

# LTA COMPETITION REGULATIONS

1 January 2025



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**PART A - GENERAL****1. Application**

1.1 These LTA Competition Regulations (**Regulations**) take effect from 1 January 2025 and may be varied from time to time by the LTA Board. Any such variations will be published on the LTA Website at [www.LTA.org.uk/CompetitionRegulations](http://www.LTA.org.uk/CompetitionRegulations) and/or notified to:

- (a) Organisers/Organising Committees and Licensed Officials by email, and
- (b) Players as part of the competition information provided pursuant to Regulation 15.2, below.

Unless otherwise stated in the variations themselves, the variations will take effect immediately from when they are so published or notified (whichever is earlier).

1.2 These Regulations apply to all tournaments, championships, leagues, cup competitions and other tennis events that are sanctioned by the LTA (**LTA Sanctioned Competitions**) and graded from 1 to 7 (see Regulation 5.1, below).

1.3 By organising, entering, playing tennis in and/or participating in any way in an LTA Sanctioned Competition (including as Licensed Officials, staff, or medical staff, or as Player Support Personnel (as defined in Appendix One to these Regulations)) a person and/or entity agrees to be bound by and to comply with these Regulations, and the LTA Disciplinary Code.

1.4 In addition to these Regulations (including the Competition Code of Conduct), the LTA Disciplinary Code, the LTA Rules, the LTA Code of Conduct, the LTA Transgender and Non-Binary Individuals Policy, the LTA Safeguarding Policy, the LTA Diversity and Inclusion Policy and the Rules of Tennis will also apply to all LTA Sanctioned Competitions. In the event of conflict between the Rules of Tennis and these Regulations, these Regulations will prevail.

1.5 In the case of County Cup, British Tour, National League, National Tour, Regional Tour and County Tour, Padel, Disability and Beach Tennis competitions, certain specific circuit regulations may exist and in the event of conflict between those circuit regulations and these Regulations, those circuit regulations will prevail.

**Explanatory note:** *The circuit regulations can be found at [www.LTA.org.uk/CompetitionRegulations](http://www.LTA.org.uk/CompetitionRegulations).*

1.6 These Regulations set out the provisions that apply to (among other things) the organisation and administration of, and participation in LTA Sanctioned Competitions, and they are organised in effectively a chronological order following the lifecycle of an LTA Sanctioned Competition:

- (a) application, interpretation and correspondence as set out in Regulations 2 to 4 (Part A – General) and Appendix One;
- (b) the competition framework as set out in Regulations 5 to 9 (Part B – Competition Framework);
- (c) personnel responsible for delivering competitions, as set out in Regulations 10 to 12 (Part C – Personnel);
- (d) organising, entering and Withdrawing from a competition, as set out in Regulations 13 to 19 (Part D – Organising a Competition) and Appendix Three;
- (e) participating in a competition, as set out in Regulations 20 to 32 (Part E – Participating in a Competition) and Appendices Four, Five and Six;

- (f) ITF World Tennis Numbers and LTA Rankings, as set out in Regulations 33 and 34 (Part F – ITF World Tennis Numbers and LTA Rankings); and
- (g) complaints and non-compliance, as set out in Regulations 35 and 36 (Part G – Miscellaneous).

- 1.7 Capitalised terms used in these Regulations will, unless defined elsewhere in these Regulations, have the meanings given to them in Appendix One.
- 1.8 Any references to the Rules of Tennis may be replaced by the Rules of Padel Tennis for Padel competitions and the Rules of Beach Tennis for Beach Tennis competitions, respectively as required by the context.

## **2. Interpretation**

- 2.1 These Regulations, and any dispute or claim arising out of or in connection with them (including any dispute or claim relating to non-contractual obligations), will be governed by and construed in accordance with English Law (without regard to the conflict of law principles thereof) and, except where otherwise provided herein (e.g., in respect of matters falling to be determined by Disciplinary Tribunals or other disciplinary processes set out in these Regulations), will be subject to the exclusive jurisdiction of the English courts.
- 2.2 No waiver of any part of these Regulations or of any rights or remedies in respect of any breach of any part of these Regulations will be treated as a waiver of any other part or a future waiver of the same part or as a waiver of rights and remedies in respect of any other breach of any part or any later breach of the same part.
- 2.3 A failure by one party to comply with its obligations under these Regulations will not justify or excuse (or provide a defence to proceedings brought regarding) another failure by the same or another party.
- 2.4 Where a matter arises for which provision has not been made in these Regulations, the LTA Competitions Team will provide for the matter as long as such provision is consistent with the spirit and intent of these Regulations.
- 2.5 Where rights and obligations under these Regulations are the rights and obligations of a Child or of an Adult at Risk, the LTA may at its discretion interpret that the relevant right(s) may be afforded to and/or that the relevant obligation(s) may be satisfied by that person parent's, guardian's or primary carer's (as appropriate) if, in the discretion of the LTA, the context so requires or if it is appropriate in the circumstances to do so.

## **3. Amendments**

- 3.1 The LTA Competitions Team may introduce any amendment to these Regulations, at any time, without referring to the LTA Board but shall seek ratification of any such amendment from the LTA Board by the start of the next calendar year.
- 3.2 A ruling by a competent authority that any provision of the Regulations, or any part of any Regulation, is invalid or unenforceable will not affect the legal enforceability of the Regulation or these Regulations as a whole. Instead, such provision will be replaced, by the LTA Board, with a valid and enforceable replacement provision as close as possible in effect to the replaced provision.

**4. Correspondence**

4.1 Any questions concerning these Regulations should be addressed to the LTA at:

LTA Competitions Team  
Lawn Tennis Association  
National Tennis Centre  
100 Priory Lane  
Roehampton  
London SW15 5JQ

Using the Contact Us Form at [www.lta.org.uk/Contact-Us](http://www.lta.org.uk/Contact-Us)

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## PART B - COMPETITION FRAMEWORK

### 5. Competition Grading Structure

- 5.1 All LTA Sanctioned Competitions (and all events within an LTA Sanctioned Competition) are graded by the LTA from 1 to 7 and ungraded events, according to criteria laid down (and published in the Competition Grading Guidelines, as updated from time to time) by the LTA Competitions Team, as follows:

Grades 1 and 2: national level;

Grade 3: regional level;

Grade 4: county level;

Grade 5: local level;

Grade 6: matchplays;

Grade 7: internal venue competition; and

Ungraded: recreational competition.

- 5.2 LTA Sanctioned Competitions vary in size, duration and standard. An LTA Sanctioned Competition may consist of a single event or multiple events. Each event can have the following draw stages:

- (a) pre-qualifying;
- (b) qualifying;
- (c) main draw; and
- (d) consolation.

Extra matches may also be played at the discretion of the Organiser/Organising Committee.

### 6. Competition Age Groups

- 6.1 For LTA Sanctioned Competitions graded 1 to 5, all Junior age groups (from 8U to 18U) are based on calendar years. A Player's competition age group (and his/her eligibility to participate in events restricted to certain age groups) is determined by the Player's age on the last day of the calendar year in question.

The competition age group calculator for 2025 and subsequent eligibility can be found in Appendix Eight.

**Explanatory note:** For example, a Player who will be aged 12 on 31 December 2025 will be in the 12U competition age group from January 2025 – December 2025; a Player who will turn 13 during that period (i.e. who will be 13 on 31 December 2025) will be in the 14U competition age group from January 2025 – December 2025 (noting that there is no 13U competition age group). Further information on age groups can be found at [www.LTA.org.uk/CompetitionAgeGroups](http://www.LTA.org.uk/CompetitionAgeGroups).

**Explanatory note:** A Player is officially in the 'Open' age group category when no longer eligible (due to his/her age) to play 18U competitions.

- 6.2 Adult age groups are based on calendar years, and a Player's competition age group (and his/her eligibility to participate in events restricted to certain age groups) is determined by the Player's age on the last day of the calendar year in question.



**Explanatory note:** For example, a Player who will turn 35 on 1 June 2025 will be eligible to participate in all of the 35-and-over age group competitions throughout 2025; a Player who will turn 22 on 1 June 2025 will not be eligible to participate in any of the 21U age group competitions in 2025.

- 6.3 Where a competition spans two calendar years, the age groups which a player is eligible to compete will be determined by the competition end date.

**Explanatory note:** For example, if a competition ends on 2 January 2026 this competition will use 2026 competition age groups.

- 6.4 8U, 9U and 10U Players are restricted to their own age group and the age group above which they can enter and compete in.

- 6.5 The LTA Performance Team may, at its discretion, issue a player passport to players who have exhausted all competitive opportunities within an age group to access competitive opportunities of the age group(s) above. Passports cannot be requested by a player, parent or coach and the decision of the LTA Performance Team is not appealable.

## 7. Competition Sanctioning

- 7.1 As part of the competition sanctioning process set out in Regulation 13.4, below, all LTA Sanctioned Competitions (and all events within an LTA Sanctioned Competition) shall be graded in accordance with the definition in 5.1 above and to the criteria laid down by the LTA Competitions Team.

The determination of grades by the LTA will be final and binding.

**Explanatory note:** Further information on grading, including grades for particular competitions, can be found at [www.LTA.org.uk/CompetitionRegulations](http://www.LTA.org.uk/CompetitionRegulations).

- 7.2 Specific event dates for every event must be provided by the Organiser/Organising committee in the **LTA Competition Management System** prior to a competition opening for entries. Where possible, events should be scheduled to run over a maximum number of consecutive days, ideally no more than four days for grade 3 events and no more than two days for grade 4 and lower events.

- 7.3 Published event dates cannot be changed once a competition has opened for entry without the consent of the LTA Competitions Team. Where published event dates are extended or changed such that matches fall outside of the originally published dates with the approval of the LTA Competitions Team, any entered players must be contacted to inform them of the changes to event dates and given the opportunity to Withdraw penalty free and with a full refund.

- 7.4 Where an event is oversubscribed and thus divided into two separate events based on merit (i.e. not where a single event is simply divided into a main draw and a qualifying draw), the Organiser/Organising Committee must contact the LTA Competitions Team to obtain prior written approval for a lower grade for their overflow 'B' event. The Organiser/Organising Committee must inform Players that they have been placed in an overflow 'B' event and give them the option to Withdraw without penalty by a reasonable Withdrawal deadline.

## 8. Sex Categories

- 8.1 A Player may only enter competitions in a sex category which they are eligible for pursuant to the LTA's Transgender and Non-Binary Individuals Policy.

## 9. 8U, 9U and 10U Events

- 9.1 8U, 9U and 10U events may be stand alone or form part of a competition with multiple age groups, and may be single or mixed in terms of sex category.
- 9.2 The LTA Competitions Team may vary the ball colour and court dimensions for Red, Orange or Green Ball tennis for certain National Level Competitions at its discretion and will be published on the competition fact sheet prior to the competition opening for entries.

### Red Ball tennis

- 9.3 All 8U events must be played with a red ball (a sponge ball for indoor courts and a felt ball for outdoor courts) on a red size court (**Red Ball**). The dimensions of a red size court are 11-12m x 5-6m with a net height of 80cm. The recommended racket size is 58cm.
- 9.4 Scoring must be one match tie-break of first to ten points with either two clear points or deciding point at nine all, and each point will be played in accordance with the Rules of Tennis. Where reasonably practicable, each match will have a Scorer to assist with scoring and line/net calls.

### Orange Ball tennis

- 9.5 All 9U events must be played with an orange ball on an orange size court (**Orange Ball**). The dimensions of an orange size court are 18m x 6.5m (or 18m x 8.23m for doubles matches) with a net height of 80cm. The recommended racket size is 58-63cm.
- 9.6 Scoring must be one match tie-break (first to ten points with either two clear points or deciding point at nine all), the best of three standard tie-breaks (first to seven points with either two clear points or deciding point at six all), or one FAST4 set. Where reasonably practicable, each match will have a Scorer to assist with scoring and line/net calls.

### Green Ball tennis

- 9.7 All 10U events must be played with a green ball on a standard size court (**Green Ball**). 10U doubles matches should be played on a standard size singles court with singles sticks in place (if available).
- 9.8 Scoring must be a one FAST4 set or two FAST4 sets with a match tie-break (first to ten points, two clear at nine all).
- 9.9 Where an 8U, 9U and 10U grade 1 - 5 event is undersubscribed the boys & girls event may be combined into a mixed event.

### Competition Formats

- 9.10 Competition formats for 8U, 9U, 10U events (and all events up to and including the 'Open' age category), with approved and recommended scoring formats, are set out in Appendix Seven.

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**PART C - PERSONNEL****10. Referee**

10.1 For each LTA Sanctioned Competition graded 1 to 7, the person appointed as Referee by the Organiser/Organising Committee pursuant to Regulation 13.4(e) below, must:

- (a) be an LTA Licensed Official with a Referee grade of R5 or higher; or
- (b) for grade 6 and 7 competitions only, be an LTA Accredited Coach or have completed a competition organiser course.

For the avoidance of doubt, where a person appointed as Referee does not meet the criteria set out in this Regulation 10.1, while that will constitute a failure to comply with this Regulation 10.1 (and Regulation 13.4(e), below) by the relevant Organiser/Organising Committee, the person appointed will nevertheless be treated as a Referee for the purposes of these Regulations, and the failure to comply with this Regulation 10.1 (and Regulation 13.4(e), below) will not affect the powers granted to him/her pursuant to these Regulations (including, without limitation, the power to impose Code Violations and defaults pursuant to Appendix Five, below).

10.2 A person must not accept an appointment as Referee at any competition in which he/she has a relationship with one (or more) of the Players in the competition that might be considered to give rise to a conflict of interests (for example, a family relationship).

Where such a conflict is unavoidable in accepting such an appointment, another official will be appointed by the Organiser/Organising Committee to deal with any issues involving the associated Player(s) in question or where this is not feasible then the Player should not be accepted into the competition.

For the avoidance of doubt, where a person appointed as Referee accepts that appointment (or deals with any issues, as the case may be) in circumstances that would constitute a failure to comply with this Regulation 10.2 (and Regulation 13.4(e), below), the person appointed will nevertheless be treated as a Referee (with all relevant powers) for the purposes of these Regulations, and the failure to comply with this Regulation 10.2 (and Regulation 13.4(e), below) will not affect the powers granted to him/her pursuant to these Regulations (including, without limitation, the power to impose Code Violations and defaults pursuant to Appendix Five, below).

10.3 The Referee must not compete in any event of the competition in which they are the Referee. Assistant Referees and Court Supervisors may compete in such events but must not officiate or oversee any match in the event in which they are competing even once they are eliminated.

10.4 In respect of each LTA Sanctioned Competition, the Referee will:

- (a) be the final on-site authority for the interpretation of the Rules of Tennis and these Regulations (including the Competition Code of Conduct);
- (b) rule on matters in relation to the interpretation of the Rules of Tennis, at the request of a Chair Umpire or on appeal by a Player from the decision of a Chair Umpire or Court Supervisor (the Referee's decision on matters relating to the interpretation of the Rules of Tennis will be final and binding on all parties and no one will have the right to appeal against or otherwise challenge that decision);
- (c) subject to Regulation 12.3, below, resolve any disputes between Players in matches played without a Chair Umpire;

- (d) be present (or, where not reasonably practicable, ensure an appropriately qualified designee is present) at the competition site at all times during the playing of matches in the competition;
- (e) be responsible for the scheduling of matches in the competition;
- (f) ensure that Players are notified of the conditions of play prior to the commencement of the competition (see Regulations 20 to 32, below);
- (g) designate an area in a highly visible part of the competition venue for an official notice board;
- (h) as early as reasonably practicable, plan and publish on the official notice board (and, where reasonably practicable, online) an order of play for each day of the competition (once published, the order of play may only be changed at the discretion of the Referee);
- (i) designate a clock, in a fixed and visible location, to be the official clock for the competition;
- (j) designate a means by which matches will be called, in accordance with the order of play;
- (k) ensure that all courts are properly equipped and conform to the specifications set out in the Rules of Tennis and these Regulations;
- (l) approve the assignment of on-court officials and Court Supervisors and remove, rotate, or replace any on-court officials or Court Supervisors where the Referee decides it is necessary to improve the officiating of a match;
- (m) ensure that on-court officials and ball boys/girls are competent and familiar with the relevant rules and procedures;
- (n) conduct (or designate the conduct of) the draw in accordance with Regulation 17.1, below;
- (o) decide whether a court is fit for play, whether a match should be moved to another court, and whether or not to postpone a match to another day due to adverse conditions (including, but not limited to, bad weather or bad weather, venue conditions, or for health and safety reasons) pursuant to Regulation 25, below;
- (p) rule on the acceptability of a Player's clothing and/or equipment pursuant to Regulation 26, below;
- (q) have the authority to grant a Player a leave of absence pursuant to Regulation 21.4(b), below;
- (r) apply any reasonable adjustment, agreed by the LTA Competitions Team, for Players in accordance with Regulation 32, below;
- (s) have the authority to order a Player and/or any Player Support Personnel to move away from the side of a court and/or leave the competition site;
- (t) use his/her best endeavours to complete the competition within the scheduled time, including, where necessary, making any changes to the order of play or conditions of play, subject always to the health and safety of the relevant Players and others;
- (u) use TTP, Results Manager, LP, or an Excel spreadsheet to accurately submit results, Code Violations and Withdrawals (and failures to appear) to the LTA within 48 hours of completion of the competition, in accordance with Regulation 30, below;

- (v) be responsible for and fully cooperate with any investigations and reports in relation to Code Violations, Withdrawals, failures to appear, disciplinary matters and complaints, as required by the LTA and, in particular, the LTA Disciplinary Officer and/or an LTA Disciplinary Tribunal;
- (w) submit such reports (within the specified timescales) as may be required by the Organiser/Organising Committee and/or the LTA or the LTA Disciplinary Officer and/or a LTA Disciplinary Tribunal;
- (x) ensure that all matches are played fairly and that the competition is conducted in accordance with the Rules of Tennis and these Regulations;
- (y) in relation to matters for which there is no provision in these Regulations or any other relevant rules or regulations, have a general discretionary power to take such action as he/she considers appropriate; and
- (z) be bound by these Regulations, the LTA Rules, the LTA Disciplinary Code, the LTA Coach Accreditation Regulations and/or the LTA Official Licensing Regulations as appropriate, the LTA Transgender and Non-Binary Individuals Policy, the LTA Code of Conduct and the Competition Code of Conduct (or any successor codes or policies).

## **11. Chair Umpires**

- 11.1 A Chair Umpire may be appointed, at the discretion of the Referee or Organiser/Organising Committee, for one or more matches in an LTA Sanctioned Competition.
- 11.2 Persons appointed as Chair Umpires pursuant to Regulation 11.1, above, should, where reasonably practicable be LTA Licensed Officials. For the avoidance of doubt, where a person appointed as Chair Umpire does not meet that criterion, while that will constitute a failure to comply with this Regulation 11.2 by the relevant Referee or Organiser/Organising Committee, the person appointed will nevertheless be treated as a Chair Umpire for the purposes of these Regulations, and the failure to comply with this Regulation 11.2 will not affect the powers granted to him/her pursuant to these Regulations (including, without limitation, the power to impose Code Violations pursuant to Appendix Five, below).
- 11.3 The Chair Umpire will:
- (a) be the final on-court authority for all questions of fact arising during a match, including making any line or net calls where no line and/or net umpire is assigned (the Chair Umpire's decision on questions of fact will be final and binding on all parties and no one will have the right to appeal against or otherwise challenge that decision);
  - (b) make the first determination on all questions of interpretation of the Rules of Tennis arising during a match, subject to the right of the Chair Umpire to refer the matter to the Referee and the right of a Player to appeal the Chair Umpire's determination to the Referee, in accordance with Regulation 10.4, above;
  - (c) delegate duties to line and net umpires (where assigned) and remove, rotate, or replace any line and/or net umpires where the Chair Umpire decides it is necessary to improve the officiating of a match. A Chair Umpire may overrule a line and/or net umpire's decision only where the Chair Umpire is certain that a clear mistake has been made and the overruling is done promptly. Where a line and/or net umpire cannot make a decision, the Chair Umpire will make the relevant decision. Where the Chair Umpire cannot make a decision, the point will be replayed;
  - (d) be responsible for all ball mark inspections on clay courts;

- (e) ensure that the net is at the correct height throughout the match;
- (f) be responsible for the timing of the warm-up and breaks in play (see Regulation 23, below);
- (g) announce the score after each point, in accordance with LTA procedures;
- (h) mark an official scorecard or scoring device during the match, in accordance with LTA procedures, sign, and return it to the Referee at the end of the match, along with a report of any Code Violations issued, pursuant to the Competition Code of Conduct;
- (i) use his/her best endeavours to control the spectators and, where the spectators are impeding the progress of the match, address them respectfully and request their cooperation;
- (j) ensure the appropriate number of tennis balls are provided for the match, including replacement balls (see Regulation 27, below);
- (k) be responsible for ball changes and for determining whether a ball is fit for play (the Chair Umpire will replace any lost balls or balls unfit for play as soon as reasonably practicable);
- (l) not officiate in any match in which he/she has a relationship with one (or more) of the Players that might be considered to give rise to a conflict of interests (for example, a family relationship);
- (m) ensure that the match is played fairly and in accordance with the Rules of Tennis and these Regulations; and
- (n) be bound by these Regulations, the LTA Rules, the LTA Disciplinary Code, the LTA Coach Accreditation Regulations and/or the LTA Official Licensing Regulations as appropriate, the LTA Transgender and Non-Binary Individuals Policy, the LTA Code of Conduct and the Competition Code of Conduct (or any successor codes or policies).

