



Easy
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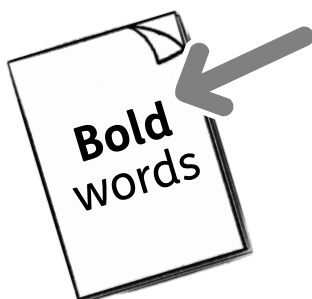
Open for all

Making tennis better at
including disabled people



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In this Easy Read document, hard words are in **bold**. We explain what these words mean in the sentence after we have used them.



Some words are [blue and underlined](#).

These are links that will go to another website which has more information.

Introduction



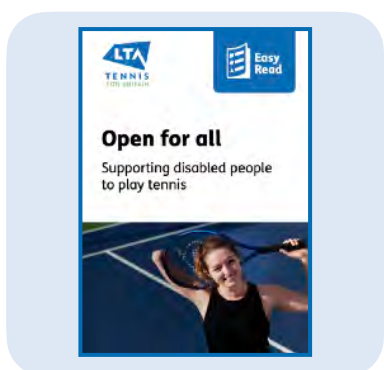
The Lawn Tennis Association (LTA) is in charge of tennis in the UK.



We want more disabled people to play and enjoy tennis.



We have written this plan to support more disabled people to take part in tennis.



It explains:

- What we have done so far.
- What we are going to do in the future.

What we have done so far



We work with organisations that support disabled people.



We listen to what these organisations tell us about how to get more disabled people playing tennis.

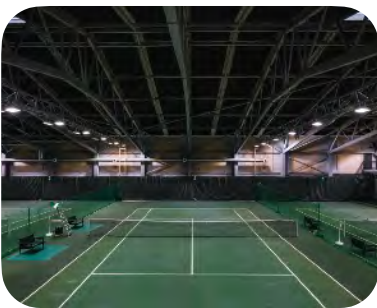


We get money to support disabled people to play tennis.

LTA Open Court programme



LTA Open Court programme is a project where we help **tennis venues** to support disabled people to play tennis.



Tennis venues are places where people play tennis, and help others to get better at tennis.

We support these tennis venues to have more disabled tennis players by giving them:



- Money.



- Training.



- Equipment.



In 2019, 13,000 disabled people took part in the LTA Open Court programme every month.



There are over 500 tennis venues taking part in the LTA Open Court programme.



This is most of the tennis venues in the UK.



We are training more tennis venues on how to support disabled people to play tennis.

Competitions



There are lots of competitions for disabled tennis players.



The Paralympic games are where the best disabled players from around the world play against each other.

They happen every 4 years.



British wheelchair tennis players won 4 medals at the last Paralympic games.



There are other world competitions every year. One of these is called the world championships.



We have won 3 bronze medals, 8 silver medals and 8 gold medals at the world championships.

What we want to achieve



We want the UK to be the best place in the world for disabled people to play tennis.

We will make it easier for disabled people to play tennis by:



- Finding out what stops disabled people from taking part.



- Fixing the things that stop disabled people from taking part.

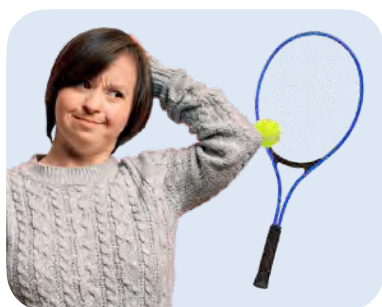


- Giving disabled people the choice of playing tennis in a way that is good for them.

The challenges for disabled people



There are lots of disabled people in the UK.



But there are a lot of things that make it harder for them to take part in tennis.



Disabled people are twice as likely to not be active as others.



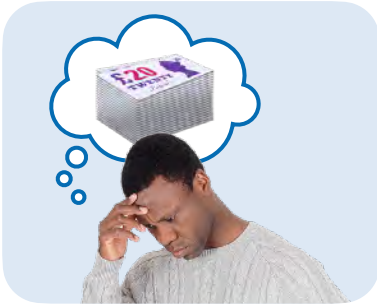
Most people agree that the **pandemic** made playing sport harder for disabled people.

The **pandemic** is also sometimes called Covid-19. It is an illness that spread across the world and meant everyone had to stay at home.

Most disabled people:



- Do not want to start playing sport again after Covid-19.



- Say that they are finding everything more expensive.

Since Covid-19, less disabled people are taking part in:



- LTA Open Court programmes.



- Disability tennis competitions.

The main things that stop disabled people taking part in tennis are:



- People think it is too expensive.



- Finding people to play against.



- Getting to the tennis venue.



- Not feeling like they are good enough at tennis to take part.



- Not playing enough for it to be worth paying a **membership** for.

A **membership** is money you pay to play tennis. You might pay every month, or for a whole year.

Getting more disabled people to play tennis

The main things that make disabled people want to play tennis are:



- Having fun.



- Keeping fit.



- Meeting new people and making friends.

The main things disabled people would like tennis venues to have are:



- Friendly people.



- Good **coaches**.

In this booklet, **coaches** are staff that help others to get better at tennis.



- Prices that they can afford.

