

LTA 18U County Cup Event 2026

Competition Pack

Information correct as of 9 February 2026

[Introduction & Important Dates](#)

[Groups, Venues and Personnel](#)

[Venue Contact Details](#)

[Team Captain Fact Sheet](#)

[General Rules & Regulations](#)



Introduction & Important Dates

Welcome to the Competition Pack for the LTA 18U County Cup Event. It is hoped the following information will help answer any questions you may have about the Event.

LTA County Cup Events gives a player the opportunity of representing their county in a competitive team environment and the age groups range from 9U through to adult categories.

The LTA 18U County Cup Event was first played in 1967 with Warwickshire boys and Devon girls being the first winners. Since then, Essex boys have won the Championships 13 times and Surrey girls 19 times.

Event Details –

The 18U County Cup Event is a ‘one-off Event’ played over 3 days - usually in March.

The 44 counties are placed in 22 groups of 4 counties per gender. Groups are normally placed in order of the previous year’s results with Group 1 being the ‘premier league’. Groups are allocated to venues to try and involve the least amount of travelling time for teams within that group.

The match format is played on a round-robin basis with each team playing 6 singles and 3 doubles. All singles matches will be the best of 3 tie-break sets except doubles rubbers when no-ad scoring shall be used throughout the match and when the score is one set all; one MTB (10 points) shall be played.

Counties may nominate a minimum of 6 and a maximum of 10 players.

Teams are nominated in LTA Tennis Ranking order.

Wherever possible, all groups will be played on indoor acrylic courts with the venues & referees being appointed by the LTA Competitions Team.

The Order of Play is outlined later in this pack

Event & Dates	Nominations Open	Nominations Close
LTA 18U County Cup Event For players born in 2008 to 2015	Monday 9 February 2026	Monday 2 March 2026



LTA 18U COUNTY CUP EVENT
2026 – 20th-22nd March 2026

Boys Group 1 – Bath University , Claverton Down, Bath BA2 7AY Group 1 Contact: Tom Ellis Referee: Jennifer Sayer Court Supervisors: LTA Representative:	
A	Surrey
B	Yorkshire
C	Cambridgeshire
D	South Wales

Boys Group 2A - Bidston Sports and Activity Centre , Valley Rd, Bidston Valley Road, Bidston, Wirral CH41 7EJ Venue Contact: Pamela Morton Referee: Ray Lovell LTA Representative:	
A	North of Scotland
B	Cheshire
C	Middlesex
D	Berkshire

Boys Group 2B - David Lloyd Long Ashton , Ashton Rd, Bristol BS3 2HB Venue Contact: David Gibbon Referee: Giulio Spella LTA Representative:	
A	Lancashire
B	Kent
C	Hertfordshire
D	Avon

Boys Group 3A - Moray Sports Centre , Linkwood Rd, Elgin IV30 8AR Venue Contact: Iain Stokes Referee: Iain Stokes LTA Representative:	
A	Hampshire & IOW
B	East of Scotland
C	West of Scotland
D	Leicestershire

Boys Group 3B - David Lloyd Coventry , Abbey Rd, Coventry CV3 4BJ Venue Contact: Alexandra Naraevski Referee: Kathryn Heathcote LTA Representative:	
A	Warwickshire
B	Essex
C	Dorset
D	Suffolk

Boys Group 4A – The Edgbaston Priory Club , Sir Harrys Rd, Birmingham B15 2UZ Venue Contact: Simon Haddleton Referee: Stephen Plant LTA Representative:	
A	Buckinghamshire
B	Staffordshire
C	Derbyshire
D	Wiltshire

Boys Group 4B – Easton College , Bawburgh Rd, Easton, Norwich NR9 5DU Venue Contact: Neil Plaskett Referee: Graham Silvester LTA Representative:	
A	Norfolk
B	Sussex
C	Durham & Cleveland
D	Oxfordshire

Boys Group 5A - Taunton Tennis Centre , Blackbrook Way, Taunton TA1 2RW Venue Contact: Kerry Quirk Referee: Parul Patel LTA Representative:	
A	Devon
B	Herefordshire & Worcestershire
C	Somerset
D	Lincolnshire

