

LTA Youth Schools – Year 11-13 Competition Rules 2025-26

1. Eligibility

School Eligibility

- 1.1 Entry into LTA Youth Schools Year 11-13 ("the Competition") is open only to schools and Further Education Colleges in England, Scotland, Wales, Channel Islands and Isle of Man.

Team Eligibility

- 1.2 Events: Boys and Girls
1.3 A school or college may enter more than one team in each event.
1.4 Where a school or college has two teams in an event, the 'A' team should be the strongest team based on players ITF World Tennis Numbers at the start of the league stage.
1.5 Where a school has two or more teams in an event, a player may 'play up' on a maximum of one occasion without the loss of eligibility in their lower team. Once a player has represented a higher team on more than one occasion, they are no longer eligible to represent a lower team.

Player Eligibility

- 1.6 A player must be a registered member of the school or college on 15 October 2025 (which is the start of the league stage).
1.7 A player must be in Years 11-13 and/or born between 1 September 2007 and 31 August 2010 inclusive.
1.8 A player must have an ITF World Tennis Number (singles) between 20.0-40.9 (or no ITF World Tennis Number) as of 15 October 2025. A player with a singles ITF World Tennis Number of 19.9 or higher on 15 October 2025, will be ineligible to play in the competition. A player who increases their singles ITF World Tennis Number to 19.9 or better after 15 October 2025 will still be eligible to compete.
1.9 A player may only represent one school or college in the competition.

2. Competition Structure

- 2.1 League Stage
Teams shall be entered in a league based on geography. Each league will be divided into divisions up to a maximum of four teams. Each team will play each other team in their division once. Local leagues are coordinated by a league organiser, who has the discretion in conjunction with the national organisers to organise local leagues in the most appropriate way for their area.
- 2.2 Knockout Stage
The top team from each division will progress to the knockout stage.
- 2.3 Finals
The 4 winning teams from the knockout stage in each event, from each region, will compete in the relevant Regional Final. There will be 4 Finals across the country in the following areas – South East, South West, Midlands and North.
Prior to the finals, teams shall nominate a minimum of 4 players. All players at the Finals must have a LTA Advantage Membership. 2 teams shall be seeded in the draws based on the ratings of the top 4 nominated players. The team captain will be allowed on court during rubbers and will be subject to the LTA Code of Conduct.

3. Fixture Arrangements

- 3.1 Time & Dates
Matches to be played on the fixed dates specified. However, there will be flexibility to play before a fixed date if both team captains agree. Each team must have an adult captain (teacher) present at each match.
- Fixtures must have a start time between 2pm and 4pm unless both team captains agree otherwise.
- 3.2 Balls
The home team shall supply a minimum of 3 LTA approved balls for each rubber.
- 3.3 Match Format
Events shall consist of 4 singles and 2 doubles rubbers.
- 3.4 Match Nominations
A boys or girls team shall consist of 4 or 5 players for each fixture. Four players shall play one singles rubber each. A 5th player may be selected for one doubles rubber only at the discretion of the team captain.
- 3.5 Singles Nominations
At least 15 minutes before the start time of each fixture, team captains must nominate in writing, on a scorecard, their singles players in order of their ITF World Tennis Number singles band i.e., 20.0-20.9 is band 20. If two or more players are within the same ITF World Tennis Number band (or no ITF World Tennis Number), the team captain can decide the team playing order which may change from fixture to fixture. Team Captains are encouraged, in the spirit of providing an enjoyable and competitive experience, to nominate in order of playing standard i.e., strongest player should play as singles 1, second strongest player as singles 2 and so on. At the same time, captains shall provide the name of any other player(s) who may be selected for the doubles only. Please see below the ITF World Tennis Number (singles) bands:

ITF World Tennis Number (singles)	Band	ITF World Tennis Number (singles)	Band	ITF World Tennis Number (singles)	Band	ITF World Tennis Number (singles)	Band
1.0-1.9	1	11.0-11.9	11	21.0-21.9	21	31.0-31.9	31
2.0-2.9	2	12.0-12.9	12	22.0-22.9	22	32.0-32.9	32
3.0-3.9	3	13.0-13.9	13	23.0-23.9	23	33.0-33.9	33
4.0-4.9	4	14.0-14.9	14	24.0-24.9	24	34.0-34.9	34
5.0-5.9	5	15.0-15.9	15	25.0-25.9	25	35.0-35.9	35

6.0-6.9	6		16.0-16.9	16		26.0-26.9	26		36.0-36.9	36
7.0-7.9	7		17.0-17.9	17		27.0-27.9	27		37.0-37.9	37
8.0-8.9	8		18.0-18.9	18		28.0-28.9	28		38.0-38.9	38
9.0-9.9	9		19.0-19.9	19		29.0-29.9	29		39.0-39.9	39
10.0-10.9	10		20.0-20.9	20		30.0-30.9	30		40.0-40.9	40

- 3.6 Doubles Nominations
Doubles Pair 1: Singles 1 & 2 Doubles Pair 2: Singles 3 & 4

