

MODIFIED GREEN COURT TRIAL: COUNTY TOUR & LOCAL TOUR – JANUARY TO APRIL 2026 COMPETITION ORGANISER AND REFEREE BRIEF

We are excited to inform you about an important development in the LTA's 10&U Competition Framework. As part of our ongoing efforts to enhance the tennis experience for young players, we will be trialling a modified green court at all 10U County Tour (Grade 4) and Local Tour (Grade 5) events taking place in the January – April 2026 period (specifically 5 January – 22 April 2026).

WHY THE TRIAL?

A key finding from an extensive competition was the need to attract more young players to the sport and support their progression. An area identified for further exploration was the competition framework - specifically court size, net height, and competition opportunities. Feedback highlighted that many players struggle with the transition from the orange court to the standard green court, particularly in skill development areas such as serving. To address this, we have been exploring a modified version of the green court that better aligns with players' age and stage of development. Our goal is to create an environment that supports player development and makes the transition from playing the game to competing smoother and more effective.

In response, a reduced length court (21m) with a lowered net height (0.8m) has been proposed as an alternative for the green stage. This modified court has already been successfully trialled in Belgium and France, as well as at LTA Staged National and Regional Tour competitions in 2025. The modification offers a more suitable ratio between the average players' height and court length, which could promote better development during this critical transition phase. We also believe that the modified court could have a positive impact on player experience and enjoyment, helping to retain players in the sport.

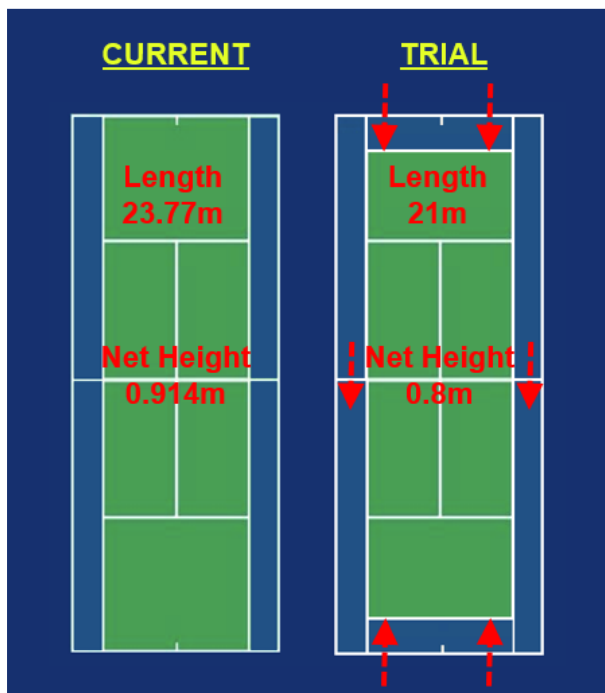
Feedback from stakeholders involved in the initial trial included:

- 100% of court supervisors thought that setting up the modified green court was 'Easy'
- 72% of players enjoyed playing on the modified green court either a little or a lot
- 86% of parents said it is a good fit for an orange-to-green transition
- 100% of national coaches recommended the modified green court as an effective transitional step

TRIAL DETAILS

As a result of the previous successful trials, and the successful implementation in other nations, we are now trialling the modified green court at a wider variety of competitions to enable a better understanding of the practical considerations and the potential impact beyond a performance environment. Therefore, a third phase of the trial is being delivered, and the modified 10U court will be used for all 10U County Tour (Grade 4) and Local Tour (Grade 5) events in the January – April 2026 competition period (specifically 5 January to 22 April 2026).

The key adjustments for the modified court are:



- **Court Length**

Reduced to 21m (from the standard 23.77m).

- **Net Height**

Lowered to 0.8m (from the standard 0.914m)

- **Court Width**

Remains unchanged at 8.23m

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW:

- This trial is being conducted in response to substantial feedback indicating that the green court, in its current form, is not perceived as the best for developing this age group.
- Feedback consistently suggests that the transition from the orange court to the green court is the most significant development obstacle for players at this stage.
- Research has identified that the current green court dimensions have the least appropriate ratio between the player and the length of the court. The trial aims to create a more appropriate environment for the age group, enhancing skill progression, reducing developmental challenges and improving player experience.
- You must ensure that all matches are conducted using the modified court specifications. These adjustments are intended to maintain fairness while providing a more age-appropriate competitive experience.
- This court modification is being trialled at 10U County Tour (Grade 4) and Local Tour (Grade 5) competitions taking place from January - April 2026 (specifically 5 January – 22 April 2026)
- A briefing document has been developed to give parents and players more information about the trial. You can read the player and parent information document [here](#).

WHAT YOU NEED TO DO:

- Once your competition applications are approved you must add the following paragraph to the factsheet for all 10U Grade 4 & Grade 5 events (this includes one day and weeklong competitions):

MODIFIED GREEN COURT TRIAL FOR 10&U PLAYERS As part of our ongoing efforts to enhance the tennis experience for young players, we will be trialling a modified green court for this 10U event. More information will be communicated with players when accepted into the event. Initial overview of changes - Court Length: Reduced to 21m (from the standard 23.77m) Net Height: Lowered to 0.8m (from the standard 0.914m) Court Width: Remains unchanged at 8.23m These changes are designed to support your child's development by making the game more relative to them.

- In any communications to parents/players about your 10U events (including acceptance and first match emails) you must include the following information about the trial:
“This 10U event will be played using a modified 10U court size as part of a trial being conducted by the LTA. Please view further information online at <https://www.lta.org.uk/4af902/siteassets/compete/junior/file/10u-court-trial-county-and-local-tour-parent-and-player-brief.pdf>”
- At your 10U County Tour and Local Tour events you will need to set up the courts as follows:
 - Lower the net height to 0.8m
 - Lay a modified baseline (using either masking tape or a roll-out solid line) that is 1.38m inside the existing baseline at both ends of the court (measure from the outside edge of the existing baseline)
- When scheduling matches for your 10U events allow time for setting up the courts, so consider this when deciding first match times (matches should start 30 minutes after the start of your court booking).
- After the events, please provide feedback using the Microsoft form that will be sent to you. We will be asking for your insights in relation to how long it took to set up the courts, how easy the process was, and any challenges encountered, to support with assessing the feasibility of these court adjustments. Your feedback is extremely important in helping us to better understand the practical considerations of implicating the modified court.

We'd like to thank you in advance for supporting this trial, we really appreciate your cooperation, and your input and feedback will play a pivotal role in shaping the future of the 10U competition framework within British tennis.

If you have any queries or concerns regarding the trial, please contact the LTA via competitionplanning@lta.org.uk