

1. [INTRODUCTION](#)
 2. [TOURNAMENT LISTINGS](#)
 3. [ENTRY INFORMATION](#)
 4. [ENTRY FEES](#)
 5. [ACCEPTANCES 12&U – 18&U](#)
 6. [ACCEPTANCES 9&U – 10&U](#)
 7. [RESERVES](#)
 8. [WILD CARDS](#)
 9. [WITHDRAWAL PROCEDURE](#)
 10. [START TIMES](#)
 11. [FORMATS](#)
 12. [TOURNAMENTS LINKED TO INDOOR SERIES 12&U – 18&U](#)
 13. [TOURNAMENTS LINKED TO INDOOR SERIES 9&U – 10&U](#)
 14. [TOURNAMENTS LINKED TO INDOOR SERIES – GENERIC INFORMATION](#)
 15. [GENERAL INFORMATION](#)
 16. [CONTACTS](#)
-

1. INTRODUCTION

The Grade 4 Winter County Tournaments (WCTs), for age groups 18&U, 16&U, 14&U, 12&U, 10&U, 9&U and 8&U, are 1 or 2 day junior competitions which run from September 2009 – April 2010. There are more than 1,000 tournaments in the WCT programme and they are administered by LTA county offices and tournament organizers. Many are qualifying tournaments for the Grade 3 Indoor Series.

2. TOURNAMENT LISTINGS

- Tournament listings can be found in COMPETITION YEARBOOK on the LTA website at www.lta.org.uk/Competition.
- Individual tournaments can also be found at www2.lta.org.uk/Search/FindACompetition/ using individual tournament codes.

3. ENTRY INFORMATION

- **You may not enter more than one Winter County Tournament taking place over the same period.**
- Entries for WCTs tournaments must be submitted using the online entry system on the LTA website at: www2.lta.org.uk/Search/FindACompetition/ Enter relevant tournament code and follow the online entry instructions.
- It is your responsibility to check that your entry has been received by checking that your name appears on the tournament 'Entrant List' before the closing date.
- Entries received after the tournament closing date will not be accepted unless the number of entries is below the number required to run the tournament.

- If you have problems with online entry you should contact the relevant tournament organiser *before* the tournament closing date.
- Acceptance lists will be published on the website within one week of the tournament closing date. At this time you will be able to see your status, ie whether you are 'Accepted', 'Reserve' or 'Not Accepted'.

4. ENTRY FEES

- Credit/debit card details will be required for payment of entry fees online.
- Entry fees vary and are shown against individual event listings.
- Payment will be taken on the withdrawal deadline date from players who are in the draw.
- No refund will be given to players withdrawing after the withdrawal deadline.
- Reserves called in after this point will have payment taken using the card details provided when they entered that tournament.

5. ACCEPTANCES 18U, 16U, 14U, 12U

- Acceptance will be decided according to players' ratings followed by age group rankings. Players may also qualify from linked Grade 5 local tournaments where these exist.
- Players' ratings and rankings are as at the date the tournament acceptance is done. This will be within one week of the tournament closing date.
- Seeding of tournament draws is at the discretion of the organizer who will use players' LTA ratings and age group rankings as on the draw date (ie. updated since the acceptance date).

6. ACCEPTANCES 10U and 9U

- Acceptance will be decided according to:
 - 1) qualification from Grade 5 tournaments (where these exist).
 - 2) Mini tennis rating Level 1
 - 3) Talent & Performance Coordinator (TPC) decision
- TPCs will also be consulted about seeding and ordering of reserve lists.

7. RESERVES

- If your entry is not accepted you may be offered a place on the tournament reserve list.
- As a reserve you must make yourself available up to and including the beginning of the tournament. However if you are called up to play on the day of the tournament you may refuse the place offered if your travel distance is too far to reach the venue at the time requested.
- If you are not available you must withdraw from the reserve list before 9am three working days before the tournament start date, otherwise penalties may be incurred.
- If you are offered a place as a reserve you need not attend the tournament unless you move into the main draw.
- It is your responsibility to check your status in a tournament on the LTA website.