## 12. Court Supervisors

12.1 For matches or groups of matches in LTA Sanctioned Competitions, Court Supervisors may be appointed by the Referee or Organiser/Organising Committee.

***Explanatory note:*** Where a competition is being run on six or more courts with no Chair Umpires, the appointment of Court Supervisors is recommended.

12.2 Persons appointed as Court Supervisors pursuant to Regulation 12.1 above should, where reasonably practicable, be Licensed Officials and/or have attended a Court Supervisor course.

12.3 Court Supervisors will:

- (a) supervise courts as assigned by the Referee, keep the Referee informed of progress on those courts, of any need for the Referee's presence court-side, and of any other problems;
- (b) use their best endeavours to control the spectators and, where the spectators are impeding the progress of the match, address them respectfully and request their cooperation;
- (c) resolve any disputes between Players in matches played without a Chair Umpire, subject to the right of the Court Supervisor to refer such disputes to the Referee;

- (d) ensure that the Rules of Tennis and these Regulations (including the Competition Code of Conduct) are observed, and take action in accordance with the Competition Code of Conduct; and
- (e) be bound by these Regulations, the LTA Rules, the LTA Disciplinary Code, the LTA Coach Accreditation Regulations and/or the LTA Official Licensing Regulations as appropriate, the LTA Transgender and Non-Binary Individuals Policy, the LTA Code of Conduct and the Competition Code of Conduct (or any successor codes and policies).



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**PART D – ORGANISING A COMPETITION****13. The Organiser/Organising Committee**

- 13.1 For each LTA Sanctioned Competition, the person or entity that is organising the competition must appoint an Organiser/Organising Committee and designate an entry secretary.
- 13.2 For LTA Sanctioned Competitions graded 1 to 5, a representative of the relevant County Association, National Association or Island Association may be invited to sit on the Organising Committee. The LTA has the right to have a representative on the Organising Committee for any LTA Sanctioned Competition.
- 13.3 The Organiser is permitted to compete in his/her competition but is not permitted to conduct the draw.
- 13.4 The Organiser/Organising Committee will be responsible for the organisation and administration of the relevant LTA Sanctioned Competition. In particular, the Organiser/Organising Committee will:
- (a) apply to run the competition by creating it using the LTA Competition Management System by the date specified by the LTA for approval by the LTA and prior to the competition dates;
  - (b) where the LTA requests information on the competition, ensure that the relevant information is provided to the LTA within the prescribed time limit;
  - (c) decide on the number and types of events to be included in the competition, the entry fees and any restrictions on entry (including any maximum numbers in any event), and allocate prizes;
  - (d) be responsible for providing to the LTA (accurately and in accordance with any deadlines imposed by the LTA) all relevant dates in respect of the competition (including at least the deadlines for entry and Withdrawals, the start date and finish date of the competition and the dates on which particular age group events will take place) in order that the LTA can publish such dates on the LTA Website;

***Explanatory note:*** *In order to attract and retain the strongest Players, Organisers/Organising Committees should schedule age group events around national, regional and local events. Particular attention should be paid to grade 1 and 2 events (for example, the Junior National Tennis Championships). This may mean scheduling age group finals on different days in order to accommodate Players wishing to compete elsewhere in the same week. Organisers/Organising Committees have no obligation to hold all finals on the last day of a competition.*

- (e) subject to Regulations 10.1 and 10.2 above, appoint a Referee who is a LTA Licensed Official (and, if appropriate, assistant Referee(s)) for the competition and delegate the powers and responsibilities set out in Regulation 10.4 above, to the Referee. The Organiser/Organising Committee will support the Referee in, but not interfere with, the proper execution of his/her duties;
- (f) decide upon matters arising out of the day-to-day running of the competition save for those matters to be decided by the Referee pursuant to Regulation 10.4 above, and/or decide on any matter at the request of the Referee;
- (g) without prejudice to the ability of the LTA to deal with the matter under the LTA Disciplinary Code, have the power to suspend the Referee for incompetence, breach of these Regulations or conduct unbecoming of an official. All such decisions must be reported to the LTA Officiating Manager within 24 hours after the date on which the suspension is imposed.

The decision of the Organiser/Organising Committee in such matters will be final for the purposes of the competition, but the Referee may appeal the decision to the LTA within seven days of the date on which such suspension was notified to the Referee and the matter will be dealt with in accordance with the LTA Disciplinary Code;

- (h) ensure that suitable facilities, with disabled access where possible, are available at the competition site and/or at additional locations for the completion of the scheduled events, assuming reasonable weather conditions;
- (i) ensure that suitable ancillary facilities, such as toilets, are available at the competition site and any additional locations;
- (j) ensure that all LTA staff and members of the LTA Board and LTA Council are granted free admission to the competition and to a seat in a stand (if available) upon production of a current official pass;
- (k) be responsible for health and safety and safeguarding at the competition and ensuring the competition site is inclusive;
- (l) ensure that the competition has appropriate insurance, including in respect of public liability;

***Explanatory note:*** LTA registered venues (save for local authority venues and commercial centres) receive automatic liability insurance cover (subject always to the terms and conditions of the policies and the maximum cover limits in force at the time) through the LTA venue registration package, including employers' liability, public and products liability, directors and officers, and professional indemnity. Cover may also apply where a registered venue uses other venues, including park and school courts, during a competition. For further information and the full terms and maximum limits of cover see: [www.howdengroup.com/uk-en/lawn-tennis-association](http://www.howdengroup.com/uk-en/lawn-tennis-association).

- (m) prepare an entry form for the competition, if required;
- (n) accept entries in accordance with Regulation 16, below;
- (o) have the right and obligation to use the designation 'LTA Approved Competition' and the LTA Logo on all competition literature, including entry forms, competition websites, results sheets, press and marketing material, signage and stationery. Accordingly, the LTA grants to the Organiser/Organising Committee a non-exclusive, royalty-free licence to use the LTA Logo solely in connection with the relevant LTA Sanctioned Competition, provided always that such use is at all times in accordance with any directions of the LTA and any LTA branding guidelines as notified to the Organiser/Organising Committee from time to time. Any other use of the LTA Logo is expressly prohibited without the prior written consent of the LTA;
- (p) ensure that Regulation 15.4, below, is enforced so that all Players participating in the competition are eligible to do so;
- (q) pursuant to Regulation 27, below, select the brand of tennis ball to be used, the number of balls per match and the frequency of ball changes, and ensure an adequate supply of balls is provided;
- (r) have the authority to order a Player and any Player Support Personnel to move away from the side of a court and/or leave the competition site;

- (s) ensure that TTP, Results Manager, LP or an Excel spreadsheet is used to accurately submit results, Code Violations and Withdrawals (and failures to appear) to the LTA within 48 hours of completion of the competition in accordance with Regulation 30, below;
- (t) ensure that the competition complies with all applicable data protection laws and regulations including, without limitation, the General Data Protection Regulation (EU) 2016/679, the Data Protection Act 2018, and the Privacy and Electronic Communications (EC Directive) Regulations 2003 (as may be amended or replaced from time to time); and
- (u) ensure that the competition complies with, and will themselves be bound (to the extent applicable), by these Regulations, the LTA Rules, the LTA Disciplinary Code, the LTA Transgender and Non-Binary Individuals Policy, the LTA Safeguarding Policy, the LTA Diversity and Inclusion Policy and the Rules of Tennis.
- (v) be entitled to cancel a competition or event, subject to the terms of Regulation 16.11.

#### 14. Sponsorship and advertising

- 14.1 The LTA is the sole and exclusive owner of any and all rights of a commercial nature connected with or arising from LTA Sanctioned Competitions, including, without limitation, broadcasting rights, new media rights, interactive games rights, sponsorship rights, merchandising rights, licensing rights, advertising rights, ticketing rights and hospitality rights. The LTA may exploit such commercial rights (or any part thereof) in any way that it may choose and any proceeds received by the LTA as a result will belong to the LTA.
- 14.2 The LTA recognises the need for competitions to raise their own revenues for their long term sustainability. The LTA therefore grants to the Organiser/Organising Committee of each LTA Sanctioned Competition the right to exploit the commercial rights relating to the competition (**Local Rights**) and to retain any proceeds from the exploitation of those Local Rights, save that:
- (a) where any of the LTA's commercial partners have naming rights to the competition in question, the Organiser/Organising Committee will be entitled to exploit the Local Rights only if it has obtained the prior written consent of the LTA; and
  - (b) the Organiser/Organising Committee may not grant any rights to a person or entity:
    - (i) whose principal business includes betting or gaming, or the sale of tobacco products or pornographic material; or
    - (ii) that promotes disparaging views or behaviour relating to an individual or group's colour, race, nationality, ethnic or national origins, sex, sexual orientation, religion, gender identity or certain other visible or non-visible difference, age or disability; and
  - (c) no advertising or other marketing material is permitted on the court, net, strap, band, net posts, or singles sticks, except as provided in the Rules of Tennis.
- 14.3 Organisers/Organising Committees of LTA Sanctioned Competitions must cooperate fully with the LTA and any third parties in relation to the exercise of any commercial rights relating to the competition.
- 14.4 Organisers/Organising Committees of LTA Sanctioned Competitions must notify the LTA of all existing and prospective sponsorship arrangements (or other similar arrangements of a commercial nature) when creating the competition using the LTA Competition Management System pursuant to Regulation 13.4(a), above, or as soon as such arrangements are agreed, whichever is the earlier.

## 15. Entry

- 15.1 All LTA Sanctioned Competitions must use the LTA Competition Management System or other online tournament entry system approved by the LTA Competitions Team to facilitate the entry process.

Where an entry form is issued by the Organiser/Organising Committee, the entry form must include the necessary entry information (including a section containing relevant competition information (to be retained by the Player) and a section for Player information (to be completed by the Player and returned to the entry secretary of the competition)).

- 15.2 Unless otherwise communicated by the LTA, the following competition information should be made available to all Players in the competition, either in the entry form (including online entry) or in a fact sheet published on the LTA Competition Management System, before any entries are accepted:
- (a) notification that all Players playing in the competition must:
    - (i) hold LTA Membership; and
    - (ii) with the exception of competitions carrying World Ranking points, ITF Masters ranking points, ITF Junior ranking points or Tennis Europe ranking points, have a current ITF World Tennis Number (see Regulation 33);
  - (b) the name, dates, and address of the venue for the competition;
  - (c) the competition and event grades;
  - (d) the telephone number of the competition venue and/or the competition Referee;
  - (e) the names of the Organiser/Organising Committee's members, the Referee and, where applicable, the assistant Referee(s);
  - (f) a list of all the events to be held (including those that may have a qualifying draw, structured playback or a play-off for places) and, for consolation draws, whether entry is compulsory;
  - (g) any minimum and/or maximum numbers of Players who may play in an event at the competition;
  - (h) the basis for selection where there is a maximum number of Players who may play in an event and if the event is oversubscribed with entries (see Regulation 16.4) whether any wild cards may be issued (see Regulations 16.8 to 16.10) and/or, if determined, whether the event would be divided into two separate events based on merit (see Regulation 7.4);
  - (i) any maximum number of competition events that a Player is permitted to enter, and any restrictions on combinations of such events. Save for those determined by the LTA competition age group rules (see Regulation 6), the Organiser/Organising Committee cannot determine which age groups a player must enter without the express permission of the LTA Competitions Team;
  - (j) details of acceptable and culturally sensitive clothing and footwear (see Regulation 26);
  - (k) the anticipated days and times of play (including any times before which the Organiser/Organising Committee can say that Players in certain events will not be required to attend);
  - (l) the composition of matches, including number of sets and scoring methods;

- (m) the brand of tennis ball to be used (see Regulation 27);
  - (n) the number and type of courts to be used, whether floodlights may be used and details of any additional or alternative venues;
  - (o) the prizes to be awarded (see Regulation 31);
  - (p) the name and address of the entry secretary (to whom entries are to be sent) and the closing date and time for their receipt (including for events where entries will be accepted during the competition, for example, consolation events or doubles events).
  - (q) the entry fees and notification that entries submitted without the correct fees may not be accepted;
  - (r) any other conditions of entry;
  - (s) notification that the Organiser/Organising Committee has the right to refuse any entry provided such refusal is based on reasonable grounds and is otherwise lawful (see Regulation 16.3);
  - (t) the deadline for Withdrawals, which must in any event be after the closing deadline and before the draw itself;
  - (u) details of the complaints procedure (see Regulation 35);
  - (v) confirmation that the competition is staged or approved by the LTA and will be conducted in accordance with these Regulations (including the Competition Code of Conduct), the LTA Code of Conduct, the Rules of Tennis, the LTA Rules, the LTA Transgender and Non-Binary Individuals Policy, and the LTA Disciplinary Code (which includes the Safeguarding Regulations, the Tennis Anti-Doping Regulations and the Anti-Corruption Regulations), all of which will bind the Players and any others who participate in any way in the competition, including Player Support Personnel; and
  - (w) notification of any variations made to these Regulations by the LTA, pursuant to Regulation 1.1, above, as required by the LTA.
- 15.3 Unless otherwise communicated by the LTA, a Player wishing to enter an LTA Sanctioned Competition must submit to the entry secretary of the competition a signed or electronically validated entry form (or alternative format where necessary due to a disability) containing the following information, along with the appropriate entry fee, by the specified closing deadline:
- (a) his/her LTA Membership number;
  - (b) except when using online entry, his/her ITF World Tennis Number and Ranking as at the date of entering the competition;
  - (c) an undertaking confirming that the Player has read, and agrees to be bound by and to comply with, the conditions of entry (including the application of these Regulations, the Competition Code of Conduct, the LTA Code of Conduct, the Rules of Tennis, the LTA Rules, the LTA Transgender and Non-Binary Individuals Policy, and the LTA Disciplinary Code (which, as at 1 January 2025, includes the Safeguarding Regulations, the Tennis Anti-Doping Regulations and the Anti-Corruption Regulations)) and:
    - (i) acknowledge that emergency medical treatment will be provided if recommended by appropriately qualified medical personnel including, without limitation, St John's Ambulance;

- (ii) acknowledge that you may be involved in any filming of, and publicity connected with, the competition, including on-court video recording, media interviews, photographs, TV footage and live streaming of matches, unless the entry secretary or Referee is informed otherwise in writing before the commencement of the competition;
- (iii) consent to the LTA and/or the Organiser/Organising Committee using the details provided on the entry form to communicate information to the Player about the competition and future competitions and/or events that may be of interest to the Player;
- (iv) is responsible and accountable for the conduct of his/her Player Support Personnel and undertakes to ensure that each such person is made aware of and agrees to be bound by and to comply with these Regulations;
- (v) agree to filming by the LTA Performance Team for the purposes of player development, unless the entry secretary or Referee is informed otherwise in writing before the commencement of the competition; and
- (vi) provides information as to whether the Player has any medical condition or disability which the Referee should be aware of.

In respect of any Player who has yet to reach the age of 18 at the time of signing or electronically validating the undertaking, the undertaking must also be signed or electronically validated by a person with legal responsibility for the Player and his/her emergency contact details must be provided.

***Explanatory note:*** For doubles events, each Player in a doubles pair must submit an entry form in accordance with this Regulation 15.3.

### **Player Eligibility**

- 15.4 In order for a Player to be eligible to participate in an LTA Sanctioned Competition (whether in a singles or a doubles event), the following criteria must be satisfied:
- (a) the Player must hold LTA Membership prior to entering the competition;
  - (b) with the exception of competitions carrying World Ranking points, ITF Masters ranking points, ITF Junior ranking points, or Tennis Europe ranking points, the Player must have a current ITF World Tennis Number;
  - (c) the Player must be in the correct competition age group, as specified in the competition information pursuant to Regulation 15.2, above;
  - (d) the Player must be in the correct competition sex category, as specified in these Regulations and the LTA's Transgender and Non-Binary Player Eligibility Policy; and
  - (e) the Player's entry must have been properly completed and accepted pursuant to Regulation 16, below.

***Explanatory note:*** The regulations on national and area eligibility are set out in the LTA Rules.

- 15.5 The LTA, any County Association and/or the Organiser/Organising Committee have the right at any point to demand assistance, further information and/or documents relating to the eligibility of any Players. All persons (including Players) and entities must comply promptly with all such demands.

- 15.6 Any breach of Regulation 15.4, above (i.e. any Player participating in an LTA Sanctioned Competition without having met all of the criteria set out in Regulation 15.4, above), will be referred to the Organiser/Organising Committee and may be referred to the LTA Disciplinary Officer. The Organiser/Organising Committee will have the power to disqualify an ineligible Player from the competition; the LTA will have the power to amend the results of any matches played by the ineligible Player in the competition and/or to take any action it considers appropriate pursuant to the LTA Disciplinary Code.

### Overlapping competitions

- 15.7 Subject to the exception below and to Regulations 15.8 to 15.10, below, a Player may enter and play in events (including qualifying draws) in different competitions where the dates for those events (as published on the relevant competition information page(s) on the LTA Website) overlap.

**Explanatory note:** For example, if a 16U event in competition A runs from Sunday to Wednesday and a 14U event in competition B runs from Wednesday to Saturday in the same week, the dates for those events overlap; the dates will also overlap where the event in competition A finishes on the Wednesday morning and the event in competition B does not start until the Wednesday afternoon.

*For the avoidance of doubt, at each LTA Sanctioned Competition, the Referee is responsible for the scheduling of matches and is under no obligation to accommodate scheduling requests from Players to enable them to play in overlapping events (see Regulation 10.4(e), below). Accordingly, whilst entering overlapping events is permitted, Players should be aware of the risks if matches are scheduled at times that, for example, make Withdrawal inevitable.*

Certain LTA Sanctioned Competitions may impose restrictions to prevent players competing in events which take place at the same time to promote fairness across the competitive landscape:

- (a) In relation to certain weekend competitions, a Player can enter only one competition at each grade in the same age group taking place on the same weekend. If a Player is found to have contravened the overlapping competitions Regulation and competed in more than one event in breach of Regulation 15.7, then he/she will lose all ranking points obtained from the relevant competitions. A full list of the weekend competitions which are subject to this Regulation 15.7(b) can be found at [www.LTA.org.uk/CompetitionRegulations](http://www.LTA.org.uk/CompetitionRegulations).

**Explanatory note:** If a 12U Grade 3 Winter Regional Tour weekend competition is taking place on a Saturday and Sunday, a Player may not enter another 12U Grade 3 Winter Regional Tour competition taking place that weekend. However, this Player may enter a 14U Grade 3 Winter Regional Tour competition and/or a 12U Grade 4 Winter County Tour competition taking place on the same weekend. Following publication of acceptances, the Player would have to Withdraw from all but one of the competitions entered before the respective Withdrawal deadlines in order to avoid penalty.

- (b) In relation to weeklong holiday competitions, a Player can only enter one competition at each grade in the same age group (where that age group is 11U – Open) taking place during one week. The competition week runs from Sunday through to Saturday, some competitions that run for 8 days may start on the day preceding the competition week or finish the day after the competition week but fall into the competition week in which the majority of the competition is held. If a Player is found to have contravened the overlapping competitions Regulation and competed in more than one event in breach of Regulation 15.7, then he/she will lose all ranking points obtained from the relevant competitions. A full list of the weeklong holiday competitions which are subject to this Regulation 15.7(c) can be found at [www.LTA.org.uk/CompetitionRegulations](http://www.LTA.org.uk/CompetitionRegulations).



**Explanatory note:** *If a 12U Grade 3 competition is taking place during one week of the summer holidays, a Player may not enter another 12U Grade 3 competition taking place that same week. However, this Player may enter a 14U Grade 3 competition and/or a 12U Grade 4 competition taking place during the same week. Players are reminded that Regulation 15.7(a) still applies.*

- (c) In relation to international competitions sanctioned by the ITF, ATP, WTA, FIP or Tennis Europe, a player cannot compete in an LTA Sanctioned Competition and international event concurrently, where the international sanctioning body specifically prohibits this, until they have been eliminated from the international competition in its entirety and been released by Supervisor/Referee as per Regulation 15.10 below.

