space of time, meaning you could deliver your event(s) as a Play Your Way to Wimbledon festival over a number of hours or one day.

FAST4 Tennis

FAST4 Tennis provides a simple, exciting way of speeding up a conventional tennis match. The fundamentals of tennis remain the same, but there are four rules that ensure matches are fast, competitive, exciting and can be completed in a reasonable period of time.

How does it work?

- First to 4 games wins. It doesn't matter how you get there, just make sure you do before your opponent does.
- Tiebreak at 3 games all. At 3 games all a tiebreak is played to 7 points. 2 points clear at 6-6.
- No ad scoring. If the score reaches deuce, it's a sudden death point. The receiver chooses which side to take the serve on.

Timed Tennis

A fun competition format which makes it easier for organisers to schedule their event as the length of each match is known. The time element increases the excitement and helps to create a great atmosphere.

How does it work?

- Each match lasts for 20 minutes.
- Each match is an extended set e.g. 7-1, 8-0.
- Normal game scoring with sudden death at deuce (receiver chooses which side to take the serve on).
- If the number of games won by each player is equal when the time is up then finish the game you are playing and the winner of that game will be the match winner.
- If the number of games won by each player is not equal when the time is up then play stops immediately and the player with the most games wins.

ORGANISER TASKS – BEFORE, DURING & AFTER YOUR EVENT

Before the event

- Select a person to co-ordinate and be responsible for the event (e.g. junior organiser, teacher, coach). Read the venue organiser guide and contact the Play Your Way to Wimbledon organiser if you have any queries.
- Choose a date to hold the event between 2nd March – 26th May.
- Promote the event to players/parents using the free resources and your different channels (noticeboard, newsletters, coaching lessons, social media).
- Play Your Way to Wimbledon should be open to all players so we strongly encourage you to promote your event outside of your venue and encourage your less experienced players to play.
- Organise tennis balls, recruit some helpers (if required), and make sure you've received your venue organiser pack in the post (with certificates and prizes).
- Display the PVC banner at your venue included in your venue pack.
- Once the entry deadline has passed, decide on the draw format based on the number of players and court time. Use the draw sheets and communicate to players.
- Create an order of play so you know which matches will go on when.
- Remind all of the players who have signed up to turn up. Be prepared for last minute entries, drop outs, no-shows and rain! Have a back-up plan.

During the event

- Arrive in good time and set up necessary equipment; balls, courts, nets etc.
- Get all players together at the start and welcome them. Tell them about the scoring format for each match.
- Try and stick to the schedule and keep encouraging players throughout.
- Make sure you record the results of all matches.

- Following all matches, hold a presentation and award the certificates and prizes to all participants. Don't forget to give the County Finals letter to the winner/runners up.
- Ensure you thank any helpers.

After the event

- All events must complete the online 'Venue Player Winners Form' (sent to you by email in March) by 28th May, at the latest.
- If you ran your Play Your Way to Wimbledon using the Competition Management System (CMS) make sure you submit the event results on TTP.
- If you ran a closed event and want the results to count towards the players' ITF World Tennis Number you can submit them via Results Manager (lta.org.uk/resultsmanager)
- Share the success of the event through your social media channels by using [#playyourwaytowimbledon](https://twitter.com/playyourwaytowimbledon)
- Get feedback from those who took part - listen to their ideas and make a note of their suggestions so you can implement them next year. Thank all the helpers again – they will feel valued and more inclined to take part again.

SUPPORT

- Any complaint/dispute at the Venue Stage or County/Area Finals should be made by email to playyourwaytowimbledon@lta.org.uk within 48 hours of the cause. All complaints/disputes will be reviewed by the LTA PYWTW Project Team.
- If you wish to appeal a decision, you can do so in writing to the LTA Recreational Competition Manager. The decision of the LTA Recreational Competition Manager (or their nominee) is final and there is no further right of appeal.

As a thank you for staging the event, the organiser (and a guest) is invited to Wimbledon to watch the National Finals. If you would like to attend please email playyourwaytowimbledon@aeltc.com



vodafone



TENNIS
FOR BRITAIN



Further information about the competition is available
online at www.lta.org.uk/play-your-way-to-wimbledon