

2026 WINTER - COMPETITION PLANNING FAQs

WHAT ARE THE PLANNING DEADLINES FOR COMPETITIONS TAKING PLACE IN WINTER 2026?

Competition Type	Tournament Period	Organiser Action	Opens	Closes	Next Step
Grade 3 – Grade 5 Padel Competitions	Competitions taking place during the period from 5 September 2026 – 3 January 2027	Submit application via '2026 G3-G5 Padel Competitions September – December' application period on CMS Please refer to further information on Padel Competitions	18 May 2026	14 June 2026	Allocations confirmed to organisers w/c 13 July
One Day G4 and/or G5 competitions	Competitions taking place during the period from 5 September 2026 – 3 January 2027	Complete preferences via the 'Tournament Availability' tab in the CMS* (<i>one availability form per venue</i>) Please check the 2026 Winter One Day Competition Calendar and refer to further information on One Day Competitions	18 May 2026	14 June 2026	Allocations confirmed to organisers w/c 6 July
Weeklong G3 and/or G4 competitions	Competitions taking place during in the October Half Term & Christmas Holidays	Submit application via 'Grade 3 & 4 Holiday Competitions September 2026 - January 2027' application period on CMS Please refer to further information on Weeklong G3/G4 competitions.	18 May 2026	14 June 2026	Allocations confirmed to organisers by 17 July

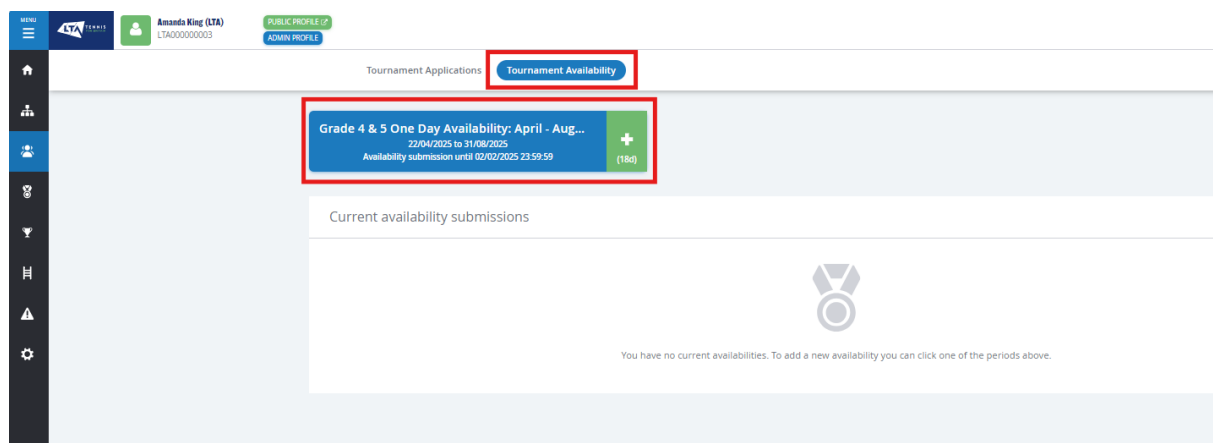
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HOW DO I APPLY TO RUN COMPETITIONS?

GRADE 4 & GRADE 5 ONE DAY COMPETITIONS

Read the [2026 Winter One Day Competition Planning information](#) and check the [Grade 4 & 5 one day competition calendar](#).

Submit an availability form via your Organiser Portal in the Competition Management System to indicate which events you are available to run at your venue on each date (**see example below**):



Use the 'Additional Information' field on the availability form to tell us key information you would like us to consider when allocating events:

Contact

Name	Amanda King (LTA)
Phone	
Email	

Additional information

Please tell us any other important information relating to your availability submission that you would like us to consider when allocating events

The LTA Competitions Team will review all availability and assign events to organisers based on the location of events within the region (we need to ensure sufficient access to competition according to the player base within a region) and previous tournament delivery experience.

