



PLAY YOUR WAY TO WIMBLEDON



VENUE ORGANISER GUIDE
CLUBS, PARKS AND SCHOOLS



WELCOME TO PLAY YOUR WAY TO WIMBLEDON 2026

**I'm delighted to welcome you to
Play Your Way to Wimbledon,
powered by Vodafone.**

This exciting competition, run in conjunction with the LTA and Vodafone, continues to offer fantastic player experiences at their local venue with the opportunity to compete for a place at the National Finals, which will take place in August on the grass courts of the All England Club.

In 2025, we welcomed over 11,000 players competing in their local club, park or school across all pathways with 340 making it through to the National Finals at Wimbledon.

Inside your Organiser Pack you'll find all the information you need to run a successful Play Your Way to Wimbledon competition, including prizes, winners' medals and certificates for your competitors. If you require any further information, or if you have any questions, please get in touch by contacting playyourwaytowimbledon@lta.org.uk

Venue stage winners will progress to their County / Area Finals with the winners of these finals then progressing to the National Finals in August. Although Play Your Way to Wimbledon is designed to be competitive, our collective aim is for the players to have a lot of fun and inspire them to compete more often, and it is my sincere hope that every player enjoys their time in the competition.

I would like to extend my gratitude to Vodafone for their support and enthusiasm. Together we have opened up the competition to new audiences, and we look forward to welcoming players to the grass courts of Wimbledon this year.

Finally, on behalf of the All England Club, I would like to take this opportunity to thank the LTA, the local LTA County Organisers and the many club volunteers in England, Scotland and Wales for your tremendous support of Play Your Way to Wimbledon. It is your hard work and energy that provides thousands of tennis players across the country with the opportunity to compete for a place at the National Finals here at the All England Club in August.

As a token of my appreciation, I would like to extend an invitation to Venue Stage Organisers to attend the National Finals in August, to experience what I am sure will be a great finale to Play Your Way to Wimbledon. If you wish to join us, please email playyourwaytowimbledon@aeltc.com

I wish you, and all the players competing at your venue, a very positive and successful experience in 2026.



Jamie Baker,
Tournament Director



BENEFITS OF STAGING YOUR PLAY YOUR WAY TO WIMBLEDON EVENT

- An opportunity to provide players with fun, competitive tennis at your venue.
- Special Wimbledon certificate and player prizes as well as a winner's medal.
- The winner (and possibly runner-up) of your event to represent your venue at the County Finals and/or Area Finals.
- Flexible competition format enabling you to run your event to suit you and your players.
- The organiser (and guest) invited to the All England Club to watch the National Finals in August.

2026 DATES

- Venue Stage: Host your event anytime between 2 March–24 May
- Publish your final TTP file by 26 May
- Singles County Finals: 27–28 June (Scotland: 13–14 June)
- Doubles Area Finals: 20–21 June
- National Finals at Wimbledon: 2–8 August

2026 OVERVIEW

NATIONAL FINALS		
 COUNTY FINALS  BOYS AND GIRLS AGES 11–14 CLUBS, PARKS AND SCHOOLS WTN: 32.0–40.9 JUNIOR SINGLES	 AREA FINALS  BOYS AND GIRLS AGES 11–18 CLUBS, PARKS AND SCHOOLS WTN: 28.0–40.9 JUNIOR DOUBLES	 AREA FINALS  MEN AND WOMEN AGES 19+ CLUBS AND PARKS WTN: 25.0–40.9 ADULT DOUBLES

GUIDELINES FOR STAGING YOUR PLAY YOUR WAY TO WIMBLEDON EVENT

VENUE STAGE

VENUE ELIGIBILITY

- All Play Your Way to Wimbledon competitions must be held at an LTA Registered Venue (clubs, parks, and schools).
- We encourage venues to open events to both members and non-members to give local players the chance to compete.

EVENT STRUCTURE

- Venues can run one event per category during the competition period (2 March–24 May 2026).
- You must run separate events for:
 - Girls / Boys (Singles or Doubles)
 - Women / Men (Doubles)
- Events should be open to all eligible players in the relevant category.
- All venue stage events are Grade 6 if open to anyone and Grade 7 if members-only.

EVENT PLANNING & REGISTRATION

- All venues must publish their event by 1 February 2026.
- Venue packs will be sent week commencing 23 February 2026.
- Player entry is accepted on a first come, first served basis.

- Organisers are free to choose the competition format best suited to their venue.
 - We recommend running the event over half a day or one full day, using a shortened format such as FAST4 to keep play exciting and efficient.
- Aim to create a fun, social, and inclusive atmosphere, encourage participation from as many eligible players as possible, including those who are newer to competitive tennis.

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

- Each venue event must have a minimum of 3 players or pairs for the winner(s) to qualify for the next stage of the competition.
- Venues may charge an entry fee of up to £15 per player per competition to help cover event costs (optional).

PLAYER ELIGIBILITY CHECKS

- Organisers are responsible for ensuring all players meet the official eligibility criteria (see Player Eligibility section).
- The venue organiser must check each player's ITF World Tennis Number (WTN) at the closing deadline of your event to confirm they fall within the correct range. Any player outside of the range must be withdrawn from your event.

RESULTS SUBMISSION

- All results must be submitted via TTP by 26 May 2026.
- Late returns may not be accepted, so please ensure your event is completed and results are entered promptly.