Boys Group 5B - Oxstalls Sports Park , Plock Ct, Tewkesbury Rd, Gloucester GL2 9DW Venue Contact: Sarah Dorkings Referee: Alison Jackson LTA Representative:	
A	Gloucestershire
B	Nottinghamshire
C	Northamptonshire
D	Bedfordshire

Boys Group 6A - Sunderland Tennis Centre , Silksworth Ln, Sunderland SR3 1PD Venue Contact: Graham Fowler Referee: Jack Askew LTA Representative:	
A	Cumbria
B	South of Scotland
C	Cornwall
D	Channel Islands

Boys Group 6B – Telford Tennis Centre , New Rd, Wrockwardine Wood, Telford TF2 7AB Venue Contact: Nigel Hunter Referee: Simon Haddleton LTA Representative:	
A	Northumberland
B	Shropshire
C	North Wales
D	Isle of Man

LTA 18U COUNTY CUP EVENT
2026 – 20th-22nd March 2026

Girls Group 1 - Bath University , Claverton Down, Bath BA2 7AY Group 1 Contact: Tom Ellis Referee: Jennifer Sayer Court Supervisors: LTA Representative:	
A	Surrey
B	Middlesex
C	Avon
D	Kent

Girls Group 2A - The Essex Golf and Country Club , Earls Colne, Colchester CO6 2NS Venue Contact: Tony Staley Referee: Graeme Luckin LTA Representative:	
A	Essex
B	Dorset
C	Cambridgeshire
D	Buckinghamshire

Girls Group 2B - Bolton Arena , Arena Approach, Horwich, Bolton BL6 6LB Venue Contact: Stuart Kay Referee: Mark Wilkinson LTA Representative:	
A	Hertfordshire
B	Cheshire
C	Lancashire
D	East of Scotland

Girls Group 3A - Nuffield Tennis Academy , Hull, Kingston Park, Hull HU1 2TX Venue Contact: Dave Kitchen Referee: Dave Kitchen LTA Representative:	
A	Yorkshire
B	Sussex
C	Northumberland
D	Hampshire & IOW

Girls Group 3B - Swansea Tennis Centre , Swansea Tennis Centre, Brunel Way, Pentre-chwyth, Bon-y-maen, Swansea SA1 7DS Venue Contact: Referee: Cliff Wragg LTA Representative:	
A	Suffolk
B	Warwickshire
C	South Wales
D	Berkshire

Girls Group 4A - Nottingham Tennis Centre , University Blvd, Nottingham NG7 2QH Venue Contact: Dave Everington Referee: John Bruley LTA Representative:	
A	Herefordshire & Worcestershire
B	Somerset
C	Nottinghamshire
D	Wiltshire

Girls Group 4B - University of Exeter , Stocker Rd, Exeter EX4 4PY Venue Contact: Ann Williams Referee: Peter Grimsdale LTA Representative:	
A	West of Scotland
B	Northamptonshire
C	Devon
D	Leicestershire

Girls Group 5A - Grantham Tennis Club , Gonerby Rd, Gonerby Hill Foot, Grantham NG31 8HU Venue Contact: Sarah Patton Referee: Jamie Gibson LTA Representative:	
A	Gloucestershire
B	North of Scotland
C	Derbyshire
D	Oxfordshire

Girls Group 5B – Nottingham Trent University , 50 Shakespeare St, Nottingham NG1 4FQ Venue Contact: Harrison Fernandez Lewis Referee: Diane Gibson LTA Representative:	
A	Staffordshire
B	Lincolnshire
C	Durham & Cleveland
D	Cornwall

Girls Group 6A - Harlow Tennis Club , Southern Way, Latton Bush Business Centre, Harlow CM18 7BH Venue Contact: Will Calvert Referee: Daniel Bartlett LTA Representative:	
A	Norfolk
B	South of Scotland
C	Channel Islands
D	Cumbria

Girls Group 6B – Ellesmere College , Ellesmere SY12 9A Venue Contact: Stephen Welti Referee: Jay Hemmings LTA Representative:	
A	Bedfordshire
B	Shropshire
C	North Wales
D	Isle of Man