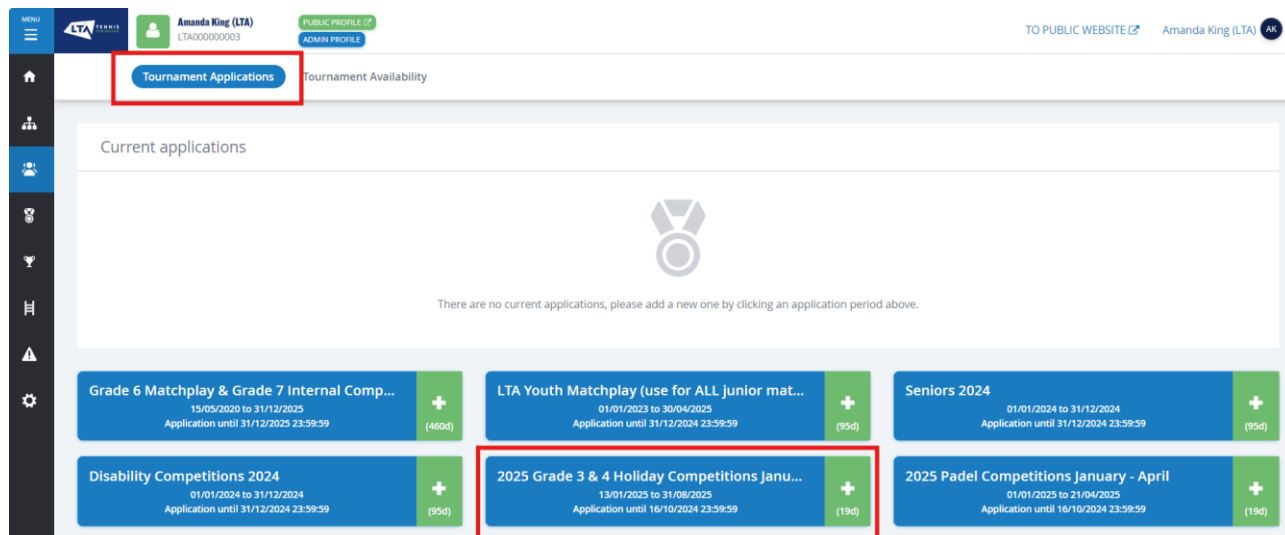
Ensure you submit your availability form by the deadline in the above table.

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GRADE 3 & GRADE 4 WEEKLONG (HOLIDAY) COMPETITIONS

Read the [2026 Weeklong \(Holiday\) Competition Planning information document](#).

Submit an application via your Organiser Portal in the Competition Management System (**see example below**):



The screenshot shows the LTA Competition Management System interface. At the top, the user is identified as Amanda King (LTA) with a public profile and admin profile. A red box highlights the 'Tournament Applications' button in the top navigation bar. Below this, the 'Current applications' section is empty, with a message: 'There are no current applications, please add a new one by clicking an application period above.' Below this, there are six application cards, each with a green plus icon and a count in parentheses. A red box highlights the '2025 Grade 3 & 4 Holiday Competitions Janu...' card, which has a count of (19d). The other cards are: 'Grade 6 Matchplay & Grade 7 Internal Comp...' (460d), 'LTA Youth Matchplay (use for ALL junior mat...' (95d), 'Seniors 2024' (95d), 'Disability Competitions 2024' (95d), and '2025 Padel Competitions January - April' (19d).

The LTA Competitions Team will review all applications and make decisions on which competitions to approve based on the ability of a tournament to meet the minimum requirements as well as data from the tournament in previous years. Please note that the competition grade requested at the point of application is not guaranteed.

Ensure you submit your application by the deadline published in the above table

GRADE 3 – 5 PADEL COMPETITIONS

Read the [2026 Padel Competitions September - December Competition Planning Information](#).

Submit an application via your Organiser Portal in the Competition Management System (**see example below**):

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The screenshot shows the LTA Competition Planning CMS interface. The 'Tournament Applications' tab is highlighted with a red box. Below it, a grid of competition cards is shown. The card for '2025 G3 - G5 Padel Competitions April - August' is highlighted with a red box. Other cards include 'Grade 6 Matchplay & Grade 7 Internal Comp...', 'LTA Youth Matchplay (use for ALL junior mat...', 'Seniors 2025', 'Play Your Way to Wimbledon - Venue Stage 2...', 'LTA ONLY: Play Your Way to Wimbledon - Co...', and 'Disability Competitions (2025)'. A 'Past applications' section is visible at the bottom with a '2021' filter button.

The LTA Competitions Team will review all applications and make decisions on which competitions to approve based on the location of events, previous tournament history and the required provision at each grade. Please note that the competition grade requested at the point of application is not guaranteed.

Ensure you submit your application by the deadline published in the above table

WE'D LIKE TO RUN PADEL COMPETITIONS BUT HOW CAN WE FIND A REFEREE?

In this scenario please submit the application(s) for your Padel competition(s), and then once the application period has closed we will contact all those that have submitted applications to confirm how they can request support with finding officials for their event(s) (e.g. you will need to complete a short online form providing the details of your competition(s) and we will then circulate this to qualified Padel referees and ask them to contact you directly if they are able to officiate at the event).

HOW CAN I LET YOU KNOW IF I HAVE A PREFERENCE TO RUN CERTAIN AGE GROUP EVENTS IN THE ONE DAY PROGRAMME SO YOU CAN CONSIDER THIS WHEN ALLOCATING EVENTS?

Please use the 'Additional Information' field on the availability form in CMS to let us know any specific information you would like us to consider when we are allocating events to venues/organisers. e.g. If your venue has a strong 10U programme and you would therefore like to run more 9U and 10U events you can use this box to let us know this information.

How can I get further support with the competition planning process?

For specific competition planning queries please contact us at competitionplanning@lta.org.uk

For enquiries relating to competitions that have already been approved please contact the LTA Customer Support Team – [Enquiry Form](#)

What venue can I use to run my competitions?

