

More information is available on the Lawn Tennis Association website (LTA) www.lta.org.uk

How to enter competitions – There are two main entry methods, but to enter any competition you will need to be a LTA member. Membership is free for registered club members.

See LTA webpage <http://www.lta.org.uk/players-parents/Competition/How-to-enter-a-competition/>

1. The most common method is online via the LTA website, the other is by paper entry form.
2. Local tournaments may require an entry form which is available from the organising club or you can sometimes download from the LTA website.

To enter an online tournament please visit the 'Find a Competition' page of the LTA website, choose your tournament and follow the entry method.

If you have any difficulties finding the entry form or entering online, please contact the British Tennis North East & Cumbria office on 0191 522 5005.

If you are unsure whether the tournament is right for you ask your coach or contact the organiser / referee who will be able to advise you.

British Tennis Membership is free if you are a member of a registered club/venue. You can either sign up online at <https://www2.lta.org.uk/Membership/Join/> or contact the Services Hub team on 020 8487 7000. If you are not a club member you can still sign up for £5 (juniors) or £25 (adults).

Mini Tennis – Mini tennis competitions are aimed at children up to the age of 10. They play mini red, orange and green. These are age specific, 8 and under (Mini Red), 9 and under (Mini Orange), 10 and under (Mini Green).

Mini Tennis players will receive a Mini Tennis rating when they sign up to British Tennis Membership, which gives them, their coach and parent an idea of their standard. It is important to note that these competitive opportunities are aimed at children learning to play tennis.

Club matches – Most clubs have teams for juniors and adults, which play in local leagues. These can be either singles and/or doubles matches. If you ask your coach or club they will be able to help you with these. This is often a good way to learn how to start playing competitive matches and make new friends.

Ratings – A rating is a measure of a player's standard / ability. Ratings start at Mini tennis 8, 9 and 10 & Under events (Red, Orange and Green respectively) and then continue for juniors aged 11 and over, along with adult competitors.

Ratings Tournaments – These events are normally run at club level. It is where players of the same rating come and play matches that will count towards their rating improvement.

Open tournaments - There are a number of open tournaments mainly during the summer with junior and adult competitions. These events may have both singles and doubles competitions for players aged from Mini Tennis Red (8 & Under) to adults. You need to be a British Tennis Member and have a rating (see above) if you want to compete in these events.

Age group Events – These are normally junior events / tournaments and can include age groups from 8 & under to 18 & under. There are many different formats and there are also

different grades of events / tournaments. It is best for players new to competitive tennis to start out on grade 6 to grade 4 events / tournaments. Grade 6 tournaments are local events / tournaments that may be match play or other similar formats. There are often grade 5 and 4 tournaments within the local county; generally the lower the grade the higher the standard of competition.

Rankings – Rankings are a measure of the best players in 12, 14, 16 & 18 and under age categories. Rankings are based on a player's best 6 ranking event results over a 12-month period. They are not directly related to ratings but normally the highest ranked players have very good ratings. Points are available at tournaments of grade 5, 4, 3, 2 and 1. The higher the standard of tournament the more points are available.

How to improve your rating - To find out more information about how to improve your rating at all levels (starting at mini tennis red) please go to <http://www.lta.org.uk/players-parents/Competition/AEGON-British-Tennis-Ratings-Guide/>

It is important to remember when you start competing not to worry about winning or losing but to enjoy playing and learning the game. If you have any questions about competitions speak to your coach, the event referee / organiser of the tournament or visit the LTA.org.uk website.

Many thanks,

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