LTA 18U COUNTY CUP
Friday 20 to Sunday 22 March 2026

TEAM CAPTAINS FACT SHEET

Event Personnel	Event Director – Paul Midgley E-Mail – countycup@LTA.org.uk
Team Captains Meeting	To be held no later than 9.30am Friday 20 March to include Referee, all Team Captains and a representative from the Tennis Centre. This should last no longer than 30 minutes. The venue Rep to explain arrangements for: • Emergency evacuation procedures and any potential health & safety issues • Arrangements for stringing • Catering • Use of gym (if on-site) Referee to explain the Rules & Regulations, start times of play and anything else relevant to the Event Please emphasise the necessity for teams to keep the venue tidy and to return all cups, crockery, glasses, etc. to the catering area
Provisional Nominations	It is a county's responsibility to check the eligibility of all team players and that all players are LTA members. The use of an ineligible player may result in a county forfeiting all rubber(s) in which that player competed and/or relegation. Please refer to LTA Rule 66 Area Qualification ruling. It is the Referee's responsibility to check whether a player is a BTM. If a player is not listed, then the player in question must join the BTM scheme prior to play commencing.
Final Nominations Daily Nominations & use of substitute	Please refer to Regulation 2 and 12. Please refer to Regulations 4 to 7 inclusive. By signing the appropriate line on the nomination form, the Team Captain is accepting responsibility and acknowledging confirmation of final / daily nominated players and all players' have been nominated in the correct order.
Practice Courts	Friday 20 to Sunday 22 March available each day 30 mins before start of play. Limited courts are available at most venues on Thursday 19 March – to be booked no later than Tuesday 3rd March (please contact your host venue to confirm availability). Counties are responsible for the payment of any courts used + provision of tennis balls.
Start Time of Play	Friday 20 March – start times vary per venue Saturday 21 March – start times vary per venue Sunday 22 March – start times vary per venue Your referee will contact you with the start time for your venue.
Order of Play	<u>Group 1 only</u> Friday 20 March – A v C and B v D Saturday 21 March – Winner Day 1 v Winner Day 1 and Loser Day 1 v Loser Day 1 Sunday 22 March – Winners Day 1 v Losers Day 1 <u>Groups 2A to 6B</u> Friday 20 March – A v C and B v D Saturday 21 March – Winners Day 1 v Losers Day 1 Sunday 22 March – Winner Day 1 v Winner Day 1 and Loser Day 1 v Loser Day 1
Format	Please refer to Regulation 3. All rubbers to be best of 3 sets. Any 3rd set in doubles rubbers shall be replaced by a Match Tie-break. Doubles rubbers will use no-ad scoring (receiver's choice) throughout the match. Rubbers should not be conceded if this affects the final position of counties in a group. Additional matches played over and above those scheduled in County Cup Events are not eligible for rating / ranking(s) results - under no circumstances should they be played.

Daily Scorecards	Once daily nominations have been submitted the Referee will produce a match scorecard which will be given to each Team Captain. The Referee will keep a master copy which will be updated during the day and following agreement with both Team Captains will be used to update the LP file.
Daily & Final Results	The Referee will update and publish the results on the LTA website throughout the day. At the end of the weekend, the full results and group positions will be updated on the LTA website.
Catering	Hot & cold refreshments may be available between 10.00am and 4.00pm. Counties are advised to check with the relevant venue.
Changing Facilities	Access to changing facilities may vary from venue to venue. Counties are advised to check with relevant venue.
Tennis Balls – Dunlop Fort	18 dozen balls per group unless it is a 3-county group in which case, 12 dozen balls per group. Used balls to be left at venue.
Safeguarding	There have been some important updates to the various safeguarding documents. It is a county / Team Captains' responsibility to ensure they have read and understood these and, if required, signed acknowledgement of the contents. Where necessary copies should also be given to parents / players and they too read and understand these and, if required, sign acknowledgement of the contents. Team Captains should ensure they have been given copies of completed & signed emergency contact details for any player aged 18 & under. Given the age of the player, please be mindful of taking photographs, videos, etc. and remember to ask the permission of the parent if taking a photo of another child. Further information can be found on the LTAs safeguarding policy on photography. The Tennis Centre's policy on Photography must be adhered to at all times. If you or anyone in your county requires a copy of the venue risk assessment where your team(s) will be playing you can view all venue risk assessments here. If you require further information on your venue's safeguarding policy please refer to the relevant area on the venue website.
Discipline & Code Violations	Your attention is drawn to Rules 14, 14(a), 14(b) and 14(c) of the Rules & Regulations regarding discipline of all players, both on and off-site, during the Event. All players must abide by the LTA Code of Conduct. The Referee will inform the Team Captain if it has been necessary to issue a code violation. These will be recorded on the LP file. The LTA will be notified (verbally) immediately if it has been necessary to default a player. A default counts for the duration of the Event regardless of however many matches/days remain.
Miscellaneous	Team captains or their nominated deputy are allowed to communicate with their players at change of ends within the 90 second break and may remain on court. Players should wear recognised tennis clothing as per the County Cup Regulations. Team Captains are reminded about the necessity for teams to keep the venue tidy. All cups, crockery, glasses, etc. should be returned to the catering area. Please ensure rubbish bins are used! Presentations to take place on Sunday 22 March. Out of courtesy to the venue, LTA representative and counties within your Group all teams are requested to remain on-site until these have taken place.

