

LTA Approved Competition Welcome Speech

The following is the template that is used by Referees at LTA Approved Competitions (as of 2022) and can be adopted for use at venue/smaller events as needed.

- Welcome players and parents to the competition or tournament
- Introduce yourself and your team of helpers.
- Check all the players have signed in.
- Make sure players and parents know the scoring format, draw format and the timetable for the day.
- Run through some of the logistics: Where the toilets are, what to do in an emergency.
- Remind everyone of the key safeguarding points –
 - Who the welfare officer is for the event, with reference to where the information is held, whether it is on the venues noticeboard or a bespoke display set up for the tournament,
 - Remind parents/carers about their responsibility to supervise their children, especially those under the age of 13.
 - Highlight importance of safeguarding - Say Something if you See Something - 'notice the niggles' - anything, big or small etc. There should also be a reminder about the LTA Safeguarding Teams report a concern web link.
- Asking parents to respect juniors play/decisions and let them play and enjoy the tournament explaining the role of the referee.
- Explain the event will be accessible, welcoming and enjoyable and the expectation is that everyone's behaviour and language at the event should mirror that. Inappropriate or aggressive behaviour, verbal abuse, etc to Officials, children or others will not be tolerated and will be reported to the LTA. Please see the event display board for further information about expected behaviour. The LTA are running a campaign to highlight awareness of expectations of parental conduct at competitions to make tennis welcoming, enjoyable and inspiring to everyone.
- When playing your matches, please remember the 'Fair Play' values of enjoyment and respect so that you all have a good competition experience.
- Please call the score loudly after each point and call lines fairly - if you do have any problems, please raise your rackets.
- Remind players to return the balls, tell you the score at the end of their match and ask about when they are next playing.
- Explain if there will be a presentation at the end
 - Chance to mention the photography policy.
- It's about everybody having fun!