15.8 Notwithstanding Regulation 18 below (which will apply in any event), and subject to Regulation 15.10 below, and to any written dispensation granted in advance by the LTA Competitions Team (which will be granted only in exceptional circumstances), if a Player, in order to play in an overlapping event:

- (a) Withdraws from an event after having started a match in that event;
- (b) fails to appear at an event ready and prepared to play without having Withdrawn;
- (c) retires during an event; and/or
- (d) gives a Walkover during an event,

he/she will lose all Ranking points and any prize obtained from all of the overlapping events and may be referred to the LTA Disciplinary Officer in order that he/she may consider pursuing further disciplinary action in accordance with Regulation 36, below.

A player competing in an international competition and an LTA Sanctioned Competition breaching the international competition's governing body's concurrency regulations shall lose all LTA Ranking points and may be referred to the LTA Disciplinary Officer.

**Explanatory note:** *In order to illustrate the application of this provision, a number of examples are set out below.*

*If an event starts on a Sunday and the Withdrawal deadline is 9am on the preceding Wednesday, a Player who Withdraws (in order to play in an overlapping event) at 12 noon on the Wednesday will incur two Withdrawal Points (pursuant to paragraph 1(a) in Appendix Six). If that Player were instead to Withdraw (in order to play in an overlapping event) after having started a match in the event (for example, on the Sunday afternoon), he/she will incur four Withdrawal Points (pursuant to paragraph 1(b) of Appendix Six) and will lose all Ranking points from the two events and may be referred to the LTA Disciplinary Officer, in order that he/she may consider pursuing further disciplinary action, in accordance with Regulation 36, below.*

*If an event in competition A runs from Sunday to Wednesday and an event in competition B runs from Tuesday to Saturday in the same week, a Player who Withdraws from competition A (in order to play in competition B) after having started a match in competition A will incur four Withdrawal Points (pursuant to paragraph 1(b) of Appendix Six) and will lose all Ranking points from the two events and may be referred to the LTA Disciplinary Officer, in order that he/she may consider pursuing further disciplinary action i, in accordance with Regulation 36, below. In contrast, if that Player were instead to Withdraw from competition B (in order to continue playing in competition A) before having started a match in competition B, he/she will not lose Ranking points or be considered for further disciplinary action, in accordance with Regulation 36, below.*

*A Player who Withdraws from a compulsory consolation draw (in order to play in an overlapping event) after having started a match in the event (which, in this context, means having started a match in the main draw that preceded the consolation draw) will incur four Withdrawal Points (pursuant to paragraph 1(b) of Appendix Six) and will lose all Ranking points from the two events and may be referred to the LTA Disciplinary Officer, in order that he/she may consider pursuing further disciplinary action, in accordance with Regulation 36, below.*

*A Player who fails to appear at an event without having Withdrawn will incur six Withdrawal Points (pursuant to paragraph 1(c) of Appendix Six), but if that Player were to have failed to appear at the event after starting a match in that competition without having Withdrawn in order to play in an overlapping event, he/she will incur five Withdrawal Points and will lose all Ranking points from the two events and may be referred to the LTA Disciplinary Officer, in order that he/she may consider pursuing further disciplinary action, in accordance with Regulation 36, below.*

- 15.9 Where a Player Withdraws from an event after having started a match, fails to appear at an event ready and prepared to play without having Withdrawn, retires during an event, and/or gives a Walkover during an event, and the Player has entered and/or played in (or goes on to enter and/or play in) an overlapping event, there will be a rebuttable presumption that the Player Withdrew/failed to appear/retired/gave a Walkover in order to play in the overlapping event.

***Explanatory note:*** *In such circumstances, the LTA will deduct Ranking points pursuant to Regulation 15.8, above, unless the Player is able to demonstrate to the LTA that his/her Withdrawal/failure to appear/retirement/Walkover was not in order to play in an overlapping event.*

15.10 Exceptions:

- (a) Where a Player is in the main draw or qualifying draw of a pro event (ITF World Tennis Tour, ATP Challenger, and ATP/WTA Tour), he/she may enter and play in a British Tour event in the same week provided that he/she has been eliminated in the pro event before playing in the British Tour event and has been officially released from the ITF/ATP/WTA event by the ITF/ATP/WTA Supervisor. If the Player is still competing in the pro event, he/she must Withdraw from the British Tour event, such Withdrawal will not incur Withdrawal Points or result in the loss of Ranking points or be considered for further disciplinary action, pursuant to Regulation 15.8, above.
- (b) Where a Player is in the main draw or qualifying draw of an ITF World Tennis Tour Junior or Tennis Europe Junior Tour event held in Great Britain, he/she may enter and play in an LTA Sanctioned Competition in the same week provided that he/she has been eliminated in the international event before playing in the LTA Sanctioned Competition and has been officially released from the international event by the Supervisor/Referee. If the Player is still competing in the international event, he/she must Withdraw from the LTA Sanctioned Competition, such Withdrawal will not incur Withdrawal Points or result in the loss of Ranking points or be considered for further disciplinary action, pursuant to Regulation 15.8, above.
- (c) If a Player is required to represent his/her country, county, school, university, or their club in national finals of the National League during a competition, the Player may do so provided that he/she informs the Referee of the competition he/she is withdrawing from in writing. The Player will not incur Withdrawal Points or lose Ranking points or be considered for further disciplinary action, pursuant to Regulation 15.8, above.

## 16. Acceptance

- 16.1 Subject to Regulation 16.4, below, entries submitted in accordance with Regulation 15.3 above, will be accepted by the Organiser/Organising Committee in order, using all available information at the closing deadline, based on some or all of the following (depending on the competition's acceptance criteria): world rankings, ITF Masters rankings, ITF Junior rankings, Tennis Europe rankings, ITF World Tennis Number, LTA Rankings and (for 9U & 10U events only) Recent Form.

The order in which entries are accepted will differ according to, among other things, the grade and age group of the competition. Further information on acceptance for each grade and age group can be found at [www.LTA.org.uk/CompetitionRegulations](http://www.LTA.org.uk/CompetitionRegulations). The LTA may, at its discretion, opt to change the order of criteria for acceptance at any time by publicising such change on the LTA Website.

- 16.2 The Organiser/Organising Committee may, at its discretion, give priority to Players in their own age group of that event (known as own age group priority), provided the LTA Competitions Team has provided prior approval and it is publicised online on the LTA Competition Management System. Where own age group priority is granted for doubles, priority will be given to teams where both Players are in their own age group of that event.
- 16.3 The Organiser/Organising Committee has the right to refuse any entry provided such refusal is based on reasonable grounds and is otherwise lawful.
- 16.4 Where there is a maximum number of Players who may play in an event and the event is oversubscribed, subject to compliance with the basis for selection that was set out by the Organiser/Organising Committee pursuant to Regulation 15.2(h), above, the surplus entries may be placed onto a reserve list or divided into two separate events in terms of Regulation 7.4 or, where notified in the competition information pursuant to Regulation 15.2, above, into a qualifying draw, in the same order as set out pursuant to Regulation 16.1, above.
- 16.5 Entries that are not signed or electronically validated, that do not contain the required details, and/or that are not accompanied by the appropriate entry fee may not be accepted. In doubles events, Players are responsible for finding and stating their partner. The Referee is not responsible for pairing Players together to make teams.
- 16.6 Save for entries from Players who would, pursuant to Regulation 17.8, below, be seeded (who cannot be accepted as late entries unless the Player has been awarded a Wild Card, in accordance with Regulations 16.8 and 16.10 below), entries received after the closing deadline may be accepted at the discretion of the Organiser/Organising Committee. Such entries that are accepted before the draw has been made will go into the draw in the usual way; such entries that are accepted after the draw has been made (whether they were received before or after the draw was made) may be included in the draw at the discretion of the Organiser/Organising Committee or will otherwise join the bottom of the reserve list. Leaderboard reserves who move in, who would be seeded, may not be accepted after 8pm the night before the event starts.

The Organiser/Organising Committee is prohibited from charging an administration fee for accepting a late entry into an event.

Where late entries are accepted by the Organiser/Organising Committee the late entry must be entered and validated using the LTA Competition Management System and imported into TTP prior to the draw being made or the player(s) being added to the draw.

***Explanatory note:*** A Player accepted as a late entrant who subsequently moves into a seeded position will be included in the draw.

- 16.7 If an event in a competition graded 1 to 5 has fewer than five entries (or in the case of doubles, fewer than three pairs) as at the closing deadline and/or at the time of the draw (and no Ranking points are therefore available pursuant to Regulation 34.10 below), the entry secretary or the Referee must notify the relevant Players and inform them of their right to Withdraw without penalty, pursuant to Regulation 18.10. For the avoidance of doubt, where such notification is not provided the application of Regulation 34.10 is unaffected, i.e. it will remain the case that no Ranking points will be available for the event.

### **Wild Cards**

- 16.8 Subject to Regulation 16.9 below, the Organiser/Organising Committee may, at its discretion, award places in a draw for Wild Card entries prior to the draw (if no such places are awarded, such places will be allocated to Players on the reserve list).

***Explanatory note:** Further information on Wild Cards, including the LTA Wild Card Selection Policy for LTA staged events, can be found at <https://www.lta.org.uk/play-compete/performance-tennis-players/pro-players-area/>. For LTA Approved Competitions, please contact the relevant Organiser/Organising Committee regarding Wild Cards.*

- 16.9 Except where otherwise provided in writing by the LTA or stated in circuit regulations (as per 1.5), Wild Cards may be awarded for an event up to a maximum of one place in eight (for example, up to four Wild Cards in a draw of 32).

- 16.10 Wild Card entries may be seeded.

### **Refund of entry fees**

- 16.11 Subject to Regulation 16.12, below, a Player's entry fee will only be refunded under the following circumstances:

- (a) the Player is not accepted for the event that he/she applied to enter, is accepted as a reserve and is not called upon to play, or is accepted as a reserve and called upon to play with less than 24 hours' notice and the Player decides not to accept;
- (b) the Player Withdraws from the event before the Withdrawal deadline or otherwise in compliance with the relevant provision of the competition conditions. In such cases, the LTA reserves the right to charge an administration fee;
- (c) the Player Withdraws due to exceptional circumstances, as determined by the Organiser/Organising Committee (whose determination will be final and binding on all parties and no one will have the right to appeal against, or otherwise challenge, it). In such cases, the LTA reserves the right to charge an administration fee; or
- (d) the event is cancelled for any reason before the Player has started a match in the event and the Player has not Withdrawn prior to the decision to cancel the event.

- 16.12 A Player's entry fee will not be refunded if the Player has started a match in the event. Requests for refunds of entry fees must be made by the Player to the Organiser/Organising Committee, within 7 days of the conclusion of the competition.

## **17. Draw**

- 17.1 The order in which Players will play one another in each LTA Sanctioned Competition will be determined by a draw. The draw (including when TTP is used) will be conducted by the Referee (or, in exceptional circumstances and with the approval of the Organiser/Organising Committee, by the Referee's designee).

- 17.2 For events in competitions graded 1 to 5, the draw will be conducted using one of the methods set out in Appendix Three, as determined by the Organiser/Organising Committee and/or the Referee.
- 17.3 Prior to making the draw, the Referee (or his/her designee, pursuant to Regulation 17.1, above) must obtain details of the Wild Cards from the Organiser/Organising Committee and consult with the Organiser/Organising Committee to determine the final entry list, the seedings, and any other relevant information.
- 17.4 For competitions using TTP, the Organiser/Organising Committee must arrange for the relevant information from the TTP file (including the dates and start times of first matches) to be published on [competitions.lta.org.uk](http://competitions.lta.org.uk) as soon as reasonably practicable.

### Seeding

- 17.5 Save as expressly agreed in writing by the LTA Competitions Team, all seeding in LTA Sanctioned Competitions will be carried out in accordance with Regulations 17.6 to 17.10, below.
- 17.6 The Organiser/Organising Committee will determine whether or not an event in an LTA Sanctioned Competition is to be seeded. Where such an event is to be seeded, the selection of seeds will be conducted by the Organiser/Organising Committee or its designee (which may be formed by a sub-committee appointed to conduct such selection, the Referee or another designated person).
- 17.7 The selection of seeds will be carried out according to merit, using the most recent information, based on some or all of the following criteria: world rankings, ITF Masters rankings, ITF Junior rankings, Tennis Europe rankings, ITF World Tennis Number, LTA Rankings and (for 8U, 9U & 10U events only) Recent Form.

The order in which seeds are selected will differ according to, among other things, the grade and age group of the competition. Further information on seeding for each grade and age group can be found at: [www.LTA.org.uk/CompetitionRegulations](http://www.LTA.org.uk/CompetitionRegulations).

- 17.8 Where an elimination draw, a qualifying draw, or a progressive draw is used, the seeds will be placed in accordance with Appendix Three.
- 17.9 The decisions of the Organiser/Organising Committee (or its designee) on seeding will be final and binding on all parties (including all relevant Players) and no one will have the right to appeal against or otherwise challenge such decisions.
- 17.10 Where a draw is to be seeded and has four or more Players, at least two Players must be seeded. The maximum number of seeds in an event will be as follows:

Draw size	Maximum number of seeds
0-3	0
4-8	2
9-16	4
17-32	8
33-64	16
65-128	32

### Byes

- 17.11 A Bye is where a Player advances automatically to the next round of the draw without being drawn to play a match.
- 17.12 If Byes are required in an elimination draw (see Appendix Three), the number of Byes is calculated by subtracting the number of entries from the draw size.

17.13 Byes will be allotted to the seeded Players in the order of seeding. Any remaining Byes will be allotted evenly throughout the draw.

### **Unseeded Players**

17.14 Once the seeds and Byes have been placed in the draw, the remaining entries (including qualifiers and Wild Cards) will be drawn by lot for the remaining positions, from top to bottom, save that, where reasonably practicable, Players from the same county and/or club may be separated (using Optimal Separation).

### **Lucky Losers**

17.15 Subject to Regulations 17.17 and 17.18, below, Lucky Losers are Players who have lost in the final round of a qualifying draw.

17.16 If Lucky Losers are required to participate in the main draw of an event:

- (a) where the acceptance criteria for the competition includes ITF World Tennis Number, they will be randomly drawn; or
- (b) where the acceptance criteria for the competition is based only on Ranking, Lucky Losers shall be selected as follows: the order of Players with a Ranking shall be randomly drawn, thereafter the order of the unranked Players will be randomly drawn.

17.17 If additional Lucky Losers are required to participate in the main draw of an event, they will be drawn from the Players who lost in the (next) previous round(s) of the qualifying draw in the same manner as set out in Regulation 17.16, above.

17.18 A Player who Withdraws during a qualifying draw may not be a Lucky Loser in the main draw.

17.19 A Player who retires from a match in a qualifying draw due to sickness or injury may be selected as a Lucky Loser if he/she has sufficiently recovered (as determined by the Referee or their nominee).

### **Onsite Alternates**

17.20 Players who have not entered who appear at the competition venue to sign-in with the Referee on the first day of the competition to fill any vacancies in the draw are referred to as onsite alternates. Sign-in for onsite alternates closes half an hour before the published time for the start of play and onsite alternates may only be accepted if they would not be seeded. Entered Players and reserves have priority for acceptance over onsite alternates and, in the event of more than one onsite alternate:

- (a) where the acceptance criteria for the competition includes ITF World Tennis Number, they will be randomly drawn; or
- (b) where the acceptance criteria for the competition is based only on Ranking, the order of Players with a Ranking shall be randomly drawn, thereafter the order of the unranked Players will be randomly drawn to determine acceptance.

### **Errors & Omissions**

17.21 If, before any match is started in an event, it is discovered that a valid entry has been omitted from the draw due to an administrative error:

- (a) if the omitted Player would otherwise have been seeded:

- (i) the position of the seeds will be changed, with the omitted Player taking the relevant place in the seeding list and the lowest seed becoming an unseeded entry;
  - (ii) where the event is oversubscribed, the new unseeded entry will take the place of the Player last accepted, pursuant to Regulation 16.1 above, and where reasonably practicable a preliminary round may be played between the Players that were last and second-to-last accepted, with the winner proceeding to the draw and receiving Ranking points according to the round reached, including first round. If not reasonably practicable, the new unseeded entry will simply take the place of the Player last accepted, pursuant to Regulation 16.1, above; and
- (b) if the omitted Player would otherwise have been unseeded:
- (i) if Byes exist in the first round against unseeded Players, the omitted Player will replace one of those Byes, to be decided by lot;
  - (ii) if only seeded Players are receiving Byes in the first round, the omitted Player will replace the Bye against the lowest seed; and
  - (iii) if no Byes exist in the first round and there have been no Withdrawals up to the time of discovery of the omission, where reasonably practicable a preliminary round may be played between the omitted Player and the Player last accepted, pursuant to Regulation 16.1, above, with the winner proceeding to the draw and receiving Ranking points according to the round reached, including first round. If not reasonably practicable, the omitted Player will simply take the place of the Player last accepted, pursuant to Regulation 16.1, above.

17.22 Except as set out in Regulation 18.8, no modification may be made to a draw (including the inclusion of omitted Players) once any match in the draw has started.

17.23 Errors on a published acceptance list which are discovered before the draw has been made must be corrected and the acceptance list must be re-published.

17.24 If it is discovered that an ineligible Player is in a draw, prior to the event starting, that Player must be removed. If an ineligible Player competes, then the match result stands (including for ITF World Tennis Number purposes), but Ranking points gained and any prize will be removed from the ineligible Player, and they will be removed from the competition. A Player losing to an ineligible Player will receive points from the round reached.

17.25 Where it is discovered that an error has been made in the seeding, prior to the competition starting and where reasonably practicable to do so, the seeding should be corrected.

## **18. Withdrawals**

18.1 A Player who Withdraws after the Withdrawal deadline or fails to appear ready and prepared to play shall incur Withdrawal Points in accordance with Appendix Six.

18.2 A Player who Withdraws from an event at any stage, or who fails to appear at the competition venue ready and prepared to play in his/her relevant matches without having Withdrawn, is ineligible to participate in a consolation draw relating to that event (although the Referee may at his/her discretion and in exceptional circumstances, allow such a Player to play in a consolation draw in the event).

18.3 A Player who retires during a match due to sickness or injury or who is ruled by the Referee to be unable to compete due to serious sickness or injury pursuant to Regulation 24.9, may participate

in other events in the competition (including a consolation draw relating to that event) provided he/she is sufficiently recovered (as determined by the Referee or their nominee).

- 18.4 If two or more of the top four seeded Players Withdraw after the draw has been made but before any match in the event has started, the Organiser/Organising Committee may decide to conduct a new draw pursuant to Regulation 17.1.
- 18.5 In a leaderboard finals event, if a seed Withdraws after 8pm the night before the competition, a reserve who would be seeded may not be accepted.
- 18.6 If one or more seeded Players Withdraw before any match in the event has started, if reasonably practicable:
- the selection of seeds may be revised (as set out in the table, below);
  - the seeded positions that are vacated will be filled by previously unseeded Players, selected in the same order as set out pursuant to Regulation 17.7; and
  - the unseeded positions that are then vacated will be filled by Players on the reserve list or, if after the start of the qualifying draw, by Lucky Losers. Should an unseeded Player Withdraw and there be no reserves to replace them, the highest seed without a Bye should be awarded a Bye and the Player on the line where the Bye will be placed should be moved to the space of the Withdrawal. Where all seeds already have a Bye, the Player whose opponent has Withdrawn should be awarded a Walkover whilst ensuring Byes are equally balanced throughout the draw.

Seed Withdrawing	Replacement Seed
1	2
2	3
3-4	5
5-8	9
9-16	17
17-32	33

- 18.7 If a Wild Card entry Withdraws from a competition, the Organiser/Organising Committee may allocate the place to another Wild Card entry if the draw has not been made. Once the draw has been made, the space in the draw created by the Wild Card Withdrawal may only be filled by a Lucky Loser where a qualifying event has been played, pursuant to Regulation 18.8, or the next person on the reserve list if there is no qualifying event.
- 18.8 A Player who Withdraws from an event before he/she has started a match may be replaced by a Player on the reserve list or by a Lucky Loser from a qualifying draw. A Player who has started a match in an event may not be replaced. For the avoidance of doubt, when replacing a Player, there is no obligation to separate Players from the same county and/or club (even where such separation has been applied to the original draw pursuant to Regulation 17.14).
- 18.9 If one member of a doubles pair accepted into the main draw of an event is forced to Withdraw due to injury or other exceptional circumstance, he/she can be replaced by another Player up to but not later than the start of a pair's first match in the doubles event. In the case of an unseeded team, any replacement partner must be of a similar or lower standard. In the case of a seeded team, any replacement partner must be of a similar standard, otherwise the entire team shall be Withdrawn and the open position shall be filled by the next eligible team to be seeded.

If a doubles team is forced to Withdraw, the whole pair will be replaced by the next pair on the reserve list.