8. WILD CARDS

- Wild cards can be awarded up to a maximum number of one place in eight.
- Wild cards will be issued by the tournament organizer.
- A wild card may be awarded for one or more of the following reasons:
 - 1) A player who is coming back after being out of competition for a considerable time due to illness or injury and whose rating does not reflect current form
 - 2) A player who has recent outstanding results
 - 3) A local player who is of an appropriate standard who would benefit from the experience.
- Wild cards into 10U, 9U and 8U events will be issued by the relevant TPC.

9. WITHDRAWAL PROCEDURE

- **How to withdraw online:** Withdrawal from a tournament prior to the withdrawal deadline should be done online. Log in to your British Tennis Members Area and go to PLAY tab followed by EVENTS ENTERED tab on the row below (not MY ENTERED EVENTS), then click onto 'Withdraw' adjacent to relevant tournament and confirm.
- Withdrawals must be made before 9am, 3 working days before the start of the tournament to avoid penalty points being applied.
- Players who withdraw after 9am 3 working days prior to the start of the tournament must complete a Player Withdrawal Form and Explanation which can be obtained from the tournament organizer. This form should be returned to the relevant LTA county office.
- A player who has been accepted into the draw (or is on the reserve list) who withdraws after the tournament withdrawal date will automatically incur penalty points which may be halved upon receipt of withdrawal form.
- Withdrawal from a tournament *after* the withdrawal deadline should be done by contacting the tournament organizer by 'phone. If you email or leave a voice message you must check that your message has been received with a follow up 'phone call.

10. START TIMES

- Start times will be published on the website from 5pm on the Thursday before weekend events and at least 2 days before events taking place on weekdays.
- It is your responsibility to check start times and make sure you report to the referee 15 minutes before the time of your first match.

11. FORMATS

- Formats will depend upon entry size and the number of court hours booked.
- Generally 10U, 9U and 8U tournaments will be round robin followed by play offs and, 12U – 18U tournaments will be an elimination draw with playback and consolation. The tournament organizer will be able to tell you which format has been chosen for a particular event.
- The tournament organizer may amend formats in order to complete all rounds of the draw.

SCORING FORMATS	
8&U (Red ball)	one match tie break to 10 (2 points clear at 9-9)
9&U (Orange ball)	best of 3 tie breaks to 7 (2 points clear at 6-6)
	OR best of 3 tie breaks to 10 (2 points clear at 9-9)
10U (Green ball)	best of 2 short tie break sets + match tie break to decide 3 rd set
	OR one short set with tie break to 7 (2 points clear at 6-6)
12U – 18U (Yellow Ball)	best of 3 short tie break sets
	OR best of 2 short tie break sets + match tie break to decide 3 rd set
	OR best of 2 full tie break sets with match tie break deciding 3 rd set

12. LINKED TOURNAMENTS TO INDOOR SERIES 18U, 16U, 14U & 12U

PLAYERS MUST ENTER ONLINE TO SECURE THEIR PLACES IN LINKED INDOOR SERIES TOURNAMENTS

- Many Grade 4 County Tournaments are 'linked' which means the winner is guaranteed a place in the corresponding Grade 3 Indoor Series qualifying draws.
- The runner up will be offered a place if:
 - 1) the winner is accepted into the Indoor Series in his/her own right (according to rating and ranking)
 - 2) the winner does not want the Indoor Series place or fails to enter

- The County Tournament → Indoor Series links are shown on the tournament listings.
- Not all links are for both boys and girls so please check.