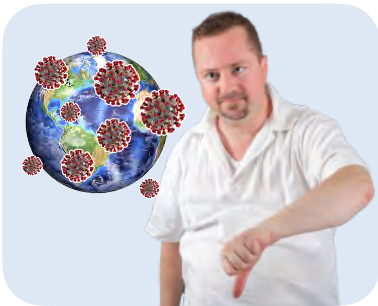


- Staff who know about working with disabled people.

What we are going to do

We have 5 things we want to do:

1. Get back to our best after the pandemic



Disabled people are taking part in sport less now than they did before the pandemic.

We will:



- Work with disabled people on ways to help them start playing tennis again.



- Think about disabled people in all parts of our work.

We will also:



- Use the internet and **social media** to let disabled people know about our work.

Social media is websites like Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and TikTok.



- Use Play Your Way. This is a project to help disabled people feel that tennis is a sport for them.



- Support tennis venues to do more to support disabled people.



- Support our staff to be better at including disabled people.



- Help disabled people to start playing in competitions again.

2. Include more disabled people



We know it can be harder for disabled people to start playing tennis than for other people.

We will work to include disabled people more by:



- Training more disabled people to be coaches.



- Teaching staff about supporting disabled people.



- Supporting coaches to work with disabled players.

We will also include disabled people more by:



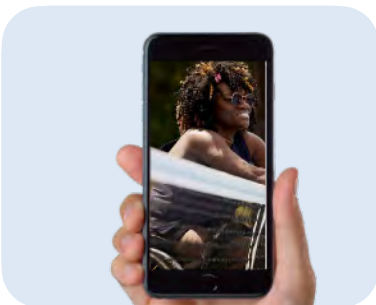
- Getting disabled coaches into good jobs at tennis venues and at the LTA.



- Making sure all our projects include disabled people, like including disabled children when we work with schools.



- Having more tennis competitions for disabled players.



- Letting people know about disabled people who take part in tennis.



- Listening to what disabled people want so we can meet their needs.

We will also include disabled people more by:



- Hiring more disabled people to work for us.



- Becoming a **Disability Confident Employer**.

A **Disability Confident Employer** is a place that is good for disabled people to work at.

3. Improve the LTA Open Court programme



We want disabled people to be able to play tennis close to where they live.



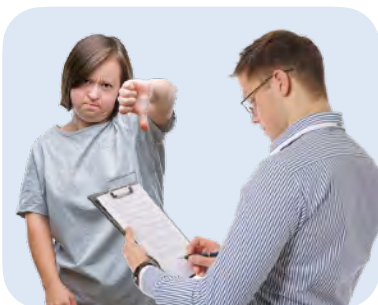
We want more people to take part in tennis through the LTA Open Court programme. We will do this by:



- Having more tennis venues where people can take part in disability tennis sessions.



- Having more coaches who can support people to take part in disability tennis sessions.



- Looking at what is stopping people from taking part in disability tennis sessions.

We will also get more people to take part in the LTA Open Court programme by:



- Making it easier for tennis venues to take part in The LTA Open Court Programme.



- Working with local tennis organisations to help them support disabled people.



- Getting The LTA Open Court Programme to work with our other schemes, like working with children and young people.



- Providing disability tennis sessions in parks and other places.



- Having a website that makes it easier for people to find where to play.

4. Work with new people



We want to help more and different disabled people to try tennis.

We will do this by:



- Working with organisations that support disabled people.



- Working with organisations that can help us get better at supporting disabled people.



- Finding disabled people who do not see tennis as a sport for them.



- Working with disabled people who belong to groups that also do not play tennis as much as others, like older people.

We will also help more new and different people to try tennis by:



- Making ways to help staff support disabled people.



- Having more ways for disabled people to take part, like **walking tennis**.

Walking tennis is where people have to walk and are allowed up to 2 bounces when playing.



- Looking at how to make tennis easier for disabled people to afford.



- Making sure that LTA events are good for disabled people.



- Having more disability tennis at bigger events.

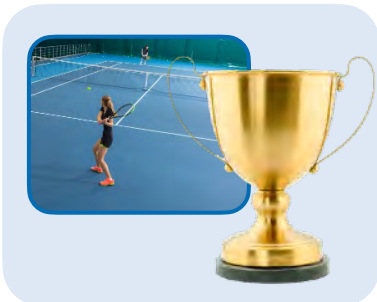
5. Give people the chance to play very well



We want all disabled tennis players to get the chance to:

- Play very well.
- Enjoy their tennis.
- Take part in competitions.

We will do this by:



- Helping more tennis venues to run competitions for disabled players.



- Having more coaches to support disabled players.



- Having more local competitions that people can take part in for fun.

We will also support the best players by:



- Including disability tennis in **Play Your Way To Wimbledon**.

Play Your Way To Wimbledon is a competition that gives young people the chance to play at the Wimbledon tennis competition.



- Having summer camps, where disabled players can go for several weeks to play tennis.



- Finding the best disabled tennis players.



- Working with other organisations to support players to go to the Paralympics and world championships.



- Making sure that staff know how good players can take part in big competitions in the UK and around the world.



We will also have events that show the UK is one of the best places in the world for disabled tennis players.

For more information



You can look at our website here:
www.lta.org.uk

This Easy Read information has been produced by easy-read-online.co.uk