- 18.10 If an event in a competition graded 1 to 5 has fewer than five entries (or in the case of doubles, fewer than three pairs) as at the closing deadline (and no Ranking points are therefore available pursuant to Regulation 34.10), all Players have the right to Withdraw from the event up until 2:00pm on the day before the start of the event (and such Withdrawal will not incur Withdrawal Points).
- 18.11 In a draw of only five Players (or in the case of doubles, of only three pairs), if a Player Withdraws after the draw has been made, although that Player will not participate in the competition, he/she must not be removed from the draw in TTP unless replaced. Ranking points will be awarded.

## **19. Scheduling**

- 19.1 The Organiser/Organising Committee will select the scoring method(s) to be used from those set out in the Rules of Tennis and the list approved by the LTA Competitions Team.

*Competition formats (including scoring methods) for all age groups and competition grades are set out in Appendix Seven. Further information on timed tennis can be found at [www.LTA.org.uk/CompetitionResources](http://www.LTA.org.uk/CompetitionResources).*

- 19.2 Except in relation to 8U, 9U & 10U events or otherwise agreed by the LTA Competitions Team and published at the point of entry, a Player will not be scheduled to play more than two singles and two doubles matches (or, where FAST4 is being used, four singles matches and two doubles matches) per day.

**PART E - PARTICIPATING IN A COMPETITION****20. Conditions of play**

- 20.1 The provisions in Regulations 20 to 32 set out the rules that apply to each Player's participation in matches in LTA Sanctioned Competitions.
- 20.2 Matches will be played in accordance with the Rules of Tennis.
- 20.3 Subject to paragraphs 4 and 5 of the Competition Code of Conduct, set out in Appendix Four, in respect of all LTA Sanctioned Competitions:
- (a) each Player must, in all correspondence with the Referee and/or the Organiser/Organising Committee, in all communications relating to the competition, during all matches, and at all times while within the competition site and any official competition residence, comply with the Competition Code of Conduct and LTA Code of Conduct; and
  - (b) all other persons participating in any way in an LTA Sanctioned Competition (including officials, staff, medical staff and any Player Support Personnel) must, in all correspondence and communications relating to the competition, during all matches, and at all times while within the competition site and any official competition site, competition transport and any official competition location (including designated residences or accommodation, facilities or locations of tournament functions or activities), conduct themselves in a professional and appropriate manner and comply with the Competition Code of Conduct and LTA Code of Conduct.

**21. Player attendance**

- 21.1 Each Player must sign the competition attendance sheet (or, where there is no attendance sheet, inform the Referee of his/her arrival) on each day of the competition and will be deemed to be absent unless and until this is done.
- 21.2 Each Player is responsible for ascertaining when he/she is scheduled to play. A Player must present him/herself for play when his/her match is called, pursuant to Regulation 10.4(j), above. If a Player is not ready to play within 15 minutes after his/her match has been called, that Player may be deemed to have failed to appear by the Referee (and will incur Withdrawal Points, in accordance with paragraph 1 of Appendix Six).
- 21.3 If a Player is going to be late for a scheduled match, he/she must telephone the Referee, explain the reason for the lateness and provide an estimated time of arrival. The Referee may, in his/her absolute discretion, delay the start of the match accordingly (in which case the Referee must inform the opponent(s) immediately).
- 21.4 Once a Player has signed in (or informed the Referee of his/her arrival), pursuant to Regulation 21.1, above, he/she may leave the competition site only:
- (a) if he/she has no further matches that day; or
  - (b) with the permission of the Referee or (if applicable) assistant Referee.

**22. Rest Between Matches**

- 22.1 Subject to Regulation 22.2, below, except in relation to 8U, 9U & 10U events, where a Player is scheduled to play more than one match per day, the following minimum rest periods will be allowed between singles matches:

- (a) where the Player has played 20 games or fewer: a rest period of 30 minutes;
- (b) where the Player has played more than 20 games: a rest period of 60 minutes;
- (c) where the Player has played a FAST4 match: a rest period of 20 minutes,

save that, where a match has been interrupted for a single period of more than 30 minutes, only those games played following the resumption of play will be counted for the purposes of paragraphs (a), (b) and (c), above.

22.2 The minimum rest periods in paragraph 22.1, above, may be reduced in exceptional circumstances including, but not limited to where a Player is involved in more than one final, due to adverse conditions or bad light.

### 23. Timing & Exceptions to Continuous Play

23.1 Immediately prior to a match, the Players are entitled to a warm-up period not exceeding five minutes.

23.2 If a match is interrupted for reasons beyond the control of the Players, a further warm-up period will be permitted immediately before the match restarts, as follows:

Interruption	Rewarm-up
0 to 15 minutes	no further warm-up
15 to 30 minutes	three minutes
30 or more minutes	five minutes

23.3 Subject to Regulations 23.4 to 25.5, below, as a general principle, play should be continuous from the time the match commences (when the first service is put into play) until the end of the match. Each Player should adopt a reasonable pace of play, and at all relevant times the Player receiving serve must be ready to play each point consistent with the reasonable pace of play adopted by the Player serving.

23.4 The following breaks in play are permitted (the maximum time runs from the moment that one point finishes until the first service for the next point is struck):

- (a) A maximum of 25 seconds between points.
- (b) A maximum of 90 seconds when the Players change ends at the end of a game. However, after the first game of each set and during a tie-break game, play will be continuous and the Players will change ends without a break.
- (c) A maximum of 2 minutes at the end of each set.

23.5 A Player may only leave the court during a match (including during the warm-up) with the permission of the Chair Umpire. Where no Chair Umpire is appointed, a Player may only leave the court during a match (including during the warm-up) with the permission of the Referee or the Referee's designee, including a Court Supervisor (except, where the Referee is not on the court and the Player is calling for the Referee, pursuant to Regulation 29, below).

23.6 Subject to obtaining the appropriate permission, pursuant to Regulation 23.5, above, a Player may leave the court for a reasonable time for a toilet break or a change of attire break as follows:

- (a) a Player is entitled to two such breaks during a singles match. In a doubles match, each doubles pair is entitled to a total of two such breaks;

- (b) toilet breaks should be taken at the end of a set; change of attire breaks may only be taken at the end of a set;
  - (c) such breaks may not be used for any purpose other than the use of the toilet or change of attire, such breaks must not be used to solely refill drinks containers;
  - (d) if a doubles pair leave the court together, that will only count as one of the pair's breaks;
  - (e) any time a Player leaves the court for such a break, it will count as a break regardless of whether or not his/her opponent(s) has also left the court for a break; and
  - (f) any such break taken after the warm-up has started will count as a break.
- 23.7 Permission may be given for additional toilet breaks but the Player requesting the break may be penalised in accordance with paragraph 3(l) of the Competition Code of Conduct if the Player is not ready to play within the time allowed under Regulation 23.4, above.
- 23.8 Violations of Regulations 23.1, 23.2 and 23.4, above, will be penalised with a Time Violation (in the first instance, by a warning, and in each subsequent instance, by a service fault if the Player is the server and a point penalty if the Player is the receiver). However, a Player who refuses to play or who is not ready to play within the allowed time having left the court, pursuant to Regulations 23.5 to 23.7, above, will be penalised in accordance with paragraph 3(g) of the Competition Code of Conduct.
- 24. Medical evaluation and treatment during matches**
- 24.1 Medical evaluation and treatment of a Player's condition during a match may only be conducted by the competition doctor/trainer. However, if there is no competition doctor/trainer available, a Player may nominate another person to evaluate and treat him/her or may do so him/herself, subject to the Referee or the Referee's designee being called on-court to authorise such evaluation and/or treatment.
- 24.2 Subject to Regulation 24.4, below, during a match, a Player may receive an on-court evaluation, treatment and/or supplies but only during breaks at the end of sets and during breaks when the Players change ends at the end of a game (see Regulation 23.4, above), always subject to the permission of the Chair Umpire (or, where no Chair Umpire is appointed, the Referee or the Referee's designee, including a Court Supervisor). In general, permission will not be granted for evaluation and/or treatment on more than two consecutive breaks for each condition.
- 24.3 If a Player cannot continue playing due to muscle cramping, the Player may concede points and games in order that a changeover or set break is reached, and any treatment cannot exceed the time permitted for the break in play (see Regulation 23.4, above).
- 24.4 A Player may not receive treatment and/or supplies, pursuant to Regulations 24.2, above, for the following conditions (**Non-Treatable Conditions**):
- (a) any condition that cannot be treated appropriately or that will not be improved by available medical treatment within the time allowed, under Regulation 24.2, above;
  - (b) any pre-existing condition that has not been aggravated during play;
  - (c) general fatigue; or
  - (d) any condition requiring injections, intravenous infusions or oxygen (save for diabetes, where injections may be administered off-court).

- 24.5 In addition to the medical evaluation and treatment referred to in Regulation 24.2, above, during a match (including during a warm-up) a Player is entitled to one medical time-out of three minutes for each condition as follows:
- (a) a Player must make a request for a medical time-out to the Chair Umpire or, where no Chair Umpire is appointed, to the Referee or the Referee's designee, including a Court Supervisor;
  - (b) where the condition is believed to be acute (i.e. severe), the medical time-out may be taken at any time; where the condition is not believed to be acute, the medical time-out may only be taken at a changeover or set break;
  - (c) where a Player's request for a medical time-out is granted, the competition doctor/trainer or such other person, as referred to in Regulation 24.1, above, will be called to evaluate and diagnose the medical condition; the medical time-out will begin after such evaluation and diagnosis or as otherwise decided by the Referee or the Referee's designee, including a Court Supervisor; and
  - (d) a Player may not receive a medical time-out for Non-Treatable Conditions or muscle cramping (which may only be treated at a changeover or set break, pursuant to Regulation 24.3, above).
- 24.6 Where there is any doubt over whether a Player's condition is acute, not acute, or a Non-Treatable Condition, the determination of the doctor, trainer, or such other person, as referred to in Regulation 24.1, above (except for the Player him/herself), will be final and binding on all parties and no one will have the right to appeal against or otherwise challenge that determination. Where there is no such person the determination will be made by the Referee or the Referee's designee, including a Court Supervisor.
- 24.7 If a Player is bleeding, play must be stopped as soon as possible and the Chair Umpire (or, where no Chair Umpire is appointed, the Referee or the Referee's designee, including a Court Supervisor) may allow up to five minutes to control the bleeding. If blood has spilled onto the court or its immediate vicinity, play must not be resumed until the spill has been cleaned accordingly.
- 24.8 A Player who refuses to play or who is not ready to play within the allowed time due to a medical condition or treatment will be penalised in accordance with paragraph 3(g) of the Competition Code of Conduct.
- 24.9 Either before or during a match, the Referee may rule a Player unable to compete due to serious sickness or injury. This power will only be exercised in exceptional circumstances and the Referee will seek medical advice and any other appropriate information before making a decision.

### Summary of Exceptions to Continuous Play

Break	When available	Maximum time permitted	Maximum number permitted	Permission required
Toilet break	Should be taken between sets	Reasonable amount of time	A total of two toilet and attire breaks per Player (and in doubles two per pair). Permission may be given for additional breaks but only to be taken during the usual breaks during play (for example, in the two minutes between sets)	Yes
Change of attire break	Between sets			
Medical break (for evaluation, treatment or supplies, but not for Non-Treatable Conditions)	In the 90-second or two-minute breaks in play between sets or between games when a change of end is required	90 seconds/ two minutes	N/A, but permission will not generally be granted for evaluation, treatment or supplies on more than two consecutive breaks for each condition	Yes
Medical timeout (not for Non-Treatable Conditions or muscle cramping)	<i>Acute condition:</i> at any time	Three minutes (starting after evaluation completed)	One per condition	Yes
	<i>Non-acute condition:</i> in the 90-second or two-minute breaks in play between sets or between games when a change of end is required			
Blood break	At any time	Up to five minutes	N/A	Yes

#### 25. Procedures in case of adverse or extreme conditions

- 25.1 A Chair Umpire or the Referee may suspend play if, due to adverse or extreme conditions (including, but not limited to, bad weather, light, heat, venue conditions or for health and safety reasons) in his/her opinion, the court is no longer fit for play. A match in which play has been suspended will, if practicable, be resumed on the same court, unless the Referee determines that it is necessary for the match to be moved to another court. The score at the time of suspension will stand upon resumption.
- 25.2 It will be for the Referee to decide whether or not to postpone a match to another day due to adverse conditions (including but not limited to bad weather, light, heat, venue conditions or for health and safety reasons).
- 25.3 Where, due to bad light, a match is suspended, moved to another court or postponed, where practicable this should be done at the end of a set or after an even number of games in the set in progress.
- 25.4 It will be for the Referee to decide, whether or not to shorten a match by selecting an alternative scoring method as set out in Regulation 19.1, above. However, the Referee will not shorten a match
- (a) once it has started, and
  - (b) unless the entire round of matches of which the relevant match forms part is to be shortened in the same way.

Following a decision to shorten a match pursuant to this Regulation, and if time allows, the Referee may decide to revert to the original scoring method for some or all of the remaining matches of the event, but only if the same scoring method applies to each match in an entire round.

**Explanatory note:** *Competition formats (including scoring methods) for all age groups and competition grades are set out in Appendix Seven.*

- 25.5 Where a competition is significantly affected by adverse conditions (including but not limited to bad weather, light, heat, venue conditions or for health and safety reasons), the Referee may decide, in his/her absolute discretion, to cancel or (if they have already begun) abandon events. Where an event is abandoned, for the purposes of Ranking points the Players remaining in the event will receive 'losing' Ranking points for the round reached.

**Explanatory note:** *For example, if an event is abandoned after the quarter finals but before the semi-finals, the four remaining Players will receive semi-final losing Ranking points.*

## 26. Clothing and equipment

- 26.1 Subject to Regulation 26.2, when participating in a match, Players are expected to wear appropriate tennis attire. For the avoidance of doubt, no messages, logos, brands or other identifications will be permitted that:

- (a) are political in nature;
- (b) are (or have the potential to be) insulting or offensive in nature; and/or
- (c) will (or have the potential to) harm the reputation of or disparage the relevant competition, the LTA, other participants and/or any of the LTA's commercial partners.

- 26.2 Where venues have a clothing regulation of their own, this must be approved by the LTA Competitions Team and specified in the competition information referred to in Regulation 15.2, above.

- 26.3 No footwear may be worn on court that is of a type prohibited by the host venue or that may, in the opinion of the Referee, cause injury to the Player or damage to the court surface.

## 27. Balls

- 27.1 The Organiser/Organising Committee will:

- (a) in advance of the competition, select the brand of tennis ball (or red, orange and/or green ball) to be used from the list of ITF approved balls in existence from time to time and identify that brand in the competition information, referred to in Regulation 15.2, above;
- (b) in advance of the competition, determine, in consultation with the Referee, the number of balls to be used in each match (to a minimum of three) and the frequency of ball changes (if any) per match; and
- (c) ensure an adequate supply of tennis balls is provided,

such decisions may be altered by the Organiser/Organising Committee, at the request of the Referee, if conditions render it necessary.

- 27.2 Green balls may be used for Junior and adult competitions graded 6 or 7, where publicised at the point of entry.

## 28. Court markings

- 28.1 Courts with multiple sport markings (for example, netball markings) may be used for matches with the permission of the Referee.
- 28.2 For the avoidance of doubt, if the only other court markings are markings for red and orange tennis, the use of such courts is permitted for matches.

## 29. Matches played without a Chair Umpire

29.1 In matches played without a Chair Umpire:

- (a) each Player or doubles pair is responsible for all calls on his/her/their side of the net, and must make such calls with honesty/integrity to the best of their ability;
- (b) "out" and "fault" calls must be made promptly after the ball has bounced and loudly enough for the opponent(s) to hear;
- (c) each Player must, where he/she is in doubt, give the benefit of the doubt to the opponent(s);
- (d) subject to Regulation 29.1(g), below, if a Player incorrectly calls a "fault" or calls the ball "out" and then realises that the ball was good, the point should be replayed unless it was clearly a point-winning shot (i.e. a shot that the Player could not have successfully returned had he/she known the ball was good), or unless that Player has made one or more incorrect "fault" or "out" calls earlier in the match pursuant to this sub-paragraph, in which case that Player loses the point;
- (e) the server must call the score before each first serve, loudly enough for the opponent(s) to hear;
- (f) if a Player is unhappy with the decisions or actions of the opponent(s), the Player may call the Referee or the Referee's designee, including a Court Supervisor. Spectators and/or Player Support Personnel must not attempt to resolve the issue or influence any decision; and

***Explanatory note:*** Where there is a dispute regarding "lets", Players have equal responsibility for calling these. 'Not-ups' or 'foul shots' shall be called by the Player whose side of the court it is. Foot faults may only be called by an on-court official and not by the opponent(s).

- (g) for matches played on clay courts (or artificial clay if the Referee determines that the courts provide a sufficient mark to read), a ball mark may be checked on a point-ending shot, or when play is stopped (a reflex return is allowed). If a Player is unsure of the opponent's call, the Player may ask the opponent to show the ball mark and the Player may cross the net to look at the ball mark. If a Player in those circumstances then erases the ball mark the Player will be deemed to have conceded the point. If there is disagreement over a ball mark, the Referee or the Referee's designee, including a Court Supervisor may be called to make a decision. If a Player incorrectly calls a ball "out" and then realises that the ball was good, that Player loses the point.
- 29.2 A breach of Regulation 29.1, above, may (among other things) result in the application of the 'hindrance rule' (as set out in the Rules of Tennis) and/or may constitute a violation of paragraph 3(i) of the Competition Code of Conduct.



**30. Results**

- 30.1 For competitions graded 1 to 5 the Referee must use TTP or LP to accurately submit results (recording the winner and the score), Code Violations and Withdrawals (and failures to appear) to the LTA within 48 hours of completion of the competition.
- 30.2 For competitions graded 6 or 7 the Referee must use TTP to accurately submit results (recording the winner and the score), Code Violations and Withdrawals (and failures to appear) to the LTA within 48 hours of completion of the competition.
- 30.3 TTP and LP files that are submitted incorrectly will be returned to the Referee.
- 30.4 Players may challenge the accuracy of the reported winner or score of a match within 3 months of the match.

**31. Prizes**

- 31.1 Prize money will not be offered at any Junior event.
- 31.2 The value of any one prize offered at a Junior event will not exceed £300.
- 31.3 Prizes will be distributed as announced in the competition fact sheet, pursuant to Regulation 15.2, above, unless prior written approval has been obtained from the LTA (which approval will be granted only in exceptional circumstances).
- 31.4 Where a competition involves both a men's and a women's event, then the prize money for equivalent rounds in each event shall be the same and there shall be prize money awarded for the same number of rounds in each event. For the avoidance of any doubt, there is no requirement for prize money to be awarded in every round of an event.
- 31.5 A Player who is defaulted from an LTA Sanctioned Competition, pursuant to paragraph 1 or 2 of the Appendix Five, will forfeit any prizes from that competition to which he/she would otherwise be entitled.
- 31.6 Where a Player has unpaid entry fees, the Organiser/Organising Committee may decide to deduct those fees from any prize money won by the Player and/or withhold all or a part of any prize won by the Player until the outstanding fees are paid.
- 31.7 Prize money for events abandoned before completion will, provided that at least one Player has reached a stage that qualifies for prize money, be divided among the Players remaining in the event according to the stage each Player has reached.

**32. Reasonable Adjustments**

- 32.1 A Player who has a medical condition or learning disability, and who believes that, if a reasonable adjustment were made, they would be able to compete in LTA Sanctioned Competitions, may submit a petition to the LTA Competitions Team, with supporting evidence from a doctor or local authority where appropriate (see Regulation 4.1, above, for contact details). A letter from the LTA Competitions Team setting out any reasonable adjustment agreed by the LTA Competitions Team, must be then provided by the Player to the Organiser/Organising Committee prior to the competition in accordance with the letter.

**PART F – ITF WORLD TENNIS NUMBERS AND LTA RANKINGS****33. ITF World Tennis Number**

- 33.1 A Player's ITF World Tennis Number is based on his/her results in matches played against other Players and may be referred to as a Rating for the purposes of these Regulations.
- 33.2 To obtain an ITF World Tennis Number, a Player must hold LTA Membership.
- 33.3 An ITF World Tennis Number will be issued to Players who are 10 years or older, or in the calendar year they become 10 years old.
- 33.4 Independent of age, Players will have a singles and a doubles ITF World Tennis Number, between 40 and 1, which shall be presented to 1 decimal place e.g. 30.5.
- 33.5 Player's ITF World Tennis Number shall update regularly and shall increase/decrease based on an algorithm owned and operated by the ITF. The outcome of the algorithm cannot be appealed.
- 33.6 A Player's starting ITF World Tennis Number is determined as follows:
- (a) A Junior Player will have a starting ITF World Tennis Number of 40.9;
  - (b) An adult Player (who no longer falls into the 18U category, as defined in paragraph 6.1, above) will be able to complete a player standard questionnaire once the Player logs in to the Member's Area of the LTA Website, which will result in them attaining an ITF World Tennis Number.
- 33.7 A Player can use his/her ITF World Tennis Number as soon as it goes live on the LTA Website. If a Player enters a competition before a change to his/her ITF World Tennis Number has gone live on the LTA Website, his/her ITF World Tennis Number as at the closing deadline for entries to that competition will be used.
- 33.8 Match results (singles and/or doubles) from competitions grade 1 to 7 will be submitted by the LTA to the ITF for inclusion in the ITF World Tennis Number calculation.
- 33.9 Match results will be submitted in accordance with Regulation 33.8 above, to count towards a Player's ITF World Tennis Number, provided that the results of all completed matches (including match scores) and Players' LTA Membership numbers are submitted to the LTA using TTP, LP, an Excel spreadsheet, or the Results Manager tool by a Recognised Person.
- 33.10 The LTA may investigate and, in its absolute discretion, disallow for ITF World Tennis Number purposes any result including but not limited to the following:
- (a) where a Player has competed against a coach;
  - (b) where a Player has competed against his/her parent, sibling or other relative.

