

LTA COMPETITION REGULATIONS 2025

SUMMARY OF SUBSTANTIVE CHANGES

Structure

The Competition Regulations have been restructured to make them easier to understand by all stakeholders and to better align with the way that we train and educate our officials and the life cycle of a competition.

These regulations have been broken down into 7 parts:

- Part A - General
- Part B - Competition Framework
- Part C - Personnel
- Part D - Organising A Competition
- Part E - Participating In A Competition
- Part F - ITF World Tennis Number and LTA Rankings
- Part G - Miscellaneous

Terminology

Competition Code of Conduct – previous versions have referred to the code of conduct as the LTA Code of Conduct. Following the introduction of the new, consolidated LTA Code of Conduct in 2022, the code of conduct applied to competition shall be referred to as the Competition Code of Conduct.

LTA Ratings – any references to the former LTA Rating system have been removed and are now replaced with the ITF World Tennis Number but is defined as the rating system for tennis in Britain.

Substantive Changes

A belt and braces review has been completed to close loopholes, simplify terminology and introduce missing regulations.

Interpretation & Amendment (2.4, 3.1)

The new LTA Competition Regulations provide for the ability for the LTA Competitions Team to make interpretations regarding the regulations provided they are consistent with the spirit and intent of the LTA Competition Regulations. The LTA Competitions Team with agreement of the LTA Legal Team may also introduce an emergency regulation without the need for Board approval (any regulation amendment made in year will go to Board for approval in the December for publication at the start of the next calendar year).

Transgender and Non-Binary Individuals Policy (8.1)

The new Transgender and Non-Binary Individuals Policy has been applied throughout the regulations.

8U, 9U & 10U Court Size & Ball Colour (9.2)

The regulations now provide for the LTA Competitions Team to vary the court size and ball type for 10U competitions. In line with our Performance Competition Calendar principles which support progression to the next stage of the competitive pathway, some national level competitions will use a ball and court size at the next stage of the pathway for players.



Referee – Conflicts of Interest (10.2)

Further expansion of the conflict of interest for the referee to prevent a referee accepting a player in which they have a conflict of interest where there is no other official involved in delivering the competition that can assume the referee's responsibilities for the player's matches.

Competition Management System & Entry (15.1, 15.2, 15.7)

The Competition Regulations have been clarified to ensure that all entries for LTA Sanctioned Competitions must be made through the Competition Management System or other approved system to ensure entries are validated against the regulations. The regulations also prevent the Organiser/Organising Committee from making their own entry restrictions without approval from the LTA Competitions Team. Finally the regulations have been updated to clarify that it is not the referee's responsibility to pair players without a partner entering into a doubles event.

Overlapping Competition Regulations – International Competition (15.10)

Changes to the overlapping competition regulations now prevent players who are playing in an international competition where the international sanctioning body restricts competing in overlapping events (concurrency) from competing in LTA Sanctioned Competition. However, once a player has been eliminated then they are permitted to do so if permission has been sought by the ITF/ATP/WTA Supervisor of that international competition.

Own Age Group Priority (16.1)

The Competition Regulations now grant the LTA Competitions Team the ability to extend the Own Age Group Priority (OAG) to all age groups following the successful pilot in the open age group. In practice this means that players of the age group are prioritised in the acceptance ahead of those younger age groups.

Clothing Regulations (26.1, 26.2, 26.3)

The LTA Competition Regulations have been revised to remove the existing clothing regulations (which required manufacturers and commercial logos to meet size requirements) to aligned to our efforts to make competition more accessible for people by removing barriers. It is proposed that players will be allowed to wear whatever they like provided it is appropriate and does not cause offence.

Results Submission (30.1, 30.2, 30.4)

The LTA Competition Regulations now require results being submitted quicker reducing from 72 hours to 48 hours to promote a better customer experience for players and parents in seeing and processing them quicker ensuring that results are included in ITF World Tennis Number and LTA Rankings weekly run. Players will not be able to challenge a result of a match after 3 months of the match taking place.

Prize money (31.4)

The new regulations require prize money is equally divided between men's and women's events for players reaching the same round.

Correspondence & Complaints (4.1, 35.1)

The Competition Regulations have been updated to direct all correspondence to the Customer Support Team via the Contact Us page. The regulations have also been updated to align with the latest customer support guidance.

Disciplinary System for Code Violations & Withdrawals (Appendix 5 & 6)

A series of changes have been made to the disciplinary system to improve the regulatory provisions and introduce technical enhancements to support this:

- Challenges have been renamed appeals.
- The number of points incurred for some offences has increased:
 - An immediate default (with the exception of failing to complete a match) will now incur 8 code violation points;
 - Withdrawing from a competition during the event will now incur 4 withdrawal points; and
 - Failing to appear at an event will incur 6 withdrawal point.
- Withdrawal points will only be eligible for appeal if “Exceptional Circumstances” exist, which include, but are not limited to, there being circumstances which are unexpected, unavoidable and not within the control of the player (or their parent/guardian/primary carer). There are also “Summary Dismissal Circumstances”, which would allow an appeal to be rejected without going to a Disciplinary Tribunal.
- Further clarity is provided on the possible grounds of appeal with any valid appeals being referred to a Disciplinary Tribunal for a decision.