13. LINKED TOURNAMENTS TO INDOOR SERIES 10U & 9U

PLAYERS MUST ENTER ONLINE TO SECURE THEIR PLACES IN LINKED INDOOR SERIES TOURNAMENTS

- The winner of a linked county tournament in 10U or 9U age groups is guaranteed a place in the corresponding indoor Series main draw.
- The runner up will go onto the entrant list along with other direct entries.
- Talent & Performance Coordinators will advise on selection, taking into account mini tennis ratings and those players who have come runner up in linked WCTs.
- The County Tournament → Indoor Series links are shown on the tournament programme.
- Direct entry into the 10U and 9U Indoor Series is available so players are advised to enter.

14. LINKED TOURNAMENT INFORMATION FOR ALL AGE GROUPS

Players who win or are runners up in a linked County Tournament will receive a letter which includes the following instructions:

CONGRATULATIONS!

WHAT YOU NEED TO DO NOW is choose which option applies to you:

1. YOU HAVE NOT ALREADY ENTERED THE LINKED INDOOR SERIES: In which case you must enter online and indicate your qualifying status by putting the COUNTY TOURNAMENT CODE and WINNER or RUNNER UP in the 'Tournament Notes/Player Response' box on the first page of online entry, eg. NOR941 WINNER. If you fail to add this information your entry will be considered according to the normal acceptance criteria for that tournament. Your entry must be submitted before the closing date.

2. YOU HAVE ALREADY ENTERED THE LINKED INDOOR SERIES: You do not need to enter again but it's essential to email the relevant Indoor Series tournament organiser with the following information before the closing date in order to secure your place:

- Player's name
- Player's British Tennis Membership number
- Code of the County Tournament you have just played in
- WINNER or RUNNER UP status
- Code of the linked Indoor Series tournament for which you have qualified

3. YOU HAVE ALREADY ENTERED A DIFFERENT INDOOR SERIES ON THE SAME DATE: You must decide which event you want to play in. If you choose to accept the guaranteed place in the linked tournament you will have to withdraw online (in British Tennis Members' Area) from the clashing tournament and then enter the Indoor Series in which you definitely have a place before the closing date. It is essential to indicate your qualifying status by putting the COUNTY TOURNAMENT CODE and WINNER or RUNNER UP in the 'Tournament Notes/Player Response' box on the first page of online entry, eg. NOR941 WINNER.

If you wish to remain on the entry list for the tournament you originally entered, do nothing.

- If there are fewer than 4 players in a linked county tournament draw then no one qualifies; players should enter the Indoor Series and will be considered according to the acceptance criteria. If there are fewer than 4 players of one gender in a mixed event a

player will qualify only if he/she plays 3 matches or more and wins 50% or more of those matches.

15. GENERAL INFORMATION

- All tournaments will be conducted under the Rules of Tennis and LTA Tournament Regulations, including the Code of Conduct.
- All competitors must have a valid LTA British Tennis Membership number.
- Winter County Tournaments are sanctioned by the LTA as Grade 4 Ranking tournaments. Rankings point allocation starts in the 12U age groups so 10U, 9U & 8U tournaments are Grade 4 in terms of standard but do not qualify for rankings points.
- Players allocated a place in an 'overspill' or 'B' draw, set up because the main draw event is oversubscribed, will receive Grade 5 rankings points.
- G4 events with 5 entries will count for ratings and rankings. Any G4 event with fewer than 5 entries will count for ratings only.
- The majority of these tournaments will be played on indoor courts. Where the venue shows in **bold** on the tournaments listings this indicates that the tournament will be held outdoors.
- The LTA and Tournament Referee reserve the right to alter the format, programme and order of play at any time, in order to provide suitable competition for players and that each event is played to a conclusion.
- No complaint in connection with the tournaments can be entertained by the LTA unless lodged in writing with the organizer within 48 hours of the occurrence of the cause of the complaint. (For details see LTA Tournament Regulation 3.10).

16. CONTACTS

For general information please contact relevant County Tournament organizer or local county office. County contact details are at: <http://www2.lta.org.uk/Search/CountyContacts/>.