**34. LTA Ranking**

- 34.1 A Player's Ranking is a measure of where he/she stands within his/her age group nationally and within the Player's County.

### 34.2 Combined Rankings

A Player's Ranking will combine his/her results and points in 11U, 12U, 14U, 16U, 18U and Open Age Group events only and is based on the following, in order:

- (a) his/her six best competition results in singles and 25% of his/her six best competition results in doubles, over a rolling 12-month period;
- (b) if unresolved, the total number of events used to obtain the results in paragraph 34.2(a), above;
- (c) if unresolved, the highest singles Ranking points received from individual events;
- (d) if unresolved, the second highest singles Ranking points received from individual events, and so on.

All Junior and adult Players will appear on one ranking list.

11U, 12U and 14U Players will be subject to the 'Play up rules, these rules are available at [www.LTA.org.uk/Rankings](http://www.LTA.org.uk/Rankings).

### 34.3 Senior Rankings

A Player's Ranking in Senior age groups is based on the following, in order:

- (a) his/her three best competition results in singles, over a rolling 12-month period;
- (b) if unresolved, the number of events used to obtain the results in paragraph 34.3(a), above;
- (c) if unresolved, the highest Ranking points received from individual events;
- (d) if unresolved, the second highest Ranking points received from individual events, and so on.

A Junior Player and a Senior Player can have a Ranking in more than one age group.

When a Senior Player moves up to a new age group, his/her accumulated Ranking points from the previous age group will automatically be carried forward to the new age group. Open Age Group Ranking points will be used in 30+ Ranking calculations and will be adjusted accordingly. Senior Rankings will be based on the criteria outlined above in paragraph 34.3.

- 34.4 In order to receive the specified Ranking points for reaching a certain round in an LTA Sanctioned Competition, a Player must win a match at the draw stage (qualifying draw, main draw, or consolation draw); if a Player does not win a match he/she will receive one Ranking point. The further a Player progresses through a competition draw, the more Ranking points he/she will accumulate. The Ranking points available depend on the grade of the competition (see the table, below).

***Explanatory note:*** For example, in a draw with eight Players where a Player was given a Walkover and then lost in the semi-finals, the Player will receive only one Ranking point.

***Explanatory note:*** Where a Player's opponent retires, this counts as a win and that Player is put through to the next round and will receive the relevant Ranking points.

- 34.5 A Player can receive only one set of Ranking points for each event.

**Explanatory note:** For example, a Player who competes in both the qualifying and main draw of an event will receive only one set of Ranking points (which will be the highest set of points).

- 34.6 Team competitions (for example, County Cups and National League) also qualify for Ranking points (see the table, below).
- 34.7 ATP/WTA World Ranking points are converted and included as one event in the Combined Rankings. ITF Junior ranking points and Tennis Europe ranking points are included event by event into the Combined Rankings.
- 34.8 Rankings are updated weekly and are based on results that have been processed and are showing on a Player's record at least five days prior to the relevant Rankings calculation.
- 34.9 Performances in competitions graded 1 to 5 qualify towards a Player's Ranking.
- 34.10 Save where an event has fewer than five entries (or in the case of doubles, fewer than three entries) (where no Ranking points will be available for that event). Performances in competitions graded 6 to 7 qualify towards a Player's ITF World Tennis Number but not Ranking.

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**PART G - MISCELLANEOUS****35. Complaints**

- 35.1 In accordance with the LTA Complaints Policy, any complaint about an LTA Sanctioned Competition (including in relation to an Organiser/Organising Committee, Referee, Chair Umpire, Line Umpire, Court Supervisor, or coach), may be lodged with the LTA using the Contact Us Form at <https://www.lta.org.uk/enquiry-page/>.
- 35.2 The LTA will determine what further action, if any, should be taken, including referring the matter to another party, such as a venue, County Association or Organiser/Organising Committee, and/or the LTA Disciplinary Officer (to be dealt with in accordance with the LTA Disciplinary Code). For the avoidance of doubt, the results of all matches connected to the complaint will stand in any event.

**36. Non-Compliance**

- 36.1 Notwithstanding any other provision in these Regulations:
- (a) Where a Player has committed a serious breach of these Regulations and/or of any other conditions of entry or rules/regulations applying to an LTA Sanctioned Competition, the Organiser/Organising Committee may decide to withhold all or a part of any prize (including prize money) won by the Player. Where the Organiser/Organising Committee decides to withhold any prize, pursuant to this Regulation, it will notify the Player and the LTA as soon as practicable. The Player may appeal against the Organiser/Organising Committee's decision by giving written notice, which should include the reasons for the appeal and any evidence in support of the appeal, to the LTA Disciplinary Officer within 28 days of receipt of notification of the decision (see Regulation 4.2 above for contact details). The appeal will be dealt with by the LTA Disciplinary Officer or he/she may choose to refer the appeal to the Chair of the Judicial Panel for the appeal to be determined by a Disciplinary Tribunal pursuant to the LTA Disciplinary Code.
  - (b) By entering a competition, a Player is expected to be available to compete in each part of the event(s) which they progress to. If a Player is unable to start a match or Withdraws from a match (including due to a prior commitment), the Organiser/Organising Committee may decide to withhold all or part of any prize (including any prize money) won by the Player. Where this decision is taken, they will notify the Player as soon as practicable. The Player may appeal against the Organiser/Organising Committee's decision by giving written notice, which should include the reasons for the appeal and any evidence in support of the appeal, to the LTA Disciplinary Officer (see Regulation 4.2 above for contact details) within 28 days of receipt of the notification of the decision to withhold all or part of the prize.
  - (c) Where a Player has unpaid competition fees, the LTA, and/or the Organiser/Organising Committee may prevent that Player from entering any further competitions until the outstanding fees are paid.
  - (d) In the event of any breach of these Regulations, the LTA may exercise its disciplinary powers in the manner set out in the LTA Disciplinary Code. For the avoidance of doubt, there is no right of appeal against any decision of a Disciplinary Tribunal in relation to all matters arising under these Regulations.

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**APPENDIX ONE - DEFINITIONS**

**Adult at Risk** means any person aged 18 or older and who is, or may be, vulnerable to or unable to protect themselves against harm or the risk of it (whether generally or a result of circumstances in which that person finds themselves at the relevant time).

**Anti-Corruption Regulations** means the LTA's Regulations on match fixing, financial speculation and betting and/or their successor regulations, in each case as amended from time to time and as at 1 January 2025 set out in the LTA Disciplinary Code, found at <https://www.lta.org.uk/about-us/governance-and-structure/rules-regulations/>.

**ATP** means the Association of Tennis Professionals.

**Bye** has the meaning given to that term in Regulation 17.11.

**Chair Umpire** means a person appointed pursuant to Regulation 11.

**Challenge Match** means an independently arranged match that is not part of an LTA Sanctioned Competition.

**Child** means any person under the age of 18.

**Code Violation** has the meaning given to that term in paragraph 1 of Appendix Five.

**Code Violation Points** means the points incurred as a result of Code Violations, as set out in paragraph 5 of Appendix Five.

**Competition Code of Conduct** means the code set out in Appendix Four, or any successor or replacement code and/or as amended from time to time.

**Complaints Policy** means the LTA's policy on support and complaint handling, as amended or replaced from time to time and as at 1 January 2025 found at <https://www.lta.org.uk/about-us/governance-and-structure/policies/customer-guidance-lta-support-and-complaint-handling/>.

**County Association** means the body representing a County or other geographical division, as set out in the LTA Rules.

**Court Supervisor** means a person appointed pursuant to Regulation 12.

**Disciplinary Tribunal** has the meaning given to that term in the LTA's Disciplinary Code, or any successor tribunal or panel.

**Diversity and Inclusion Policy** means the LTA's policies on equality, diversity and inclusion, as amended or replaced from time to time and as at 1 January 2025 found at <https://www.lta.org.uk/about-us/governance-and-structure/rules-regulations/>.

**FIP** means the International Padel Federation.

**Green Ball** tennis has the meaning given to that term in Regulation 9.7.

**Island Association** means one of the Island Associations of, respectively, the Channel Islands and the Isle of Man.

**ITF** means the International Tennis Federation.



**ITF World Tennis Number** means a measure of a Player's playing standard determined by the International Tennis Federation as set out in Regulation 33.

**Judicial Panel** (and the "Chair" thereof) has the meaning given to that term in the LTA's Disciplinary Code, or any successor panel or division.

**Junior** means aged 18 and under.

**Junior National Tennis Championships** means the event run by the LTA for age groups 11U, 12U, 14U, 16U and 18U during the summer months restricted to Players who are nationals of Great Britain.

**Line Umpire** means a person appointed to the position of line umpire for a match by the Referee to support the Chair Umpire.

**Local Rights** has the meaning given to that term in Regulation 14.2.

**LP** means the League Planner computer programme, used to assist in the running of leagues and to facilitate the electronic transfer of results to the LTA.

**LTA** means the Lawn Tennis Association Limited and/or LTA Operations Limited.

**LTA Accredited Coach** means a person who is registered as an "Accredited Coach" under and in terms of the LTA Coach Accreditation Regulations.

**LTA Board** means the Board of Lawn Tennis Association Limited.

**LTA Code of Conduct** means the code of conduct of the LTA, or any successor or replacement code and/or as amended from time to time, as at 1 January 2025 found at <https://www.lta.org.uk/about-us/governance-and-structure/rules-regulations/>.

**LTA Competition Management System** means the LTA's designated competition management system for LTA Sanctioned Competitions.

**LTA Competitions Team** means the team whose details are set out in Regulation 4.1.

**LTA Council** means the council appointed pursuant to the LTA Rules.

**LTA Disciplinary Code** means the LTA Disciplinary Code as amended or replaced from time to time and as at 1 January 2025 found at <https://www.lta.org.uk/about-us/governance-and-structure/rules-regulations/>.

**LTA Disciplinary Officer** means the person appointed by the LTA to perform that role and has the meaning given to that term in the LTA Disciplinary Code.

**LTA Disciplinary Tribunal** has the meaning given to it in the LTA Disciplinary Code.

**LTA Licensed Official** means a Person who is registered as a "Licensed Official" under and in terms of the LTA Official Licensing Regulations.

**LTA Logo** means the logos set out in Appendix Two or such other logos as notified by the LTA from time to time.

**LTA Membership** means those individuals admitted as members pursuant to the LTA Rules.

**LTA Performance Team** means the LTA directorate with responsibility for performance player pathway.

**LTA Ranking** means a Player's ranking as determined in accordance with the LTA Rankings, as set out in Regulation 34.

**LTA Rules** means the Rules of the Lawn Tennis Association and/or their successor rules, in each case as amended from time to time and as at 1 January 2025 found at <https://www.lta.org.uk/about-us/governance-and-structure/rules-regulations/>.

**LTA Sanctioned Competitions** has the meaning given to that term in Regulation 1.2.

**LTA Website** means the official website of the LTA as at 1 January 2025 situated at [www.LTA.org.uk](http://www.LTA.org.uk).

**Lucky Loser** has the meaning given to that term in Regulations 17.5 to 17.9.

**8U, 9U & 10U** means Red Ball, Orange Ball and Green Ball tennis.

**National Association** means one of the National Associations of, respectively, Scotland and Wales.

**Non-Treatable Conditions** has the meaning given to that term in Regulation 24.4.

**Officiating Manager** means the person appointed by the LTA to perform that role (or his/her designee).

**Open Age Group** means the age category a Player falls into when he/she is no longer eligible (due to his/her age) to play 18U competitions.

**Optimal Separation** means method of separating two or more players in opposite halves of a draw to prevent them from meeting in the early stages of the event.

**Orange Ball** tennis has the meaning given to that term in Regulation 9.5.

**Organiser/Organising Committee** means the person or persons forming a committee appointed, pursuant to Regulation 13, to administer and organise an LTA Sanctioned Competition under these Regulations.

**Player** means an individual tennis player.

**Player Support Personnel** means any coach, trainer, manager, agent, representative, team staff, medical or para-medical personnel, any other person working with, treating or assisting a Player, parent, relative or other associate or supporter of a Player.

**Recent Form** means a Player's best three individual tournament performances at that ball colour within the last six months.

**Recognised Person** means an LTA Accredited Coach, a competition organiser, a Referee or a recognised club official.

**Red Ball** tennis has the meaning given to that term in Regulation 9.3.

**Referee** means a person appointed to perform that role pursuant to Regulation 13.4(e).

**Regulations** means these LTA Competition Regulations.

**Results Manager** means the Results Manager software used to assist in the running of Grade 7 competitions and to facilitate the electronic transfer of results to the LTA.

**Rules of Beach Tennis** means the ITF's Rules of Beach Tennis, as amended from time to time and as at 1 January 2025 found at <https://www.itftennis.com/en/about-us/governance/rules-and-regulations/?tour=beach-tennis&type=rules>

**Rules of Padel Tennis** means the FIP's Rules of Padel Tennis, as amended from time to time and as at 1 January 2025 found at <https://www.padelfip.com/documentation/>.

**Rules of Tennis** means the ITF's Rules of Tennis, as amended from time to time and as at 1 January 2025 found at <https://www.itftennis.com/en/about-us/governance/rules-and-regulations/>.

**Safeguarding Policy** means the LTA's policies on Child protection, as amended from time to time and as at 1 January 2025 found at <https://www.lta.org.uk/about-us/what-we-do/governance-and-structure/rules>.

**Safeguarding Regulations** mean the LTA's safeguarding regulations and/or its successor regulations, in each case as amended from time to time and as at 1 January 2025 set out in the LTA Disciplinary Code, found at <https://www.lta.org.uk/about-us/what-we-do/governance-and-structure/rules>.

**Scorer** means a person appointed to assist with scoring and line/net calls in 8U, 9U & 10U events.

**Senior** means aged 30 and over.

**Tennis Anti-Doping Regulations** mean the LTA's anti-doping regulations and/or its successor regulations, in each case as amended from time to time and as at 1 January 2025 set out in the LTA Disciplinary Code, found at <https://www.lta.org.uk/about-us/what-we-do/governance-and-structure/rules>.

**Tennis Europe** means the European Tennis Federation, known as Tennis Europe, whose website as at 1 January 2025 is situated at [www.tenniseurope.org](http://www.tenniseurope.org), and Tennis Europe ranking means ranking as determined by Tennis Europe.

**Time Violation** has the meaning given to that term in Regulation 23.8.

**Transgender and Non-Binary Individuals Policy** means the LTA's Transgender and Non-Binary Individuals Policy, as amended from time to time and as at 1 January 2025 found at <https://www.lta.org.uk/about-us/what-we-do/governance-and-structure/rules>.

**TTP** means the Tennis Tournament Planner computer programme used to assist in the running of tournaments and to facilitate the electronic transfer of results to the LTA.

**Walkover** means a match awarded to a Player whose opponent does not start the match. For the avoidance of doubt a match starts when the first serve of the first point is struck.

**Wild Card** means the inclusion of a Player into a draw pursuant to Regulations 16.8 to 16.10.

**Withdrawal** means a Player who has been accepted into a competition (including as a reserve) subsequently communicating to the Organiser/Organising Committee or the Referee that the Player will no longer be participating in the competition (and Withdraw, Withdrawing, and Withdrawn will be construed accordingly).

**Withdrawal Points** means the points incurred pursuant to paragraph 1 of Appendix Six.

**World Ranking** means the ranking as determined by the ATP, the WTA, the ITF Masters or ITF Junior Departments, as appropriate.

**WTA** means the Women's Tennis Association.

**Yellow Ball** tennis means all age groups save for 8U, 9U & 10U events.

**APPENDIX TWO - LTA LOGO**

Landscape



Approved

Portrait



Approved

**APPENDIX THREE - DRAW METHODS AND SEEDING****1. Elimination Draw** (see Figure 1)

- 1.1 Players will be drawn to meet each other in pairs, with progressive elimination until a winner is decided.
- 1.2 If the number of entries is not a number in the following sequence (2, 4, 8, 16, 32, 64, 128, and so on), Byes will be inserted throughout the draw in the first round only so as to produce a full second round of matches.

**2. Qualifying Draw** (see Figure 2)

- 2.1 A qualifying draw will be made in sections, with one section for each place allotted in the main draw.
- 2.2 Players will be drawn to meet each other in pairs, with progressive elimination until the qualifier is decided.

**3. Progressive Draw** (see Figure 3)

- 3.1 The event will be divided into a number of sections, with at least one Player from each section qualifying for a place in the next section. Each section will normally be played to a conclusion. Where a playback event is included, it is an integral part of the event and is not optional.
- 3.2 A Player's ITF World Tennis Number will determine in which section of the draw and in which round of that section he/she plays his/her first match. As a general principle, a Player's first match will be against an opponent with the same or similar ITF World Tennis Number.
- 3.3 Players with the lowest ITF World Tennis Number will be drawn in a pattern of progressive elimination to meet Players of a higher ITF World Tennis Number in the next round or section.
- 3.4 If a Player Withdraws, his/her place may be taken by a Lucky Loser or reserve, save in the final draw where his/her place may be taken in the first round only.
- 3.5 For the purposes of Ranking points, the final draw will be regarded as the main draw and the preceding draws will be regarded as qualifying and pre-qualifying draws.
- 3.6 To enter a progressive draw on TTP, the final draw should be designated as Stage 1 and the preceding draw as Stage 2, and so on.

**4. Staggered Draw** (see Figure 4)

- 4.1 A staggered draw is a limited form of progressive draw, where a Player's ITF World Tennis Number will determine in which round of the draw he/she plays his/her first match.
- 4.2 The group of Players with the lowest ITF World Tennis Numbers will meet in the first round, with the next lowest group given Byes into the second round, and so on.
- 4.3 Players will meet each other in pairs, with progressive elimination until a winner is decided.
- 4.4 Players should be staggered over no more than three rounds and no Player should enter a draw further forward than the round of eight (quarter finals).

## 5. **Compass Draw** (see Figure 5)

- 5.1 Winners and losers will play off progressively in pairs at every stage so that all Players in the draw play the same number of matches and have a finishing position.
- 5.2 The number of entries will be a number in the following sequence (2, 4, 8, 16). The maximum number of compass draw entries that can be processed by TTP (and therefore used for Ranking purposes) is 16.
- 5.3 Players who lose their first match and go into the playback in the left of the draw will receive consolation Ranking points. Players finishing in position 16 (or 8 in an eight Player draw) will receive one Ranking point.
- 5.4 A Player who retires and is sufficiently recovered (as determined by the Referee or their designee) or gives a Walkover due to a late arrival in a match may play in his/her next match (except if an on-site alternate replaces them in the draw). If, such Player does not play in his/her next match, he/she may not participate further in the compass draw. A player who gives a Walkover for any other reason except for late arrival shall play no further part in the compass draw.

## 6. **Round Robin Draw**

- 6.1 Players will be arranged into a number of groups to produce qualifiers for the final stage, which may be organised as a round robin or a knock-out format. Alternatively, an event may comprise solely of a single round robin main draw.
- 6.2 Each Player will play all the other Players in the group.
- 6.3 The final standings in each group will be determined as follows in order:
  - (a) Highest number of wins.
  - (b) If two Players are tied, the result in the match played between the two Players.
  - (c) If more than two Players are tied, the highest percentage of sets won out of sets played (if, after this calculation, only two Players remain tied, the result in the match played between the two Players will be used to break the tie).
  - (d) If more than two Players have the same percentage of sets won out of sets played, they will be placed according to the highest percentage of games won out of games played (if, after this calculation, only two Players remain tied, the result in the match played between the two Players will be used to break the tie); for 8U, 9U & 10U events using tie-break scoring, such Players may instead be placed according to the highest percentage of points won over points played (if, after this calculation, only two Players remain tied, the result in the match played between the two Players will be used to break the tie).
  - (e) If more than two Players also have the same percentage of games won out of games played, the positions will be drawn by lot; for 8U, 9U & 10U events using tie-break scoring, such Players may instead be placed according to the highest percentage of points won over points played (if, after this calculation, only two Players remain tied, the result in the match played between the two Players will be used to break the tie).
  - (f) For the purposes of the calculations in paragraphs (c), (d) and (e), above, when a match is played with a deciding match tie-break instead of a final set, the tie-break will count as a set won or lost by one game to nil.

