

# LTA 8U COUNTY CUP EVENT 2026

## Competition Pack

Information correct as of 20 March 2026

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**TENNIS**  
FOR BRITAIN

## Introduction and Important Dates

Welcome to the Competition Pack for the LTA 8U County Cup Event. It is hoped the following information will help answer any questions you may have about the Event.

Counties are reminded the purpose of the 8U County Cup Event is to act as an 'introduction to County Cup Tennis' and our preference would be that players representing their county have not previously played County Cup tennis. Please remember, it is completely optional and there is no commitment to take part.

The LTA County Cup Events give players the opportunity of representing their county in a competitive team environment and the age groups range from 8U through to open age groups and we hope that this Event will be the first step for many players on their County Cup journey!

Event Dates	Nominations Open	Nominations Close
<p><b>LTA 8U County Cup Event</b> <b>For players born in 2018 or later</b></p> <p>Saturday 25 April or Sunday 26 April 2026</p> <p>Counties to decide between themselves which date they opt for – only one date should be chosen.</p> <p>If a date cannot be agreed the LTA Competitions Team reserve the right to say which date the Event should take place.</p>	Monday 23 March 2026	Monday 13 April 2026

## Details of Host County and Venue

Group	Hosting County (HC)	Venue & Personnel Details
Group A Sunday 26 April	<b>A. Warwickshire (HC)</b> B. Oxfordshire C. Staffordshire D. Shropshire	WARWICKSHIRE UNIVERSITY – ALISON ISAACS
Group B Saturday 25 April	<b>A. Hertfordshire (HC)</b> B. Berkshire C. Buckinghamshire	HERTFORDSHIRE – TERESA LILLEY
Group C Saturday 25 April	<b>A. D&amp;C (HC)</b> B. Cheshire C. Northumberland D. Cumbria E. Isle of Man	SUNDERLAND – SARAH LOWES
Group D Saturday 25 April	<b>A. Somerset (HC)</b> B. Devon C. Dorset D. Cornwall	TAUNTON – SOPHIE BUTLAND
Group E Sunday 26 April	<b>A. North of Scotland (HC)</b> B. West of Scotland C. South of Scotland D. East of Scotland	SCOTLAND – VIKKI PATERSON
Group F Sunday 26 April	<b>A. Norfolk (HC)</b> B. Essex C. Suffolk	NORFOLK – CHRIS STOCKER
Group G Sunday 26 April	<b>A. Cambridgeshire (HC)</b> <del>B. Wiltshire</del> C. Bedfordshire D. Hampshire & IOW	CAMBRIDGE – SUE RICH
Group H Sunday 26 April	<b>A. South Wales (HC)</b> B. Gloucestershire C. H&W D. Avon	SOUTH WALES – CHRIS LEWIS
Group I Saturday 25 April	<b>A. Kent (HC)</b> B. Middlesex C. Sussex D. Surrey	BROMLEY – SIOBHAN BUTLER
Group J Sunday 26 April	<b>A. Leicestershire (HC)</b> B. Northamptonshire C. Lincolnshire D. Nottinghamshire	KNIGHTON TENNIS CENTRE – KATE DE FRAJA
Group K Saturday 25 April	<b>A. Yorkshire (HC)</b> B. North Wales C. Lancashire D. Derbyshire	YORKSHIRE – STEVE HOLMES



**LTA 8U COUNTY CUP EVENT 2026**  
**Saturday 25 or Sunday 26 April 2026**

(Counties to decide between themselves which date they opt for – only one date should be chosen)

**TEAM CAPTAINS FACT SHEET**

Event Personnel	Event Director – Paul Midgley E-Mail – <a href="mailto:countycup@LTA.org.uk">countycup@LTA.org.uk</a>
Team Captains, Players & Parents Meeting	<p>To be held <b>no later than 60 mins before the start of play</b> to include LTA Licensed Official or Coach overseeing day's proceedings, all Team Captains, venue representative, players, scorers and parents. This should last no longer than 30 minutes. This time also allows for a 'group' warm-up on court for all players + pre-event team photos.</p> <p>Venue Rep to explain arrangements for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Emergency evacuation procedures and any potential health &amp; safety issues</li> <li>• Catering – to be open from 10.00am to 4.00pm</li> <li>• Gym not to be used</li> </ul> <p>Referee to explain the Rules &amp; Regulations, start times of play and anything else relevant to the Event, plus reminder about safeguarding and Fair Play values.</p> <p>Team Captains, players &amp; parents to be reminded about the necessity for teams to keep the Tennis Venue tidy. All cups, crockery, glasses, etc. should be returned to the catering area.</p>
Provisional Nominations	<p>It is a county's responsibility to check the eligibility of all team players. The use of an ineligible player may result in a county forfeiting all rubber(s) in which that player competed and/or relegation. <a href="#">Please refer to LTA Rule 66 Area Qualification ruling.</a></p> <p>Provisional nominations have been entered into the LP file. However, it is the Referee's responsibility to check all players are Advantage members. If a player is not listed and the player does not have an Advantage number, then the player in question must join Advantage prior to play commencing.</p>
Final & Match Nominations	<p>Please refer to Points 2 and 4 of the Rules &amp; Regulations.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>Counties can enter a maximum of 2 teams (ie) A and B. The host county has jurisdiction to accept more teams at their discretion.</p> <p>Players can only play in one team (ie) they cannot play down into the team below.</p>
Warm-up	<p>Whilst most venues open at 9.00am counties are advised to check with venue regarding availability of courts. If there is any charge, the county using these courts is responsible for the payment of them + the provision of practice balls. Counties are responsible for booking and paying for any courts prior to the Event starting.</p>
Start Time of Play	<p>Matches should start as quickly as possible, so court time is not wasted – no later than 10.00am.</p> <p>Boys &amp; Girls events to take place at separate times.</p> <p>Host county to confirm timings (ie) Boys – 10.00 am -12.30 pm and Girls – 1.00 pm - 3.30 pm</p>
Order of Play	<p><b>ORDER OF PLAY FOR GROUPS COMPRISING 4 COUNTY TEAMS:</b></p> <p>Round 1 – A v B and C v D          Round 2 – A v C and B v D          Round 3 – A v D and B v C</p> <p><b>ORDER OF PLAY FOR GROUPS COMPRISING 3 COUNTY TEAMS:</b></p> <p>Round 1 – A v B          Round 2 – A v C          Round 3 – B v C</p> <p>We would suggest all singles matches are played first, followed by doubles matches</p>