PLAYER ELIGIBILITY

To keep things fair and consistent, all players must meet the following eligibility criteria:

- Once a player wins an event in a pathway, they can't compete again in that same pathway, their place in the next stage is already secured.
- 14U players can compete in both singles and/or doubles at the Venue and County/Area stages, but only in one event at the National Finals.
- All players must have an LTA Advantage Membership to participate.
- All players must have an eligible ITF World Tennis Number (WTN) for their age group at the closing deadline of your event:
 - 14U Singles: 32.0-40.9
 - 18U Doubles: 28.0-40.9
 - 19+ Doubles: 25.0-40.9
- For doubles, pairs must stay together throughout the competition. If one player can't compete at a later stage, the whole pair must withdraw.

SINGLES PATHWAY (JUNIORS)

- Players must be 14 & under (born 2012–2015).
- Players can only enter events within their play county, unless they're a member or pupil of a hosting venue located across a county border.

DOUBLES PATHWAY

- Junior Doubles: Players must be 18 & under (born 2008–2015).
- Adult Doubles: Players must be 19+ (born before 2007).
- At least one player in each pair must belong to the play county where the event is held.
- If one partner withdraws later in the competition, the pair is withdrawn (no substitutions allowed).

SINGLES PATHWAY – COUNTY FINALS

- Venue winners are invited to the County Finals (England & Wales: 27–28 June, Scotland: 13–14 June)
- Counties may run their events earlier if needed. Final dates and venues will be published April 2026 at [LTA.org.uk/play-your-way-to-wimbledon](https://lta.org.uk/play-your-way-to-wimbledon)
- County Finals are Grade 4 events.
- 45 County winners + 3 lucky losers (boys and girls) qualify for the National Finals.

DOUBLES PATHWAY – AREA FINALS

- Winning pairs progress to the Area Finals (20–21 June).
- Counties may run their events earlier if needed. Final dates and venues will be published April 2026 at [LTA.org.uk/play-your-way-to-wimbledon](https://lta.org.uk/play-your-way-to-wimbledon)
- Area Finals are Grade 4 events.
- 23 winning pairs (boys, girls, men and women) qualify for the National Finals.

NATIONAL FINALS

- The winner of each event at the County Finals and Area Finals will be invited to play at Wimbledon from 2–8 August in the National Finals.
- The proposed schedule for the National Finals is as follows:
 - 14U Singles:** 2–6 August
 - 18U Doubles:** 4–7 August
 - Adult Doubles:** 5–8 August
- The National Finals are Grade 3 events.
- All finals competitors will receive a Play Your Way to Wimbledon souvenir, Wimbledon Museum voucher, organised Tours of the Grounds and daily accommodation/meal allowance.

SCORING FORMATS

Want to keep things fast, fun, and flexible? Try one of our recommended abbreviated formats, perfect for one-day events or club festivals.

FAST4 TENNIS

A quick and exciting version of tennis that keeps players on their toes:

- First to 4 games wins the set.
- Tiebreak at 3-all (to 7 points, win by 2).
- No advantage scoring. At deuce, play one sudden-death point (receiver chooses side).

TIMED TENNIS

Ideal for tight schedules and festival-style events:

- Each match lasts 20 minutes.
- Use normal game scoring, with sudden death at deuce.
- If time expires mid-game:
 - Finish the current game. If tied on games, the winner of that game wins the match.
 - If not tied, the player with the most games wins.



ORGANISER TASKS – BEFORE, DURING & AFTER YOUR EVENT

BEFORE THE EVENT

- Select a person to co-ordinate and be responsible for the event (e.g. junior organiser, teacher, coach). Familiarise yourself with this organiser guide and contact the Play Your Way to Wimbledon organiser if you have any queries.
- Choose a date to hold the event between 2 March–24 May.
- Promote the event to players/parents using the free resources and your different channels (noticeboard, newsletters, coaching lessons, social media).
- Play Your Way to Wimbledon should be open to all players so we strongly encourage you to promote your event outside of your venue and encourage your less experienced players to play.
- Organise tennis balls, recruit helpers, and make sure you've received your venue organiser pack in the post (with certificates and prizes).
- Display the PVC banner at your venue included in your venue pack. Find our 'print your own bunting' kit in the resource library here: www.lta.org.uk/compete/play-your-way-to-wimbledon
- Once the closing deadline has passed, decide on the draw format based on the number of players and court time. Use TTP to create your draws and order of play and publish to the CMS for players to view.
- Remind all players who have signed up to turn up. Be prepared for last minute entries, drop outs, no-shows and rain! Have a back-up plan.

DURING THE EVENT

- Arrive in good time and set up necessary equipment; balls, courts, nets etc.
- Get all players together at the start and welcome them. Tell them about the scoring format for each match.
- Try and stick to the schedule and keep encouraging players throughout.
- Make sure you record the results of all matches via TTP.
- Following all matches, hold a presentation and award the certificates and prizes to all participants. Don't forget to give the County/Area Finals letter to the winner/runner-up.
- Ensure you thank any helpers.

AFTER THE EVENT

- Venues **must** submit their results via TTP by 26 May 2026.
- Share the success of the event through your social media channels by using #playyourwaytowimbledon
- Get feedback from those who took part, listen to their ideas and take note of their suggestions so you can implement them next year.
- Don't forget to keep track of your venue representative(s) at the County/Area Finals.

As a thank you for staging an event, organisers (and a guest) are invited to the All England Club to watch the National Finals. To attend, please email playyourwaytowimbledon@aeltc.com

YOU CAN
ACCESS THE
CMS GUIDANCE
HERE





SUPPORT

If you have a dispute or complaint at Venue or County/ Area level, email: playyourwaytowimbledon@lta.org.uk within 48 hours of the cause. All submissions will be reviewed by the LTA PYWTW Project Team.

For appeals, contact the LTA Head of Competition Development whose decision is final and there is no further right of appeal.

More info and resources available at:
LTA.org.uk/play-your-way-to-wimbledon