- 6.4 If a number of group runners-up from the initial stages are required, these places will be allocated as follows:
- (a) Highest percentage of wins out of matches played.
  - (b) If two or more Players are tied, the highest percentage of sets won out of sets played. If any such Players have the same percentage of sets won out of sets played, they will be placed according to the highest percentage of games won out of games played. If any such Players also have the same percentage of games won out of games played, the positions will be decided by a play-off or drawn by lot.
- 6.5 Each set of a match won by default will be recorded as a 6-0 result (or 4-0 where short sets are being used) provided that the opponent participates (and/or has participated) in the rest of the group matches. A Player winning due to retirement of an opponent will be awarded as many games as are required to achieve a result, provided that the opponent participates (and/or has participated) in the rest of the group matches.

***Explanatory note:*** For example, if a Player retires when winning 4-3 in the first set, his/her opponent will win the match 6-4, 6-0 provided that the retiring Player participates (and/or has participated) in the rest of the group matches. If the retiring Player does not participate in the rest of his/her group matches, paragraph 6.7, below, will apply.

- 6.6 A Player who retires or gives a Walkover due to a late arrival in a match in a group may play in his/her next match; if, however, such Player does not play in his/her next match, he/she may not participate further in the group matches.
- 6.7 If a Player is unable to start a match in a group or, before completing his/her group matches, Withdraws or is disqualified from the event, all matches completed or started by that Player will be void for scoring purposes but will count for the purposes of that Player's ITF World Tennis Number.

## **7. Consolation Draw**

- 7.1 A consolation draw will be treated as a normal elimination event and may be seeded.
- 7.2 A consolation draw for first round losers may be a direct playback or may be redrawn.
- 7.3 In a consolation draw for first match losers, the Players may go into a predetermined position in the consolation draw (as in a playback) or the Players may be redrawn.
- 7.4 If consolation events from two Junior age groups are merged, the event will be classified under the older age group for the purpose of Ranking points. In Senior age groups, merged events will be classified under the younger age group for the purpose of Ranking points.
- 7.5 A Player is only eligible to participate in a consolation draw if he/she has been entered into the relevant main draw (see also Regulation 18.2).
- 7.6 As set out in Regulation 15.2, a list of all consolation draws (and whether entry is compulsory) must be included in the competition information made available to all Players before entries are accepted.
- 7.7 A Player who Withdraws from an event at any stage, or who fails to appear at the competition venue ready and prepared to play in his/her relevant matches without having Withdrawn, is ineligible to participate in a consolation draw relating to that event (although the Referee may at his/her discretion and in exceptional circumstances, allow such a Player to play in a consolation draw in the event).
- 7.8 A Player who retires or gives a Walkover due to a late arrival in the main draw (subject to paragraph 7.2 or 7.3 above) may participate in the consolation draw (see Regulation 18.2).

## 8. Seeding

8.1 Where an elimination draw is used, the seeds will be placed as follows (see Figure 1 and the table, below):

- (a) seed number 1 will be placed at the top of the draw;
- (b) seed number 2 will be placed at the bottom of the draw;
- (c) seed numbers 3 and 4 will be drawn as a pair, with the first drawn placed in the top half of the draw and the second drawn placed in the bottom half of the draw; and
- (d) the remaining seeds will be drawn in groups of four (for example, 5-8, 9-12, 13-16) from top to bottom.

### Seed position by line number in the first round

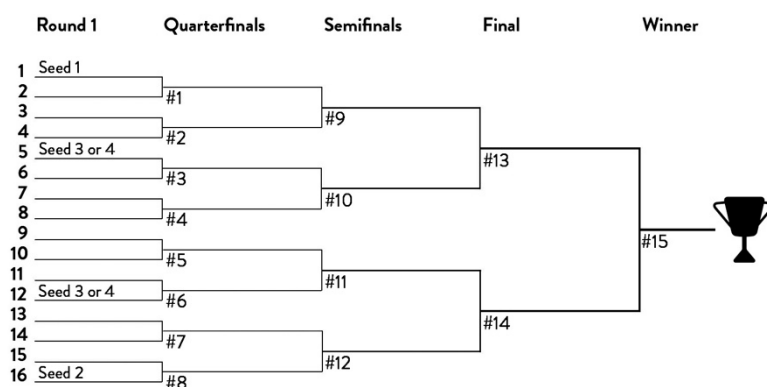
	8 draw (2 seeds)	16 draw (4 seeds)	32 draw (8 seeds)	64 draw (16 seeds)	128 draw (32 seeds)
<b>Seed 1</b>	1	1	1	1	1
<b>Seed 2</b>	8	16	32	64	128
<b>Seed 3 or 4</b>		5 12	9 24	17 48	33 96
<b>Seeds 5 to 8</b>			8 16 17 25	16 32 33 49	32 64 65 97
<b>Seeds 9 to 12</b>				9 25 40 56	17 49 80 112
<b>Seeds 13 to 16</b>				8 24 41 57	16 48 81 113
<b>Seeds 17 to 24</b>					9 24 41 56 73 88 105 120
<b>Seeds 25 to 32</b>					8 25 40 57 72 89 104 121



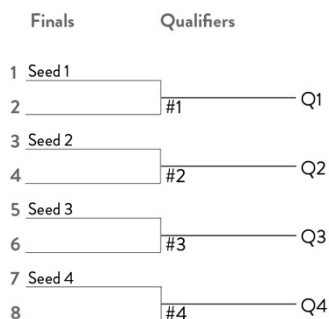
- 8.2 Where a qualifying draw is used, the seeds will be placed as follows (see Figure 2):
- (a) seed number 1 will be placed at the top of the first section of the draw; seed number 2 will be placed at the top of the second section of the draw; and so on until all sections have one seed at the top of the section;
  - (b) the remaining seeds will be drawn as one group, with the first drawn placed at the bottom of the first section of the draw, the second drawn placed at the bottom of the second section of the draw, and so on until all sections have one seed at the bottom of the section;
  - (c) if there are insufficient seeded Players, the sections with the highest seeds will not have a second seed; and
  - (d) each section will have a maximum of two seeded Players.
- 8.3 Where a progressive draw is used, in the final draw the Players are seeded and placed according to paragraph 8.1, above, with other Players playing through to meet them (see Figure 3).
- 8.4 Where multiple round robin draws are used for a qualifying event, up to 2 Players per draw may be seeded. If the main draw is being played in round robin format, no seeds are required.

**Explanatory note:** *If a qualifying event has 2 round robin boxes of 4 Players, seeds 1 and 2 must be placed in separate boxes and seeds 3 and 4 must be drawn into separate boxes.*

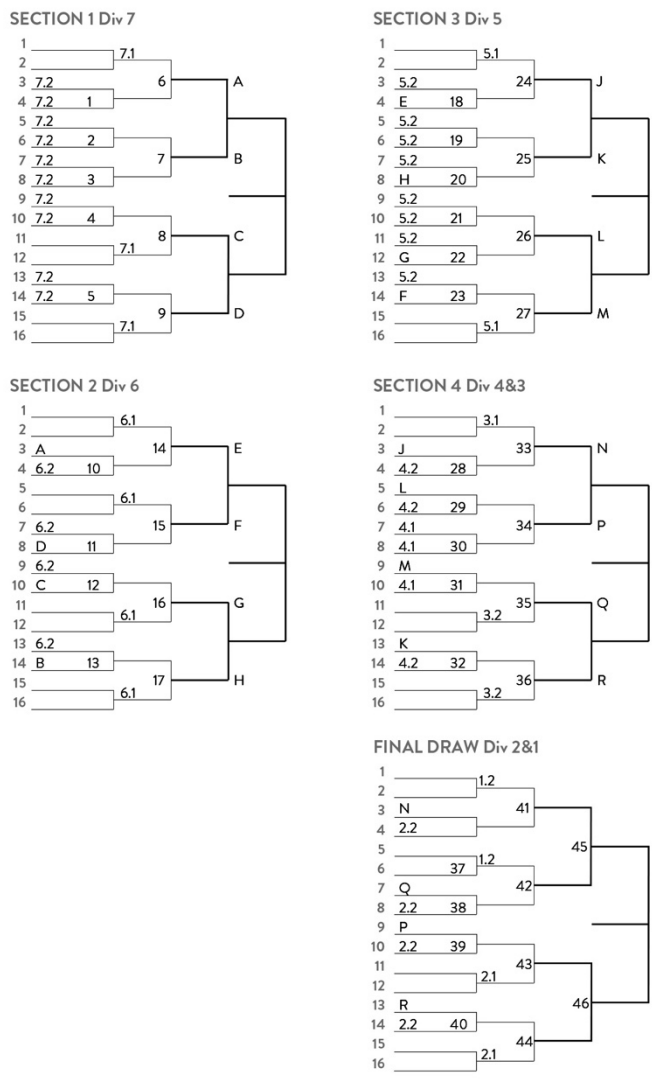
**Figure 1: example of an elimination draw showing match numbers**



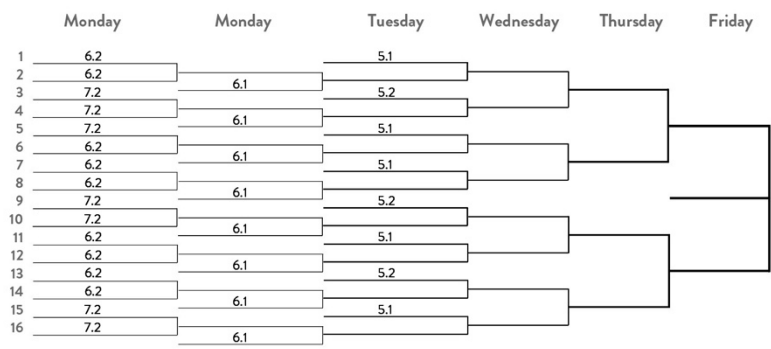
**Figure 2: example of a qualifying draw showing match numbers**



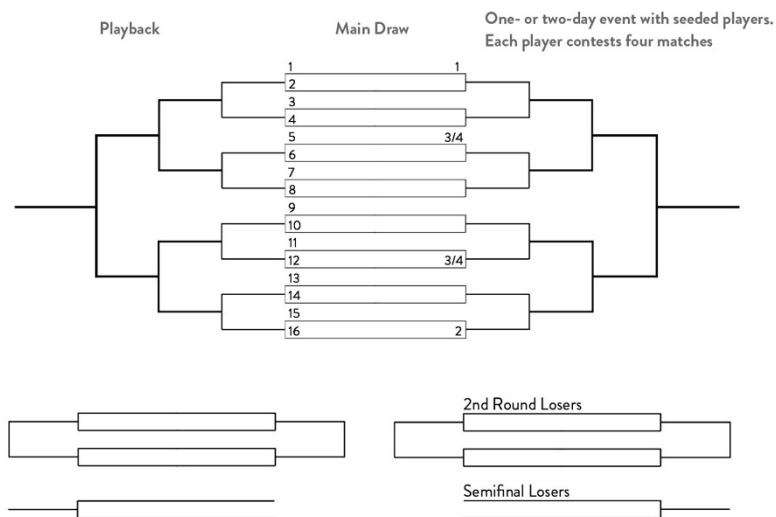
**Figure 3: example of a progressive draw showing ITF World Tennis Numbers and match numbers**



**Figure 4: example of a staggered draw showing ITF World Tennis Numbers**



**Figure 5: example of a compass draw showing positions of seeds**



**APPENDIX FOUR - COMPETITION CODE OF CONDUCT**

1. The purpose of the Competition Code of Conduct is to maintain fair and reasonable standards of conduct by participants in LTA Sanctioned Competitions, including Players, Player Support Personnel and the Organisers/Organising committees, and to protect their respective rights, the rights of the public and the integrity of the game of tennis.
2. The Referee for each LTA Sanctioned Competition shall be the final authority for the interpretation of these Regulations, the Competition Code of Conduct (including breach of the LTA Code of Conduct at LTA Sanctioned Competitions, which in turn constitutes breach of this Competition Code of Conduct, in accordance with paragraph 3(i) below) and the Rules of Tennis as to all matters arising that require immediate resolution at the tournament site.
3. In respect of all LTA Sanctioned Competitions, each Player must, in all correspondence with the Referee and/or the Organiser/Organising Committee, in all communications relating to the competition, during all matches, and at all times while within the competition site and any official competition residence, conduct him/herself in a professional and appropriate manner. The provisions below shall apply to each Player's conduct while within the precincts of each such site, which shall include any designated tournament residence or accommodation, transport, all tournament facilities and all locations of tournament functions or activities.

(a) Ball Abuse (BA)

Players must not violently, dangerously, recklessly or with anger hit, kick or throw a tennis ball, except in the reasonable pursuit of a point during a match (including warm up). For the purposes of this rule, abuse of balls includes (without limitation) hitting, kicking or throwing a ball: (a) intentionally or recklessly out of the enclosure of the court; (b) dangerously or recklessly within the enclosure of the court; or (c) with disregard to the consequences.

(b) Racket or Equipment Abuse (RA)

Players must not violently, dangerously, recklessly or in anger, hit, kick, or throw a racket or other equipment. For the purposes of this rule, abuse of rackets or equipment includes (without limitation) intentionally, dangerously, and violently hitting the net, court, umpire's chair, or other fixture during a match out of anger.

(c) Audible Obscenity (AOB)

Players must not use an audible obscenity. Audible obscenity is defined as the use of words commonly known or understood to be profane and uttered clearly and loudly enough to be heard.

(d) Visible Obscenity (VOB)

Players must not make obscene gestures of any kind. Visible obscenity is defined as the making of signs, gestures or movements by a Player with their body and/or with equipment such as rackets or balls that are commonly known or understood have an obscene meaning.

(e) Physical Abuse (PhA)

Players must not, at any time, physically abuse any official, Player, spectator or other person. For the purposes of this rule, physical abuse is the unauthorised touching (including through any instrument or equipment) or physical intimidation of an official, opponent, spectator, or other person which could reasonably be interpreted as in any respect abusive, offensive or intimidating.

(f) Verbal Abuse (VA)

Players must not, at any time, verbally abuse any official, opponent, spectator, or other person. Verbal abuse is defined as any statement made towards or about an official, opponent, spectator, or any other person that implies dishonesty or is derogatory, offensive, insulting, threatening or otherwise abusive.

(g) Delay of Game (DoG)

Players must not refuse to play within the allowed time for any unauthorised reason. In the case of delay due to a medical condition or treatment, or having left the court, such delay will be considered Delay of Game unless a Player has the appropriate permission and/or authorisation.

(h) Coaching and Coaches (CC)

Players must not receive coaching during a match (including during the warm-up), except where play is suspended and the Players have left the court. 'Coaching' is to be interpreted widely, and communication of any kind, audible or visible, between a Player and a person off court (for example, a coach, relative, or representative) may be treated as coaching.

(i) Unsportsmanlike Conduct (UnC)

Players must, at all times, conduct themselves in a sportsmanlike manner with due regard to the authority of officials and to the rights of opponents, spectators and other persons. Unsportsmanlike conduct is defined as any misconduct by a Player that is clearly abusive or offensive, or is detrimental to the success and/or perception of a tournament, the LTA, and/or the sport.

Any breach of the LTA Code of Conduct at an LTA Sanctioned Competition constitutes a breach of the Competition Code of Conduct and penalised under this provision. In addition, unsportsmanlike conduct shall include, but not be limited to, the giving, making, issuing, authorising, or endorsing any public statement having, or designed to have, an effect prejudicial or detrimental to the best interest of the tournament and/or the officiating thereof.

(j) Best Efforts (BE)

Players must use their best efforts during a match when competing in a competition.

(k) Failure To Complete Match or Tournament (FCM)

Players must complete each match in progress and complete each event in which they are competing in accordance with these Regulations, unless they are reasonably unable to do so.

(l) Leaving the Court (LC)

Players may leave the court during a match (including during the warm-up) only with the permission of the Chair Umpire. Where no Chair Umpire is appointed, a Player may leave the court during a match (including during the warm-up) only with the permission of the Referee or the Referee's designee, including a Court Supervisor (except where the Referee is not on the court and the Player is calling for the Referee, pursuant to Regulation 29).

(m) Punctuality (Pun)

Players must be ready to play when their matches are called. Any Player not ready to play within 15 minutes after their match is called shall be defaulted unless the Referee, after consideration of all relevant circumstances, elects not to declare a default.

(n) LTA Code of Conduct

Players must comply with and not breach the LTA Code of Conduct.

4. All other persons participating in any way in an LTA Sanctioned Competition (including officials, staff, medical staff and Player Support Personnel) must:
- (a) in all correspondence and communications relating to the competition, during all matches and at all times while within the competition site, competition transport and any official competition location (including designated residences or accommodation, facilities or locations of tournament functions or activities), conduct themselves in a professional and appropriate manner; and
  - (b) refrain from making comments, including to representatives of the media or on social media or online, that attack, disparage, abuse or criticise Players, the Organiser/Organising Committee, officials, or staff of LTA Sanctioned Competitions and/or the LTA. Any such conduct may be treated as a disciplinary matter and dealt with under the LTA Disciplinary Code.

For the avoidance of doubt, the examples given in paragraphs 3(a) to 3(n) also apply to Player Support Personnel in the context of behaving in a professional and appropriate manner.

5. Any failure or refusal to comply with paragraph 4 of this Appendix Four above may be treated as a disciplinary matter and dealt with under the LTA Disciplinary Code. In addition, a Player is responsible and accountable for the conduct of his/her Player Support Personnel; any failure or refusal by such a person to conduct themselves in a professional and appropriate manner may also result in sanctions being applied to the Player, pursuant to Appendix Five (as if the Player had committed a Code Violation), and/or under the LTA Disciplinary Code.

**APPENDIX FIVE - CODE VIOLATIONS**Code Violations and imposition of immediate sanctions

1. Subject to paragraph 2 below and the discretion of the Chair Umpire, Court Supervisor, Referee, or assistant Referee, as the case may be:
  - (a) any violation of the Competition Code of Conduct set out in Appendix Four (a **Code Violation**), that takes place during or in relation to a match, will result in both:
    - i) the immediate imposition of the following sanctions:
      - **first Code Violation:** warning (i.e. the Player will receive a verbal warning);
      - **second Code Violation:** point penalty (i.e. the Player will lose a point);
      - **third Code Violation:** game penalty (i.e. the Player will lose a game);

***Explanatory note:** A game penalty awarded during a game, for example, when the score is at 30-40, means the loss of that game. A game penalty awarded at the end of a game (i.e. when the final point in the game has been played) will result in the loss of the next game.*

      - **fourth and subsequent Code Violations:** game penalty or default (i.e. the Player will lose a game or the match); and
    - ii) Code Violation Points being incurred by the Player as per the point penalty structure set out in this Appendix Five;
  - (b) any Code Violation that is not sanctioned pursuant to paragraph 1(a) above, including, without limitation, a Code Violation committed before the commencement, or after the conclusion, of a match (an off-court Code Violation), will incur Code Violation Points as per the point penalty structure set out in this Appendix Five;
  - (c) any incident where the action or result does not warrant a Code Violation, as per paragraph 1(a) or (b) above, may be handled through a soft warning/quiet word with the Player outside of the point penalty structure.
2. Notwithstanding paragraph 1 above, if a single Code Violation (including an off-court Code Violation) is sufficiently serious, the Player may, at the sole discretion of the Referee or, in exceptional circumstances, their designee in accordance with paragraph 4 below, receive an immediate default. The following is a non-exhaustive list of examples of conduct which are likely to be sufficiently serious to warrant the issuing of an immediate default:
  - (a) Physical abuse or physical contact which is more than merely accidental.
  - (b) Verbal abuse, with any comments related to age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage, civil partnership, pregnancy, maternity, race (including colour, nationality, or ethnic or national origins), religion, belief (including religious, philosophical or lack of belief), sex or sexual orientation being particularly serious.
  - (c) Threatening comments or behaviour.
  - (d) Visual or audible obscenity of a sufficiently serious nature, including lewd or obscene gestures or behaviour.
  - (e) Ball or racket abuse, where the ball or racket hits, injures, or is aimed at another person.
  - (f) Racket abuse, where the racket is used as a weapon against physical property.

- (g) Spitting at or near another person.
  - (h) Attacking the integrity of an official, including any accusation of bias or cheating.
  - (i) Not respecting the authority of an official, such as through questioning their decision.
  - (j) Unsportsmanlike conduct.
  - (k) Failure to complete a match without valid grounds for retirement.
3. If a Player is defaulted pursuant to paragraphs 1 or 2 above, the Player will be defaulted from all events at that competition (i.e. they will not be permitted to play in any other matches and/or events in that competition, including (if applicable) both singles and doubles).
  4. The powers set out in paragraphs 1 to 3 above will be exercised by the Chair Umpire, Court Supervisor, Referee and/or assistant Referee, except that a default or immediate default may be imposed only by the Referee or, in exceptional circumstances, their designee. Subject only to paragraph 8 of this Appendix, any such decisions made in exercise of those powers will be final and binding on all parties and no one will have the right to appeal against (or otherwise challenge) such decisions.