Match Format	<p>Please refer to Points 3, 4 and 14 of the Rules &amp; Regulations</p> <p>Each match to consist of 1 x Match Tie Break (to 10 points, with 2 clear)</p> <p>Each county to provide one or two scorers, who should be willing and able to oversee matches for duration of the event as requested by the Referee</p>
Match Scorecards	<p>Once match nominations have been submitted the Referee will produce a match scorecard to give to each Team Captain and scorer.</p> <p>The Referee to 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.</p>
Match Results	The Referee to update and publish the results on the LTA website.
Tennis Balls	Red (sponge) ball will be used.
Catering	Please check with host county on arrangements for catering.
Changing Facilities	Please check with host county on arrangements for access to changing facilities
Scoreboards and Seating	Scoreboards should be available on-site at the venue. Please ensure players keep them updated.
Noticeboard	<p>The Referee will have access to a noticeboard and the following information will be posted:</p> <p>Updated daily and overall group results as they progress</p> <p>Copies of Team Captains Fact Sheet, LTA Code of Conduct + Event Rules &amp; Regulations</p>
Safeguarding Information	<p>There have been some important updates to the various <a href="#">safeguarding documents</a>. 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.</p> <p>Team Captains should ensure they have been given copies of completed &amp; signed <a href="#">emergency contact details</a> for all players.</p> <p>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 <a href="#">here</a>. If you require further information on your venue's safeguarding policy please refer to the relevant area on the venue website.</p>
Discipline & Code Violations	Your attention is drawn to Rules 14, 14(a), 14(b) & 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.
Miscellaneous	<p>Players should wear recognised tennis clothing as per the County Cup Regulations. We encourage players to wear County team kit or the same coloured tops if possible</p> <p>Medals will be given to Group Winners, Finalists, 3<sup>rd</sup>/4<sup>th</sup> placed counties and certificates to all players.</p>



## 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](mailto: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](mailto: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 8U County Cup Event 2026 Special Regulations**

1. The Event shall be played over one day and will be played using indoor venues. The red sponge ball will be used.  
The match format for the day will be each county playing all other counties in their group as a round robin to determine the winner of that group.
2. Final nominations to be submitted to the Referee 30 minutes before the start of play. Final nominations of all eligible players shall be nominated in order of merit as determined by the team captain.  
The nominated order must be maintained throughout the day.  
Counties can nominate a maximum of 2 teams (ie) A and B per gender. The host county has jurisdiction to accept more teams at their discretion.  
Counties should nominate a minimum of 4 boys / girls and maximum of 5 boys / girls. **For players born in 2018 or later.**  
Players can only play in one team (ie) they cannot play down into the team below.
3. Each match shall consist of 10 rubbers – eight singles rubbers and two doubles rubbers. In singles, No 1 shall play No 1 of the opposing team, No 2 shall play No 2 and so on, followed by the reverse singles rubbers No 1 against No 2 from the opposing team, No 2 shall play No 1 and so on as outlined in the order of play below. Players will play three rubbers per match. Each match can be played across 4 courts, or 2 courts using the example below:

	<b>Court 1</b>	<b>Court 2</b>
Round 1	Singles 4 v 4	Singles 3 v 3
Round 2	Singles 1 v 1	Singles 2 v 2
Round 3	Singles 4 v 3	Singles 3 v 4
Round 4	Singles 2 v 1	Singles 1 v 2
Round 5	Doubles 1	Doubles 2

### **Doubles Pairings:**

Pair 1: Singles players 1 & 2  
Pair 2: Singles players 3 & 4

4. All rubbers shall be the best of 1 Match Tie-Break to 10 points.
5. Match nominations must be submitted to the Referee 15 minutes before the start of each match. The team shall be nominated in singles order according to the final nominations (Reg 2).
6. If any player is absent when called upon to play by the Referee, that rubber and all rubbers below shall be awarded to the opponent(s) 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.
7. If a player or doubles pair play out of order, the opponent(s) shall be awarded the match
8. A team is awarded 1 point for each rubber won.
9. The team with most rubber points shall win the match. A team will receive 2 match points on the league table for a match win.
10. Under no circumstances should rubbers be conceded. If a match in progress cannot be finished on the day, and less than ten rubbers have been completed, 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 tiebreaks won; or
  - c) If there is equality of rubbers and tiebreaks, by the majority of points won
11. The final standings for the Group 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 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)