General Rules & Regulations – applicable for all County Cup Events 2026

1. The management of the County Cup Events shall be entrusted to the LTA Competitions Team, with power to suspend or modify any of these Regulations to meet exceptional circumstances (including adaptation of scoring format(s)) and to decide any question of eligibility, qualifications of competitors and interpretation of the Regulations. The LTA Competitions Team's decision shall be final.
2. For the purpose of the County Cup Events, which shall be area competitions subject to the Lawn Tennis Associations Limited Rules 35 and 36 (including appendix 1), the following shall be regarded as Counties: East of Scotland, North of Scotland, South of Scotland, West of Scotland, North Wales, South Wales, Channel Islands, Isle of Man.
3. Although it is not compulsory to compete, all Counties shall be entered in the relevant County Cup Event. Any County intending not to compete in an Event must email notification to the Event Director (countycup@LTA.org.uk) 9 months before the relevant event. Where appropriate, any County that withdraws from an Event shall be placed in the lowest group for the following year and will have any applicable funding for that Event withdrawn.
4. A player is qualified to represent an area in any County Cup Event if they meet the criteria outlined in the Lawn Tennis Association Limited Rule 36. No player may represent more than one County in any Event.
5. Referee(s) shall be appointed for each venue by the LTA Competitions Team. The Referee shall decide any point that relates to the interpretation of the Rules of Tennis, County Cup Rules & Regulations and / or LTA Code of Conduct which may be referred to him/her. He/she shall decide whether or not the match shall be stopped owing to the state of the courts, the state of the weather, darkness, or other unavoidable hindrance. After consulting with the Event Director and / or Event Referee if necessary, the Referee shall have the final say in all on-site matters. Including adaptation of scoring formats.
6. Once final nominations have been submitted no other player may represent the County during the Event except in exceptional circumstances (such as illness, injury or bereavement) which reduces the number of available nominated players for a County to less than the minimum required for the relevant County Cup Event. In this case the Referee shall consult the Event Director, who may authorise the nomination of the necessary number of substitutes for the remainder of the Event.

If any County fails to field at least two singles players on any day, or, in the case of the Summer County Cup Event, 2 pairs, (unless for exceptional circumstances, as decided by the Event Director), all their matches in the competition shall be declared null and void and they shall finish bottom of the group.

Any County failing to show, report to the referee or nominate a full team on any day, (unless for exceptional circumstances, as decided by the Event Director), will have all their matches in the Event declared null and void and they shall finish bottom of the group. Furthermore, subject to investigation, they may be precluded from the following year's Event and will be placed in the bottom group of the relevant Event.