***Explanatory note:*** For the avoidance of doubt, a Player may receive a Code Violation sanction up to and including an immediate default (and so Code Violation Points) as a result of the conduct and/or behaviour of any of their Player Support Personnel being in violation of the Competition Code of Conduct.

#### Incurring Code Violation Points

5. Except in relation to Red Ball tennis (in which Code Violation Points will not be incurred), any Player who receives a Code Violation sanction under paragraphs 1 and/or 2 of this Appendix Five, as a result of one or more Code Violations, will also incur the following Code Violation Points:

Sanction	Code Violation Points
Warning	2
Point penalty	2
Game penalty (for each game penalty imposed)	2
Default	2
Off-court Code Violation	2
Immediate default - failure to complete a match (paragraph 2(k) above).	5
Immediate default - serious Code Violation(s) (paragraphs 2(a) to (j) above).	8

***Explanatory note:*** A Player who walks off court failing to complete a match will be deemed to have immediately defaulted themselves, incurring 5 code violation points and possible further disciplinary action.

6. Where a Player receives a Code Violation and incurs Code Violation Points, the LTA will notify the Player by email as soon as reasonably practicable. In addition, an immediate default will be reported to the LTA Disciplinary Officer, who will decide whether or not the conduct of the Player which gave rise to the immediate default is to be investigated as alleged "Misconduct" under the LTA Disciplinary Code.



Appeals – general, including summary dismissal

7. The imposition of a Code Violation sanction (and/or any decision relating to whether or not a Code Violation had occurred) will not be capable of being appealed against (or otherwise challenged). They are properly and solely a matter for the Chair Umpire, Court Supervisor, Referee, or assistant Referee, as the case may be, in the match, event and/or competition in question. Any sporting consequences as a result of such sanction will not be altered or overturned.
8. The Code Violation Points incurred will not be capable of being appealed against (or otherwise challenged), except only where the Player is appealing against Code Violation Points incurred as a result of an immediate default. For the avoidance of doubt, a Player may not appeal (or otherwise challenge) Code Violation Points incurred for anything other than an immediate default.
9. Any attempt to appeal (or otherwise challenge) (i) any Code Violation Points incurred (other than those incurred as a result of an immediate default) and/or (ii) any Code Violation sanction imposed, is not valid or competent and so will be summarily dismissed by the LTA. There is no right to appeal against such a summary dismissal.

Submission of appeal by Player

10. Subject to paragraphs 8 and 9 above, if a Player wishes to appeal against receiving Code Violation Points which were incurred as a result of an immediate default, then the Player must provide, **within fourteen calendar days** of the notification referred to in paragraph 6 above being sent by the LTA to the Player:
  - (a) written notice of the appeal on the form made available by the LTA (whether through its Competition Management System or otherwise) from time to time; and
  - (b) all statements and any other supporting evidence which the Player wishes the Disciplinary Tribunal to consider in determining the appeal (should the need arise). For the avoidance of doubt, the onus is on the Player to seek to prove that the relevant official's decision to issue an immediate default was wrong and to provide evidence to support this contention. It is not for the relevant official to prove that they were justified in issuing an immediate default,

(together this will be referred to as the “**Player’s Appeal Documentation**”).

Any notice of appeal submitted **more than fourteen calendar days** after the LTA sent the notification referred to in paragraph 6 above to the Player will be out of time, not a valid appeal and so will be summarily dismissed by the LTA. There is no right to appeal against such a summary dismissal.

***Explanatory note:*** *The Player’s Appeal Documentation needs to include everything which the Player wishes to submit in support of their appeal. Where something is capable of being evidenced by a document, that should be included as part of the Player’s Appeal Documentation. If not provided as part of the Player’s Appeal Documentation within the fourteen calendar day period referred to above, it will be assumed not to be available. As much “independent” documentation or information (e.g. from a person who is not the Player nor related to or connected to the Player) as possible should be provided by the Player.*

11. Upon receipt of any appeal, the LTA may (but is under no obligation to) seek further information from any person(s) that the LTA deems appropriate. The Disciplinary Tribunal may not issue directions contrary to this paragraph.
12. A Player’s Appeal Documentation, together with any further information obtained by the LTA in terms of paragraph 11 above, will be kept on file by the LTA and, if or when applicable, considered pursuant to paragraph 13 below.

Determination of valid appeal by Disciplinary Tribunal

13. If a Player accumulates ten or more Code Violation Points within a rolling twelve-month period, then any appeal against the Code Violation Points incurred for an immediate default (provided always that such appeal is valid in terms of paragraph 10 above) will be referred by the LTA to a Disciplinary Tribunal. The following provisions will then apply:
- (a) The LTA will provide the Player's Appeal Documentation and a copy of the Player's record of Code Violations to the Disciplinary Tribunal. Should the LTA wish to make any written submissions in relation to the appeal (but noting that it is under no obligation to do so), those written submissions will be provided to the Disciplinary Tribunal at the same time.
  - (b) The Player will be notified when such referral is made and provided with a copy of the information sent to the Disciplinary Tribunal.
  - (c) The Disciplinary Tribunal will make a decision based solely on what is provided to it in accordance with paragraph 13(a) above.
  - (d) The Disciplinary Tribunal will not make a finding contrary to the relevant official's decision unless it is satisfied, on the balance of probabilities, that the relevant official's decision to issue an immediate default was wrong for any one or more of the following reasons:
    - i) there was no breach of and/or failure to comply with the Competition Code of Conduct (set out in Appendix Four) and/or the LTA Code of Conduct;
    - ii) there was a breach of and/or failure to comply with the Competition Code of Conduct and/or the LTA Code of Conduct and no reasonable official would have considered the conduct in question to be sufficiently serious to warrant the issuing of an immediate default (taking into account paragraph 2 above); and/or
    - iii) the Player was not the person who committed the breach and/or failure to comply with the Competition Code of Conduct and/or the LTA Code of Conduct and so this was a case of mistaken identity.
  - (e) In considering the balance of probabilities, the Disciplinary Tribunal will be entitled to consider whether or not the Player has previously committed other Code Violations (whether at the same competition or any other competition) which are of the same or similar nature to those which are the subject of the immediate default which is the subject of the appeal.
  - (f) Any appeal will be considered on the papers.
  - (g) If the Disciplinary Tribunal determines that the relevant official's decision to issue an immediate default was wrong in accordance with paragraph 13(d) above, then the relevant Code Violation Points in relation to that particular immediate default will be removed from the Player's record.
14. The decision of the Disciplinary Tribunal on any appeal, pursuant to paragraph 13 above, is final and binding with no further right of appeal.
15. For the avoidance of doubt, the Disciplinary Tribunal will consider only any valid appeal in respect of Code Violation Points incurred for an immediate default. It will not have jurisdiction to consider or make any decision in respect of any other Code Violation Points incurred.

### Accumulation of Code Violation Points

16. If a Player accumulates ten or more Code Violation Points within a rolling twelve-month period, then each set of ten Code Violation Points will attract a separate period of suspension, each calculated in accordance with paragraphs 17 and 18 below.
17. If, as at the expiry of the rolling twelve-month period, a Player has accumulated ten or more Code Violation Points, those points will remain active until the appropriate suspension(s) has/have been imposed in accordance with paragraph 18 below. For the avoidance of any doubt, the suspension(s) may be in the same or the next rolling twelve-month period in which the Code Violation Points were incurred.
18. Subject to paragraphs 19, 20 and 21 below, when a Player accumulates ten Code Violation Points within a rolling twelve-month period and:
  - (a) none of those Code Violation Points were incurred in respect of an immediate default, or
  - (b) any of those Code Violation Points were incurred in respect of an immediate default and either (I) no appeal was submitted in respect of those Code Violation Points or (II) there was an attempt to submit an appeal but it was not a valid appeal and so it was summarily dismissed, or
  - (c) any of those Code Violation Points were incurred in respect of an immediate default, a valid appeal was submitted in respect of those Code Violation Points in accordance with paragraph 10 above and the Disciplinary Tribunal did not uphold the appeal such that the relevant Code Violation Points remain on the Player's record and there continue to be ten or more Code Violation Points on their record,

then the Player will receive an automatic suspension of:

- (i) three weeks, for a first application of this paragraph; or
- (ii) four weeks, for the second application of this paragraph in relation to the same rolling twelve-month period;
- (iii) five weeks, for the third application of this paragraph in relation to the same rolling twelve-month period; and
- (iv) six weeks, for subsequent applications of this paragraph in relation to the same rolling twelve-month period.

The automatic suspension will cover (and so will prohibit the Player who is subject to it from) entering, playing and/or otherwise competing in any LTA Sanctioned Competition or event therein or otherwise competing in the Game and, in addition, during the period of the automatic suspension, the Player will not be in "good standing" (or the equivalent for the relevant competition) for the purposes of any competition controlled, sanctioned, recognised, authorised or organised by any other governing body (including, but not limited to the ITF, Tennis Europe, the Women's Tennis Association and the Association of Tennis Professionals). Should a Player play in any competition or otherwise compete (including but not limited to in any competition controlled, sanctioned, recognised, authorised or organised by any other governing body) while subject to the automatic suspension, this will constitute Misconduct on the part of the Player in terms of the LTA Disciplinary Code and will be dealt with in accordance with it.

***Explanatory note 1:*** For the avoidance of doubt, the rolling twelve-month period referred to above in paragraphs 18 (ii) to (iv) of this Appendix Five, relates to when the Code Violations occurred (and so when the Code Violation Points were incurred) and not when any previous suspension took place.

**Explanatory note 2:** For example, if a Player has accumulated six Code Violation Points (for an immediate default which have not been appealed) between 1 January 2025 and 30 September 2025, and then incurs a further three Code Violation Points on 1 October 2025 and a further three Code Violation Points on 23 November 2025, making twelve Code Violation Points in total, they will receive an automatic suspension of three weeks pursuant to paragraph 18(i) above (for the accumulation of ten Code Violation Points within a rolling twelve-month period). They will effectively begin another 12-month period on 23 November 2025 and will be treated as having incurred two Code Violation Points on that day (i.e. the two points that did not count towards the ten for the purposes of paragraph 18(i)). However, if they incur a further eight Code Violation Points on or before 31 December 2025 (making a total of twenty Code Violation Points in the original rolling twelve-month period, from 1 January to 31 December 2025), they will receive a further automatic suspension of four weeks pursuant to paragraph 18(ii), above.

#### Determination of period(s) covered by automatic suspension(s)

19. For the purposes of determining the period of the suspension in terms of this Appendix Five, a week will commence at 00:01 on a Sunday and end at 23:59 on the following Saturday.
20. In determining when the period of suspension under this Appendix Five will commence, the LTA will, in its complete discretion, take into consideration all playing consequences of the suspension and will exclude any periods of inactivity for the Player and any periods in which the Player is not fit, available and expected to play so as to ensure that the suspension is effective and meaningful. However, any suspension imposed will:
  - (a) In order to avoid disruption to other competitions, ordinarily not commence before the third Sunday after (i) the expiry of the period within which an appeal may be submitted (in accordance with paragraph 10 above) for the accrual of the tenth Code Violation Point or (ii) if applicable, the determination by the Disciplinary Tribunal of any appeal. This is in order to allow the Player to Withdraw from any competition in which they are entered without incurring Withdrawal Points.
  - (b) Ordinarily include weeks in which, as at the date of determining the period of suspension, the Player has, in fact, entered LTA Sanctioned Competition or other meaningful competition or has been selected for competition, or (in each case) is likely to do so. In considering if a Player is likely to enter a particular competition, the Player's playing history for that competition in the preceding three years may be taken into account. In considering if a competition is meaningful, whether or not the Player is fit, available and expected to play may be taken into account in deciding this.
  - (c) ordinarily include the first weeks following the date of determining the period of suspension which meet the requirements of (a) and (b) and the remainder of this paragraph 20.
21. If the suspension date starts during an event, then a Player is not permitted to play in that event, even if part of the event takes place outside of the suspension dates. If the suspension date ends during an event, a Player is not permitted to play in that event, even if part of the event takes place outside of the suspension dates.
22. There is no right of appeal (or other challenge) in relation to the determination as to when the period of suspension pursuant to paragraph 20 above will commence or end or which weeks it covers.

#### Publication and interaction with LTA Disciplinary Code

23. Any Player who competes (or is believed to have competed) while suspended will be referred to the LTA Disciplinary Officer and may become subject to proceedings for alleged Misconduct as defined and under the LTA Disciplinary Code.

24. The LTA may publish a decision of the Disciplinary Tribunal made pursuant to paragraph 13 above (or a summary thereof), and details of suspensions imposed pursuant to paragraph 20 above (including details of the Code Violations received).
25. If a suspension is imposed on a Player under paragraph 29 of Part B of the LTA Disciplinary Code (or agreed by a Player under paragraph 25 of Part B of the LTA Disciplinary Code) in respect of the same incident as the Player was issued with an immediate default, then the six Code Violation Points issued in relation to that particular immediate default will be reduced to zero for the purposes of the accumulation of Code Violation Points in terms of paragraph 17 of this Appendix Five. This is to avoid a Player being subject to two periods of suspension in respect of the same incident.

***Explanatory note:*** *It is anticipated that the discretion to deal with conduct related to the issuing with an immediate default under the LTA Disciplinary Code is more likely to be exercised for particularly serious incidents or for repeated incidents of a similar nature. However, this is a decision for the LTA Disciplinary Officer exercising the discretion available under the LTA Disciplinary Code.*

**APPENDIX SIX - WITHDRAWING FROM AN LTA SANCTIONED COMPETITION**Incurring Withdrawal Points automatically

1. Subject only to the exceptions set out in paragraph 2 of this Appendix Six, a Player who:
  - (a) Withdraws from the competition after the Withdrawal deadline (as specified in the competition information made available pursuant to Regulation 15.2) but before 2pm on the day before the start of the event;
  - (b) Withdraws from the event after 2pm on the day before the start of the event;
  - (c) Withdraws from the event during the event in question;
  - (d) refuses to play (or fails to appear for) a compulsory consolation event, including where the consolation event is not compulsory but the Player opted-in to play it,

will incur the following automatic Withdrawal Points:

<b>Conduct</b>	<b>Withdrawal Points</b>
Withdrawal in the period between the Withdrawal deadline and up to 2:00pm on the day before the start of the event	2
Withdrawal in the period between 2:00pm on the day before the start of the event and during the event	4
Failing to appear at the event for a match without having Withdrawn	6

Only exceptions to automatically incurring Withdrawal Points

2. Automatic Withdrawal Points will not be incurred by a Player (in accordance with paragraph 1 above) only where any one or more of the following exceptions applies:
  - (a) the event in question is an 8U event;
  - (b) (i) the circumstances described in Regulation 15.10(a) exist, (ii) the Player Withdraws AND (iii) that Regulation also provides that no Withdrawal Points will be incurred in those particular circumstances;
  - (c) (i) the particular circumstances described in Regulation 15.10(b) exist, (ii) the Player's requirement to play (or selection to play) in such overlapping competition was not (and could not have been) known before the Withdrawal deadline for the competition (from which the Player wishes to Withdraw) and (iii) the prior written approval of the Referee (of the competition from which the Player wishes to Withdraw) has been obtained pursuant to Regulation 3.13(b);
  - (d) (i) the circumstances described in Regulation 16.7 exist, (ii) the Player Withdraws and (iii) that Regulation also provides that no Withdrawal Points will be incurred in those particular circumstances; or
  - (e) in relation to paragraph 1(b) only of this Appendix Six, the Player appears at the competition venue ready and prepared to play in their relevant match(es) (but more than 15 minutes after their first match in the event has been called) and the Referee has agreed (at their sole discretion and being under no obligation to do so) not to treat the Player's failure to appear (in a manner compliant with Regulation 21.2) as a Withdrawal. In exercising their discretion (against which there is no right of appeal or other challenge), a Referee might take some or all of the following factors into consideration:

- i) whether or not the Player has made any attempt (usually by phone and confirmed by e-mail) to notify the Referee that they will be arriving late and of the time when they are likely to be ready to play, including without limitation the timing of such notification and how much advance notice was provided;
  - ii) importantly, whether or not the Player's match(es) may be easily rescheduled without disruption to either (I) the event or competition and/or (II) the Player's opponent(s);
  - iii) whether or not the Referee is satisfied (on which they shall be sole judge) that the Player has done everything that they reasonably can to be ready and prepared to play on time; and/or
  - iv) whether or not the Referee is satisfied (on which they shall be sole judge) that the circumstances resulting in the Player being late were not within their (or, in the case of a Child or Adult at Risk, their parent's, guardian's or primary carer's) control.
3. A Player who is on the reserve list may Withdraw at any time prior to the Organiser/Organising Committee or Referee contacting the Player (or, in the case of a Child or Adult at Risk, their parent, guardian or primary carer) to confirm their place in the draw, subject always to paragraph 4(f) below. The entry fee will be refunded pursuant to Regulation 16.11 above, and the Player will not incur Withdrawal Points.
4. For the avoidance of doubt:
  - (a) If a Player Withdraws (after the Withdrawal deadline) from or fails to appear at a competition in which they had entered more than one event, they will incur only one set of Withdrawal Points pursuant to paragraph 1 of this Appendix Six.
  - (b) Where a doubles pair Withdraws (after the Withdrawal deadline) from or fails to appear at an event in which they had entered, both Players in the doubles pair will each incur one set of Withdrawal Points pursuant to paragraph 1 above, unless the Organiser/Organising Committee and/or the Referee at the time of the Withdrawal or the failure to appear is satisfied (on which they shall be sole judge) that the Withdrawal or failure to appear is solely due to only one of the Players (in which case only that Player will incur Withdrawal Points).
  - (c) Withdrawal Points are applicable in compulsory consolation events and also, where the consolation event is not compulsory, if a Player has opted-in to play the consolation event.
  - (d) Provided that the Player has not arrived at the event sick or injured, a Player, who retires during a match due to sickness or injury will not incur Withdrawal Points (and will also not incur Withdrawal Points if, as a result of that retirement or ruling, they are unable to participate further in the event or in other events in the same competition).
  - (e) A Player who is ruled by the Referee to be unable to compete due to serious sickness or injury pursuant to Regulation 24.9, will not incur Withdrawal Points (and will also not incur Withdrawal Points if, as a result of that ruling, they are unable to participate further in the event or in other events in the same competition).
  - (f) A Player who Withdraws from a competition or event as a result of being suspended (i.e. where a Player was accepted for a competition or event and subsequently, after the Withdrawal deadline, notified of a suspension for a period covering the competition) will not incur Withdrawal Points for that competition or event.
  - (g) A Player on the reserve list may notify the Referee that they decline to play if called upon in the 24 hours prior to the start of the relevant event and will not incur Withdrawal Points for doing so if they notify the Referee to that effect within 1 hour of having been called upon to do so. Every event (e.g. singles, doubles, different age groups, etc) will be considered separately for the purposes of this

paragraph both for the purposes of permitting a Player to decline to play in that particular event and also requiring a Player explicitly to notify the Referee that they decline to play in that particular event within the relevant period noted in this paragraph.

5. The Referee will submit details of Withdrawals made after the Withdrawal deadline for the competition in question, and failures to appear, to the LTA pursuant to Regulations 10.4 and 30. It will be for the Referee and/or the Organiser/Organising Committee to determine in submitting those details whether and when a Player has Withdrawn and whether or not a Player has failed to appear.
6. Where a Player incurs automatic Withdrawal Points, the LTA will notify the Player by email as soon as reasonably practicable.

#### Appeals – general, including summary dismissal

7. The incurring of Withdrawal Points will not be capable of being appealed against (or otherwise challenged), except only where the Player is appealing Withdrawal Points on the ground of Exceptional Circumstances (as defined in paragraph 9 below). A Player must not attempt to appeal (or otherwise challenge) any Withdrawal Points where any one or more of the Summary Dismissal Circumstances (as defined in paragraph 10 below) exists.
8. Any attempt to appeal (or otherwise challenge) any Withdrawal Points incurred may be summarily dismissed by the LTA where any one (or more) of the Summary Dismissal Circumstances exists. There is no right to appeal against such a summary dismissal. For the avoidance of doubt, the LTA will consider whether or not there are Summary Dismissal Circumstances if the Player in question accumulates ten or more Withdrawal Points within a rolling twelve-month period and will notify the Player accordingly at that time.

#### Appeals - what are “Exceptional Circumstances”?

9. In this Appendix Six, “Exceptional Circumstances” means circumstances which both:
  - (a) are unexpected, unavoidable and not within the reasonable control of the Player (or, in the case of a Child or Adult at Risk, the reasonable control of their parent, guardian or primary carer), which circumstances:
    - i) did not exist prior to the Withdrawal deadline; and
    - ii) directly lead to the need to Withdraw after the Withdrawal deadline and/or the failure to appear in accordance with Regulation 21.2; and
  - (b) are not Summary Dismissal Circumstances.