A 5th player can substitute directly for any of the four singles players. E.g., if player number 5 (doubles only player) substitutes for singles player 2, then player number 5 will play in the number 1 doubles pair. Doubles nominations may be submitted after completion of all singles

- 3.6 Order of Play

	On 4 Courts	On 3 Courts	On 2 Courts
Round 1	Singles 1 - 4	Singles 1&2, Doubles 2	Singles 1 & 2
Round 2	Doubles 1 & 2	Singles 3&4, Doubles 1	Singles 3 & 4
Round 3			Doubles 1 & 2

- 3.7 Rubber Scoring
Each rubber is one set with a tie break at 6-6

- 3.8 Match Scoring
A team is awarded 2 points for each rubber won. At 6 rubber points each a doubles tiebreak shoot-out (to 10 points, with 2 clear) shall be played. 1 bonus point will be awarded to the winning team in a tiebreak shoot-out, i.e., 7-6

Tie-Break Shootout (1 pair):

Player 1: One of the original players from the 1st/2nd singles rubbers; Player 2: One of the original players from the 3rd/4th singles rubbers.

- 3.9 Match Result
The team with the most rubber points shall win the match.
A team will receive 2 match points on the league table for a match win.
Both captains must complete and sign the Youth Schools scorecards. The winning captain must submit the result online within 48 hours.

The final standings in each division shall be determined by the following:

- I. The team with the greatest number of match points.
- II. If match points are equal, the team with the greatest number of rubber points.
- III. If only two teams are level on match points and rubber points: their head-to-head result.
- IV. If more than 2 teams are level, the round robin rule in the LTA Competition Regulations will determine the division standings.

4. Problem Solving Issues

- 4.1 Late Arrival
If a team arrives more than 30 minutes after the agreed start time, the opponents can claim two doubles rubbers by a score of 6-0. If a team has not arrived 1 hour after the agreed start time, the opponents will be awarded the match by a score of 12-0 (8-0 for mixed).
- 4.2 Incomplete Teams
If a school is unable to field a complete team for the match, then they shall first forfeit the lowest singles rubber and the second doubles rubber, followed by the next lowest rubber and so on. The opposing team shall be deemed to have won any forfeited rubbers by a score of 6-0.
- 4.3 Player Retirement
If a player retires during a rubber, the opponent shall be deemed to have won all the remaining games necessary to win the rubber. The player retiring from the rubber shall be eligible to compete in any remaining rubbers/tiebreak shoot-out in that match.
- 4.4 Completion of Fixtures (due to inclement weather)
If play is suspended after a match has started, then the fixture shall resume at the point of suspension.

If a fixture cannot be started due to rain or rain stops play before any rubbers have been completed, then the fixture may be rearranged on or before the rain date at the original venue as set by the League Organiser.

Where one or more rubbers have been completed, then the winner of the fixture shall be the team winning the most number of completed rubbers. 2 points shall be awarded for each completed rubber with any remaining points shared. For the purposes of final league placing calculations, the incomplete and unplayed rubbers shall be deemed shared by a score of 6-6. Should each team have won an equal number of rubbers then each team shall receive 6 rubber points (for mixed 4 rubber points) and 1 match point.
- 4.5 Team Withdrawal
Teams receiving an entire team walkover will win all rubbers 6-0 and will receive maximum rubber points and a match win.
- 4.6 Playing out of order / Ineligible Player(s)

If players play out of order, then the singles rubbers involving those players shall be forfeited by a score of 0-6. Where doubles pairings are not in line with Rule 3.5 that school or college shall forfeit both doubles rubbers. 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 by a score of 0-6.

5. Regulations

- 5.1 All matches in the Competition shall be conducted in accordance with the ITF Rules of Tennis, the Rules and Regulations of the LTA, the LTA Competition Regulations, the LTA Code of Conduct and these Regulations (in the event of any inconsistency, these Regulations shall prevail). Each player participating in the competition grants and assigns to the LTA the right to make, use and show from time to time and at its discretion, motion pictures, still pictures and live taped or filmed television and other reproduction of him/her during the event and in connection with the promotion of the event without compensation for him/herself. Such promotional activities by the LTA shall not be identified as or represented to be an endorsement by the player of any product/company.
- 5.2 The day-to-day organisation of the Competition shall be carried out by the LTA Competitions Team (CT). The Competition is sanctioned by the LTA under the management of the CT. The CT shall have the power to decide on matters of interpretation of these regulations, to impose penalties including, but not limited to, the deduction of points and suspension for breaches of these Regulations; to suspend or modify any of these Regulations in appropriate circumstances. The CT decision on all matters is final.
- 5.3 Any complaint/dispute shall be made in writing on email to schoolscompetition@LTA.org.uk by the team captain within 48 hours of the cause of the complaint/dispute arising. Nevertheless, the CT shall have the power to consider any matter coming to their attention subsequently.
- 5.4 All players are subject to the Rules 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.