Only LTA Registered Venues are able to run Grade 1 to 6 competitions. This ensures all tournament venues meet Safeguarding Minimum Standards and have adequate insurance cover in

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place to protect organisers, officials, players and spectators. Prior to submitting any availability or application you must ensure that the venue you are planning to use is LTA Registered (you will not be able to submit availability or a competition application for a venue that is not LTA registered).

CAN I RUN MORE THAN ONE EVENT/AGE GROUP ON THE SAME DAY?

Where court space allows, venues/organiser are encouraged to run multiple events on one day across different age groups and grades.

It is important to prioritise the competition experience for the players and so please be sure to plan your competitions carefully, to avoid excessive wait times between matches.

WHY ARE THE 9U AND 10U COUNTY TOUR (GRADE 4) COMPETITIONS GENDER SPECIFIC, WHEREAS LOCAL TOUR (GRADE 5) COMPETITIONS CAN BE MIXED?

Grade 4 events will be single gender in the 10U and 9U age groups to better prepare children playing higher graded events for the next stage of the pathway. Any organisers wishing to run mixed gender competitions should apply for Local Tour (Grade 5) competitions.

WHICH DRAW AND SCORING FORMAT SHOULD I USE FOR MY COMPETITION?

For the One Day County (Grade 4) and Local (Grade 5) Tour circuits, you should choose one of the following:

Age Group(s)	Draw Format	Scoring Format	Rationale / comments
8U / 9U	Round Robin to Elimination with Consolation or Compass OR Round Robin draw	1 x Match Tiebreak to 10 points	The Round Robin format allows younger/starter players to settle into the competition, as opposed to the overall outcome being based on the result of their first match
10U	Compass Draw OR Round Robin to Elimination with Consolation or Compass Draw	1 x FAST4 set OR 2 x FAST4 sets and 1 x Match Tiebreak if one set all	Your chosen draw format should be based on the experience of the entrants and/or the number of entrants. Both Round Robin and Compass draws help to ensure that all entrants compete in the same number of matches
11U – 18U & Open	8 or 16 player compass draw OR Elimination draw with first match consolation	2 x FAST4 sets and 1 x Match Tiebreak if one set all	Older competitors are usually better equipped for a pivotal first match, but it is important to ensure that everyone gets at least one more match

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At Grade 3 weeklong (holiday) competitions the following scoring formats must be used:

- 9U: Best of three tiebreaks to 7 (winning by 2 clear points)
- 10U: Two FAST4 sets with a deciding match tie-break
- 11U – Open: All main draw matches to be two full sets with a deciding match tiebreak. FAST4 scoring to be used for consolation and Doubles matches only.

WHAT TIME SHOULD MY EVENTS START AND FINISH?

When scheduling your competition please consider the planned finish time of your event. We'd like to stress that events for younger juniors should not be scheduled to finish late into the evening on either Saturday or Sunday. We appreciate that available court time is often limited but we would ask that organisers adhere to the following when planning their competitions:

Age group	To finish no later than:
9U/10U	7pm
11U/12U/14U	8pm Sat / 7pm Sunday
16U/18U	9pm

CAN THE LTA OFFER ANY ADDITIONAL DATES ON WHICH I CAN RUN COMPETITIONS AND WHY ARE CERTAIN DATES NOT AVAILABLE?

We continue to offer more event dates on which Grade 5 competitions can be delivered, with options including weekdays during school holidays. The only dates Grade 5s will not be available as an option will be when directly clashing with Youth League Winter fixtures, to encourage juniors to prioritise team competition.

Any organiser that wishes to submit a request for Grade 5 events that don't fall in line with the County and Local tour requirements, should contact competitionplanning@lta.org.uk during the application period and request any additional events/formats formally in writing for the LTA Competitions Team to consider. The Competitions Team will review and approve at their discretion. Please keep in mind that the aim is to ensure consistency where possible, but due to differing player bases it is important to have a flexible approach to ensure players are supported.

WHAT CAN I DO IF I MISS THE AVAILABILITY DEADLINE (ONE DAY COMPETITIONS) OR APPLICATION DEADLINE (WEEKLONG COMPETITIONS)?

Late applications will not be considered. However, if in advance of the deadline, you foresee any difficulties in applying on time, please contact competitionplanning@lta.org.uk at the earliest opportunity and we will be able to provide further support.

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HOW DOES THE LTA ALLOCATE COMPETITIONS FROM THE APPLICATIONS RECEIVED AND WHY WAS I NOT ALLOCATED EVERYTHING FOR WHICH I MADE MYSELF/MY VENUE AVAILABLE (ONE DAY) OR FOR WHICH I APPLIED (WEEKLONG)?

Whilst we will endeavour to allocate you as many one day competitions as we can, venues/organisers will be selected according to their availability, the location of events within the region, previous tournament delivery experience, and the required provision in the county/region.

When reviewing weeklong applications, we conduct an open application process. Please remember that venues who have previously hosted a grade 3 tournament are not guaranteed a successful grade 3 application in subsequent years, although the history of the tournament will be considered.

We need to ensure sufficient access to competition according to the player base within a region and the concentration of both competition venues and organisers varies from area to area.