7. A County shall not be bound to play the same team throughout the Event but no change shall be made in the composition of the teams engaged in a match after daily nominations have been submitted. If any player, team or doubles pairing play out of order, those rubbers they competed in and below shall be declared null and void. If a match is postponed to the next day before any play has taken place the composition of the competing teams may be changed.
8. If an ineligible player competes then the singles rubber involving the player concerned, and all singles rubbers lower in the team order shall be forfeited. Any completed matches may stand for the purposes of ITF World Tennis Number, however, the overall team score for that particular match will be awarded to the opposing team for the purposes of the league table.
9. If a player(s) is / are defaulted, except in cases of punctuality, then that player(s) is no longer allowed to take any further part in that competition.
10. If a match in progress cannot be finished or a scheduled match has been unable to start on any day, it shall be completed on the following day before the start of the scheduled match for that day. In order to complete all matches, the use of abbreviated scoring should be considered for complete rounds of unfinished matches and, if necessary, the scheduled matches for that day.
11. If there are still unfinished matches at the close of play on the final day, the result of the matches shall be determined by the rubbers that have been completed providing one or two rounds of the day's programme have been completed in all matches of the group or section at that venue. Second round rubbers will only count if all second round rubbers of all matches at that venue have been completed. If no play is possible or fewer than 3 rubbers have been completed in any match at any venue, the results of all the matches for that day at that venue shall be declared null and void.
12. For Events being played outdoors, indoor courts must not be used unless the courts are on-site and any additional cost to the LTA or a County Association has been authorised in advance by the Event Director.
13. All players are subject to the Rules and Regulations of the LTA (including, without limitation, the LTA's Anti-Doping Programme, the Disciplinary and Dispute Resolution Procedures and the Regulations Concerning Match Fixing, Financial Speculation and Betting) and fully and unconditionally submit to the jurisdiction and authority of the LTA by competing in the Competition.

14. The County Association via its appointed captain (or other designated person accompanying the Team) is responsible for the behaviour of its Team on and off the site for the duration of the event which includes but is not limited to travelling to, staying at accommodation and returning to the County.

Any incident shall be dealt with in accordance with these Regulations and the Lawn Tennis Association Limited Rules (including, for the avoidance of doubt, any Appendices). Entry into the County Cup Events constitutes acceptance, by both the County and its individual members of the team, of the LTA's jurisdiction to deal with any disciplinary matter in accordance with these Regulations (including the Code of Conduct) and the Lawn Tennis Association Limited Rules (including, for the avoidance of doubt, any Appendices). In particular, the following shall apply:
 - a) Any disciplinary matter relating to an incident occurring on site shall be referred to the Referee for decision and any appeal against his / her decision shall be referred to the LTA Competitions Team and will be dealt with in accordance to the LTA Disciplinary & Dispute Resolution Procedures as set out at Appendix 3 to the Lawn Tennis Association Limited Rules.
 - b) Any disciplinary matter relating to an incident off site shall be referred to the LTA Competitions Team and will be dealt with in accordance with the LTA Disciplinary and Dispute Resolution Procedures as set out at Appendix 3 to the Lawn Tennis Association Limited Rules.
 - c) Any disciplinary matter relating to match fixing, financial speculation and betting, as set out in the Disciplinary Code, shall be referred to the LTA Competitions Team and will be dealt with in accordance with the LTA Disciplinary and Dispute Resolution Procedures as set out in Appendix 3 to the Lawn Tennis Association Limited rules.
15. Any complaint relating to eligibility of players and / or nominations must be lodged, in writing, with the Event Director within 48 hours after the end of the Event.
16. No complaint in connection with any LTA County Cup Event can be entertained by the LTA unless lodged with the LTA at countycup@lta.org.uk within 48 hours of the occurrence of the cause of the complaint.
17. Any on-site dispute(s) or complaint(s) during any County Cup Event can only be discussed by the officially appointed (County Cup) Team Captain with the Event Director and / or relevant referee for that Event.

LTA Winter & 18U County Cup Event Special Regulations

1. Competing Counties will be divided into Groups. Excluding Group 1, Groups will be divided into Sections A and B of not more than four Counties. Each County shall play one match against each other County in the same Section or Group over 3 days.
2. For the Winter County Cup Event - final nominations, in ATP / WTA Singles Ranking order and thereafter ITF World (singles) Tennis Number order, must be submitted to the Referee 30 minutes before start of play on the first day. The nominated order must be maintained throughout the Event.

For the 18U County Cup – for players born 2008 to 2015

Final nominations, in LTA Tennis Ranking order, must be submitted to the Referee 30 minutes before start of play on the first day. Equally ranked players may be nominated in any order but the nominated order must be maintained throughout the Event. The rankings used for Final Nominations will be based on the available list of the Monday of the Event week.

Counties should nominate a minimum of 6 and a maximum of 10 players.

For the Winter County Cup Event – To be eligible for nomination players must be born on or before 31 December 2011.