#### Appeals - what are the “Summary Dismissal Circumstances”?

10. In this Appendix Six, “Summary Dismissal Circumstances” means any of the following circumstances (which are then subject to paragraph 8 above):
  - (a) If (at any time after the Withdrawal deadline), a Player Withdraws from a competition or event, as a result of, or citing, acceptance or qualification of that Player into another competition of any level;

***Explanatory note:*** if either of paragraphs 2(b) and 2(c) of this Appendix Six applies, Withdrawal Points should not have been automatically incurred for the relevant Withdrawal but would still be incurred if there is a failure to appear without Withdrawing – that failure to Withdraw would constitute Summary Dismissal Circumstances (and so the Withdrawal Points would not be capable of appeal).



- (b) If a Player has suffered an illness or injury prior to the Withdrawal deadline for the relevant event and does not Withdraw before that Withdrawal deadline but later Withdraws from the competition or event as a result of, or citing, that illness or injury;

***Explanatory note:*** Any failure to Withdraw before the Withdrawal deadline in the hope of recovering from the illness or injury in time for the start of the relevant event in the competition does not constitute *Exceptional Circumstances*.

- (c) If (prior to the start of an event but after the Withdrawal deadline for that event) a Player Withdraws citing injury (which is said to have occurred or commenced after the Withdrawal deadline) but the Player then plays in another event at any competition within seven days after the start date of the relevant event from which the Player Withdraw;
- (d) If (prior to the start of an event but after the Withdrawal deadline for that event) a Player Withdraws citing illness but plays in a match in another event within three days after the start date of the relevant event from which the Player Withdraw;
- (e) If on three or more occasions within the same rolling twelve-month period, a Player has previously Withdrawn after the Withdrawal deadline for an event, having (i) given no reason and/or (ii) having cited illness or injury (of the Player or, in the case of a Child or Adult at Risk, of their parent, guardian or primary carer), and incurred Withdrawal Points in accordance with this Appendix Six for doing so – any further Withdrawal Points incurred will not be capable of appeal and any attempt to appeal will be summarily dismissed in terms of paragraph 8;
- (f) In relation to Withdrawal Points which have been accumulated within the same rolling twelve-month period, two or more valid appeals which were submitted by (or on behalf of) the Player have been considered by a Disciplinary Tribunal in terms of paragraph 14 and the Disciplinary Tribunal has not upheld two or more of those appeals – any other Withdrawal Points will not be capable of appeal and any attempt to appeal will be summarily dismissed in terms of paragraph 8; or
- (g) If the Player refuses to play (or fails to appear for) a compulsory consolation event, including where the consolation event is not compulsory but the Player opted-in to play it.
- (h) For the avoidance of doubt, the LTA will at its discretion be entitled to check, consider and/or take into account any information available to it, within its control, obtained by it from a third party and/or in the public domain in determining whether or not Summary Dismissal Circumstances exist, including (without limitation) information from competition organisers of any level of competition, information in relation to other competitions, matches played, match scores and other Withdrawal Points, and reasons given for retirals and other Withdrawals (whether before, at or after the relevant Withdrawal deadline for the other competition in question).

#### Submission of an appeal by a Player

11. Subject to paragraphs 7 and 8 above, if a Player wishes to appeal against Withdrawal Points incurred on the ground(s) of Exceptional Circumstances, then the Player must, within **fourteen calendar days** of the notification referred to in paragraph 6 above being sent by the LTA:
- (a) provide written notice of the appeal on the form made available by the LTA (whether through its Competition Management System or otherwise) from time to time; and
- (b) provide all statements and any other supporting evidence which the Player wishes the Disciplinary Tribunal to consider in determining the appeal (should the need arise). For the avoidance of doubt, the onus is on the Player to seek to prove that there were Exceptional Circumstances which gave rise to the Withdrawal after the Withdrawal deadline or the failure to appear. It is not for the relevant official to prove that they were justified in recording a Withdrawal or failure to appear,

- i) (together this will be referred to as the “**Player’s Appeal Documentation**”).
- ii) Any notice of appeal submitted more than **fourteen calendar days** after the LTA sent the notification referred to in paragraph 6 above will be out of time, not a valid appeal and so will be summarily dismissed by the LTA. There is no right to appeal against such a summary dismissal.

**Explanatory note:** *The Player’s Appeal Documentation needs to include everything which the Player wishes to submit in support of their appeal. Where something is capable of being evidenced by a document, that should be included as part of the Player’s Appeal Documentation. If not provided as part of the Player’s Appeal Documentation within the fourteen calendar day period referred to above, it will be assumed not to be available. As much “independent” documentation or information (e.g. from a person who is not the Player nor related to or connected to the Player) as possible should be provided by the Player. For example, if the alleged “Exceptional Circumstance” is that the train on which the Player was scheduled to travel is cancelled on the day of the match, then evidence of the booking of that train (showing the date and time of booking), evidence of the cancellation of that train, evidence of other trains and other public transport running (or not running) that day and an explanation as to why alternative transport could not be sourced should all be provided by the Player (as a minimum).*

12. Upon receipt of any appeal, the LTA may (but is under no obligation to) seek further information from any person(s) that the LTA deems appropriate. The Disciplinary Tribunal may not issue directions contrary to this paragraph.
13. A Player’s Appeal Documentation, together with any further information obtained by the LTA in terms of paragraph 12 above, will be kept on file by the LTA and, if or when applicable, considered pursuant to paragraph 14 below.

#### Determination of valid appeal by Disciplinary Tribunal

14. If a Player accumulates ten or more Withdrawal Points within a rolling twelve-month period, then any appeal against any of the Withdrawal Points incurred (provided always that such appeal is valid and also not summarily dismissed in terms of paragraphs 7, 8 and/or 11 above) will be referred by the LTA to a Disciplinary Tribunal. The following provisions will then apply:
  - (a) The LTA will provide the Player’s Appeal Documentation and a copy of the Player’s record of Withdrawal Points to the Disciplinary Tribunal. Should the LTA wish to make any written submissions in relation to the appeal (but noting that it is under no obligation to do so), those written submissions will be provided to the Disciplinary Tribunal at the same time.
  - (b) The Player will be notified when such referral is made and provided with a copy of the information sent to the Disciplinary Tribunal.
  - (c) The Disciplinary Tribunal will make a decision based solely on what is provided to it in accordance with paragraph 14(a) above.
  - (d) The Disciplinary Tribunal will not make a finding contrary to the relevant official’s decision unless it is satisfied that the Player has proved, on the balance of probabilities, that there were Exceptional Circumstances for the Withdrawal after the Withdrawal deadline or for the failure to appear (as applicable).
  - (e) Any appeal will be considered on the papers.
  - (f) If the Disciplinary Tribunal determines that there were such Exceptional Circumstances for the Withdrawal after the Withdrawal deadline or for the failure to appear (as applicable), then the

Withdrawal Points which were the subject of the particular appeal will be removed from the Player's record.

15. The decision of the Disciplinary Tribunal on any appeal, pursuant to paragraph 14 above, is final and binding with no further right of appeal.
16. For the avoidance of doubt, the Disciplinary Tribunal will consider only any valid appeal in respect of the Withdrawal Points incurred which are the subject of the appeal. It will not have jurisdiction to consider or make any decision in respect of Withdrawal Points which may not be appealed in accordance with the terms of this Appendix Six (including but not limited to where the appeal has been summarily dismissed).

#### Accumulation of Withdrawal Points

17. If a Player accumulates ten or more Withdrawal Points within a rolling twelve-month period, then each set of ten Withdrawal Points will attract a separate period of suspension, each calculated in accordance with paragraph 19 below.
18. If, as at the expiry of the rolling twelve-month period, a Player has accumulated ten or more Withdrawal Points, those points shall remain active until the appropriate suspension(s) has/have been imposed in accordance with paragraph 19 below.
19. Subject to paragraphs 20, 21 and 22 below, when a Player accumulates ten Withdrawal Points within a rolling twelve-month period and:
  - (a) no appeal was submitted in respect of any of those Withdrawal Points;
  - (b) there was an attempt to submit an appeal but it was not a valid appeal and/or it was summarily dismissed; and/or
  - (c) a valid appeal was submitted (or valid appeals were submitted) in respect of Withdrawal Points in accordance with paragraph 11 above and the Disciplinary Tribunal did not uphold the appeal(s) such that the relevant Withdrawal Points remain on the Player's record and there continue to be ten or more Withdrawal Points on their record,
    - i) then the Player will receive an automatic suspension of:
    - ii) two weeks, for the first application of this paragraph;
    - iii) three weeks, for the second application of this paragraph in relation to the same rolling twelve-month period;
    - iv) four weeks, for the third application of this paragraph in relation to the same rolling twelve-month period; and
    - v) five weeks, for the subsequent applications of this paragraph in relation to the same rolling twelve-month period.
    - vi) The automatic suspension will cover (and so will prohibit the Player who is subject to it from) entering, playing and/or otherwise competing in any LTA Sanctioned Competition or event therein or otherwise competing in the Game and, in addition, during the period of the automatic suspension, the Player will not be in "good standing" (or the equivalent for the relevant competition) for the purposes of any competition controlled, sanctioned, recognised, authorised or organised by any other governing body (including, but not limited to the ITF, Tennis Europe, the Women's Tennis Association and the Association of Tennis Professionals). Should a Player play in any competition or otherwise compete (including but not limited to in any competition

controlled, sanctioned, recognised, authorised or organised by any other governing body) while subject to the automatic suspension, this will constitute Misconduct on the part of the Player in terms of the LTA Disciplinary Code and will be dealt with in accordance with it.

**Explanatory note 1:** For the avoidance of doubt, the rolling twelve-month period referred to above in paragraphs 19(ii) to (iv) of this Appendix Six, relates to when the Withdrawals or failures to appear occurred (and so when the Withdrawal Points were accumulated) and not when any previous suspension took place.

**Explanatory note 2:** For example, if a Player has accumulated nine Withdrawal Points (which have not been appealed) between 1 January 2025 and 30 September 2025, and then incurs a further three Withdrawal Points (which have not been appealed) on 1 October 2025, making 12 Withdrawal Points in total, they will receive an automatic suspension of two weeks pursuant to paragraph 19(i), above (for the accumulation of ten Withdrawal Points within a rolling twelve-month period. They will effectively begin another rolling twelve-month period on 1 October 2025 and will be treated as having incurred two Withdrawal Points on that day (i.e. the two points that did not count towards the ten for the purposes of paragraph 19(i) of this Appendix Six). If they incur a further eight Withdrawal Points (which have not been appealed) before 31 December 2025 (making a total of twenty Withdrawal Points in the original rolling twelve-month period, 1 January – 31 December 2025), they will receive a further automatic suspension of three weeks pursuant to paragraph 19(ii) of this Appendix Six.

#### Determination of period(s) covered by automatic suspension(s)

20. For the purposes of determining the period of the suspension in terms of this Appendix Six, a week will commence at 00:01 on a Sunday and end at 23:59 on the following Saturday.
21. In determining when the period of suspension under this Appendix Six will commence, the LTA will, in its complete discretion, take into consideration all playing consequences of the suspension and will exclude any periods of inactivity for the Player and any periods in which the Player is not fit, available and expected to play so as to ensure that the suspension is effective and meaningful. However, any suspension imposed will:
  - (a) In order to avoid disruption to other competitions, ordinarily not commence before the third Sunday after (i) the expiry of the period within which an appeal may be submitted (in accordance with paragraph 11 above) for the accrual of the tenth Withdrawal Point or (ii) if applicable, the determination by the Disciplinary Tribunal of any appeal. This is in order to allow the Player to Withdraw from any competition in which they are entered without incurring further Withdrawal Points.
  - (b) Ordinarily include weeks in which, as at the date of determining the period of suspension, the Player has, in fact, entered LTA Sanctioned Competition or other meaningful competition or has been selected for competition, or (in each case) is likely to do so. In considering if a Player is likely to enter a particular competition, the Player's playing history for that competition in the preceding three years may be taken into account. In considering if a competition is meaningful, whether or not the Player is fit, available and expected to play may be taken into account in deciding this.
  - (c) Ordinarily include the first weeks following the date of determining the period of suspension which meet the requirements of (a) and (b) and the remainder of this paragraph 21.
22. If the suspension date starts during an event, then a Player is not permitted to play in that event, even if part of the event takes place outside of the suspension dates. If the suspension date ends during an event, a Player is not permitted to play in that event, even if part of the event takes place outside of the suspension dates

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23. There is no right of appeal (or other challenge) in relation to the determination as to when the period of suspension pursuant to paragraph 19 above will commence or end or which weeks it covers.

Publication and interaction with LTA Disciplinary Code

24. Any Player who competes (or is believed to have competed) while suspended will be referred to the LTA Disciplinary Officer and may become subject to proceedings for alleged Misconduct as defined and under the LTA Disciplinary Code.
25. The LTA may publish a decision of the Disciplinary Tribunal made pursuant to paragraph 14 above (or a summary thereof), and details of suspensions imposed pursuant to paragraph 19 above (including details of the Withdrawal Points received).
26. If a suspension is imposed on a Player under paragraph 29 of Part B of the LTA Disciplinary Code (or agreed by a Player under paragraph 25 of Part B of the LTA Disciplinary Code) in respect of the same incident as the Player was issued with Withdrawal Points, then the applicable Withdrawal Points incurred in relation to that particular Withdrawal after the Withdrawal deadline, or failure to appear (as applicable), will be reduced to zero for the purposes of the accumulation of Withdrawal Points in terms of paragraph 19 of this Appendix Six. This is to avoid a Player being subject to two periods of suspension in respect of the same incident.

**APPENDIX SEVEN - COMPETITION FORMATS**

<b>Age Group</b>	<b>Approved Scoring Formats</b>	<b>Grade<sup>2</sup></b>	<b>Recommend Scoring Format</b>
<b>8 &amp; Under</b>	One Match Tie-break (to 10 points, 2 clear at 9-9) <sup>1</sup>	1 - 5	One Match Tie-break (to 10 points, 2 clear at 9-9)
<b>9 &amp; Under</b>	One Match Tie-break (to 10 points, 2 clear at 9-9) <sup>1</sup> Best of three Tie-breaks (to 7 points, 2 clear at 6-6) <sup>1</sup> One FAST4 set (to 4 games, tie-break at 3-3)	1 - 3	Best of three Tie-breaks (to 7 points, 2 clear at 6-6)
		4 & 5	One Match Tie-break (to 10 points, 2 clear at 9-9)
<b>10 &amp; Under</b>	One FAST 4 set (to 4 games, tie-break at 3-3) Best of two FAST4 sets (to 4 games, tie-break at 3-3) with a match tie-break at one set all	1 - 3	Best of two FAST4 sets (to 4 games, tie-break at 3-3) with a match tie-break at one set all
		4 & 5	One FAST 4 set (to 4 games, tie-break at 3-3)
<b>11 &amp; Under</b>	Best of two FAST4 sets (to 4 games, tie-break at 3-3) with a match tie-break at one set all Best of two tie-break sets (to 6 games, tie-break at 6-6) with a match tie-break at one set all Best of three tie-break sets (to 6 games, tie-break at 6-6)	1 - 3	Best of two tie-break sets (to 6 games, tie-break at 6-6) with a match tie-break at one set all
		4 & 5	Best of two FAST4 sets (to 4 games, tie-break at 3-3) with a match tie-break at one set all
<b>12 &amp; Under</b> <b>14 &amp; Under</b> <b>16 &amp; Under</b> <b>18 &amp; Under</b>	Best of two FAST4 sets (to 4 games, tie-break at 3-3) with a match tie-break at one set all	1	Best of three tie-break sets (to 6 games, tie-break at 6-6) OR Best of two tie-break sets (to 6 games, tie-break at 6-6) with a match tie-break at one set all
	Best of two tie-break sets (to 6 games, tie-break at 6-6) with a match tie-break at one set all	2 & 3	Best of two tie-break sets (to 6 games, tie-break at 6-6) with a match tie-break at one set all
	Best of three tie-break sets (to 6 games, tie-break at 6-6)	4 & 5	Best of two FAST4 sets (to 4 games, tie-break at 3-3) with a match tie-break at one set all
<b>Open</b>	Best of two FAST4 sets (to 4 games, tie-break at 3-3) with a match tie-break at one set all	1 & 2	Best of three tie-break sets (to 6 games, tie-break at 6-6)
	Best of two tie-break sets (to 6 games, tie-break at 6-6) with a match tie-break at one set all	3	Best of two tie-break sets (to 6 games, tie-break at 6-6) with a match tie-break at one set all
	Best of three tie-break sets (to 6 games, tie-break at 6-6)	4 & 5	Best of two FAST4 sets (to 4 games, tie-break at 3-3) with a match tie-break at one set all

<sup>1</sup> A deciding point may be used instead of two clear at 6-6 or 9-9<sup>2</sup> Grade 6 & 7 must use an approved scoring format

**FAST4 SCORING FORMAT**

Where the FAST4 scoring format is used the following rules shall apply:

1. Matches will be played as the best of two (2) short sets (first to four (4) games) with a tie-break (first to seven (7) points, two points clear at six (6) points all) played at three (3) games all. If at the conclusion of the second set, the score is 1 set all, a match tie-break (first to ten (10) points, two points clear at nine (9) points all) will be played to determine the outcome of the match.
2. All singles and doubles matches will be played using no-ad scoring, with the receiver choosing the side to receive the service from when the game reaches deuce. In doubles the receiving team cannot change positions to receive this deciding point. The player/team who wins the deciding point wins the game.
3. Between points, a maximum of twenty-five (25) seconds is allowed. The maximum time starts from the moment that one point finishes until the first service is struck for the next point.
4. When the players change ends at the end of a game, a maximum of sixty (60) seconds are allowed. Players are not permitted to sit down during the change of ends during a set.
5. At the end of each set there shall be a set break of a maximum of ninety (90) seconds. Players are permitted to sit down at the end of a set.
6. Players are entitled to a 20 minute rest in between matches. The minimum rest periods may be reduced in exceptional circumstances.
7. Player shall be scheduled to play up to four (4) FAST4 singles matches in a day.

**The following alternative procedures and scoring methods as defined in Appendix V of the ITF Rules of Tennis are approved for LTA Sanctioned Competitions.**

### **Rule 5 – Score in a game - ‘no-ad’ scoring format**

A “No-Ad” game is scored as follows with the server’s score being called first:

No points	-	“Love”
First point	-	“15”
Second point	-	“30”
Third point	-	“40”
Fourth point	-	“Game”

If each player/team has won three points, the score is “Deuce” and a deciding point shall be played. The receiver(s) shall choose whether to receive the service from the right half or the left half of the court. In doubles, the players of the receiving team cannot change positions to receive this deciding point. The player/team who wins the deciding point wins the “Game”.

In mixed doubles, the player of the same sex category as the server shall receive the deciding point. The players of the receiving team cannot change positions to receive the deciding point.

### **Rule 6 and 7 – Score in a set – short sets**

The first player/team who wins four games wins that set, provided there is a margin of two games over the opponent(s). If the score reaches three games all, a tie-break game shall be played.

### **Rule 6 and 7 – Score in a set – match tie-break (10 points)**

When the score in a match is one set all, or two sets all in best of five sets matches, one tie-break game shall be played to decide the match. This tie-break game replaces the deciding final set. The player/team who first wins ten points shall win this match tie-break and the match provided there is a margin of two points over the opponent(s).

*Note: When using the match tie-break to replace the final set:*

- *the original order of service continues. (Rules 5 and 14)*
- *in doubles, the order of serving and receiving within the team may be altered, as in the beginning of each set. (Rules 14 and 15)*
- *before the start of the match tie-break there shall be a 120-second set break.*
- *balls should not be changed before the start of the match tie-break even if a*
- *ball change is due.*

### **Rule 22 – The let during a service - “no let” rule**


This alternative is play without the service let in Rule 22.a, whereby a serve that touches the net, strap or band is in play. At the discretion of the sanctioning body, when playing doubles using short sets in combination with No-Ad scoring and the No-Let rule, either player on the receiving team is permitted to return a serve that touches the net, strap or band and lands within the correct service box.



**APPENDIX EIGHT - COMPETITION AGE GROUPS 2025**

**Tennis**

		Player Age Group									
		8U (Red)	9U (Orange)	10U (Green)	11U	12U	14U	16U	18U		
Year of Birth	2007								2007-2014	2007	
	2008									2008	
	2009							2009 - 2014		2009	
	2010									2010	
	2011						2011 - 2014			2011	
	2012							2012			
	2013					2013 - 2014				2013	
	2014				2014 or 2015					2014	
	2015			2015 or 2016							2015
	2016		2016 or 2017								2016
2017	2017 or later								2017		
2018									2018		



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