3. Each match shall consist of nine rubbers - six singles followed by three doubles: commencing with No 6 playing No 6 of the opposing team, No 5 playing No 5 and so on.

All rubbers to be the best of 3 sets. Any 3rd set in the doubles rubbers shall be replaced by a Match Tie-break.

For the 18U County Cup - all doubles rubbers will use no-ad scoring (receiver's choice) throughout the match.

4. Daily singles nominations must be submitted to the Referee 15 minutes before the start of play on each day. The singles players shall be nominated in order according to the final nominations (Reg 2).
5. Doubles nominations must be submitted 15 minutes after the No.1 singles match going onto court. All players nominated for doubles must be on-site at the time of nomination. Doubles pairings shall be nominated in accordance with the lowest cumulative total of the players listed in the final nominations (Reg 2). Where the total is the same, the pairing with the highest nominated player shall be nominated as the higher pair.

The substitute will be nominated at the same time as the doubles nominations. Players nominated as singles 1 & 2 players in the competition nomination list (Reg. 2 or daily nomination list (Reg. 4)) may not be a doubles substitute. Any player nominated for doubles that is on court playing singles at the time of nomination, may be substituted and will replace that player directly. The doubles nomination order remains unaltered.

Any player playing both singles & doubles on the same day will be entitled to a minimum of 30 minutes rest between matches.

6. A player who has been defaulted may not be substituted.

1. For the Winter County Cup Event - at set breaks, team captains or their nominated deputy are allowed to communicate with their players within the permitted two minute break and must leave once play resumes.

For the 18U County Cup Event - team captains or their nominated deputy are allowed to communicate with their players at change of ends within the 90 second break and may remain on court.

2. If any player(s) is absent when called upon to play by the Referee that rubber and all rubbers below shall be awarded to the opponent(s) and they shall be entitled to two love sets. This shall apply separately to singles and doubles. If in any rubber one or more player(s) is absent from each side the rubber shall be void.
3. If a player or doubles pair plays out of order, the opponent(s) shall be awarded two love sets.
4. If a player is unable to complete a rubber that has started due to injury, sickness or disqualification, the opposing player or pair shall be awarded the requisite number of games to win the rubber.
5. If any County fields an ineligible player, including the mis-use of the substitute, the rubbers contested by that player and all rubbers below shall be awarded to the opposition by a score of 6-0 6-0. This shall apply separately to singles and doubles.
6. If a match in progress cannot be finished or a scheduled match has been unable to start on any day, it shall be completed on the following day before the start of the scheduled match for that day. In order to complete all matches, the use of abbreviated scoring should be considered for complete rounds of unfinished matches and, if necessary, the scheduled matches for that day.
7. A team is awarded 1 point for each rubber won.
8. The team with most rubber points shall win the match. A team receives 2 match points on the league table for a match win.

Under no circumstances should rubbers be conceded. If on the final day a match in progress cannot be finished, the result of the match shall be determined by the rubbers that have been completed as follows:

- a. By the majority of rubbers won; or
 - b. If there is equality of rubbers, by the majority of sets won; or
 - c. If there is equality of rubbers and sets, by the majority of games won
9. The final standings in each Group or Section shall be determined by the following:
 - a) The team with the greatest number of match points.
 - b) If match points are equal, the team with the greatest number of rubber points.
 - c) If only two teams are level on match points and rubber points; their head to head result.
 - d) If more than two teams are level, the percentage of sets won out of sets played (if after this calculation, only two teams remain level, their head to head result will be used to break the tie)
 - e) If more than two teams are level, the percentage of games won out of games played (if after this calculation, only two teams remain level, their head to head result will be used to break the tie)
 10. The Group formation for the following year's Event shall be as follows:

Group 1:

- 1st and 2nd placed teams remain in Group
- 3rd placed team goes to Group 2a
- 4th placed team goes to Group 2b

Groups 2a & 2b:

- 1st placed teams go to Group 1
- 2nd placed teams remain in Group 2 and swap sections
- 3rd placed teams remain in Group and section
- 4th placed teams remain in section and are relegated to Group 3

Groups 3a to 5b:

- 1st placed teams change in section and are promoted to Group above
- 2nd placed teams remain in Group and swap sections
- 3rd placed teams remain in Group and section
- 4th placed teams remain in section and are relegated to Group below