

LTA OVER 35s COUNTY CUP EVENT 2026
Women's – Friday 31st July to Sunday 2nd August 2026
Men's – Friday 7 to Sunday 9 August 2026

Competition Pack

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Introduction and Important Dates

Welcome to the Competition Pack for the LTA Over 35s County Cup Event. It is hoped the following information will help answer any questions you may have about the Event.

LTA County Cup Events gives a player the opportunity of representing their county in a competitive team environment and the age groups range from 9U through to adult categories.

Event & Dates	Nominations Open	Nominations Close
LTA Over 35s County Cup Event <u>Women's Event</u> Friday 31 st to Sunday 2 August 2026 <u>Men's Event</u> Friday 7 to Sunday 9 August 2026	Monday 6 July 2026	Monday 20 July 2026



Women's Event – Friday 31st July to Sunday 2nd August 2026

Men's Event – Friday 7th to Sunday 9th August 2026

*All men's and women's groups held at **Devonshire Park Lawn Tennis Club**:*

Devonshire Park

College Road

Eastbourne, BN21 4JJ

Men's Group 1		W	R
A	Derbyshire		
B	Yorkshire		
C	Warwickshire		
D	South Wales		

Men's Group 2a		W	R
A	Surrey		
B	Middlesex		
C	Leicestershire		
D	North Wales		

Men's Group 2b		W	R
A	Oxfordshire		
B	Kent		
C	Cheshire		
D	Suffolk		

Men's Group 3a		W	R
A	West of Scotland		
B	Dorset		
C	Devon		
D	Lancashire		

Men's Group 3b		W	R
A	Hertfordshire		
B	Cambridgeshire		
C	Norfolk		
D	Hampshire & IOW		

Men's Group 4a		W	R
A	Sussex		
B	East of Scotland		
C	Herefordshire & Worcestershire		
D	Lincolnshire		

Men's Group 4b		W	R
A	North of Scotland		
B	Avon		
C	Bedfordshire		
D	Somerset		

Women's Group 1		W	R
A	Surrey		
B	Warwickshire		
C	Hertfordshire		
D	Yorkshire		

Women's Group 2a		W	R
A	Middlesex		
B	Lancashire		
C	Leicestershire		
D	Avon		

Women's Group 2b		W	R
A	Somerset		
B	Kent		
C	Cheshire		
D	North of Scotland		

Women's Group 3a		W	R
A	Sussex		
B	Hampshire & IOW		
C	Essex		
D	Berkshire		

Women's Group 3b		W	R
A	Nottinghamshire		
B	South Wales		
C	Bedfordshire		
D	Lincolnshire		

Women's Group 4a		W	R
A	Durham & Cleveland		
B	Buckinghamshire		
C	Herefordshire & Worcestershire		
D	East of Scotland		

Women's Group 4b		W	R
A	Norfolk		
B	Gloucestershire		
C	Derbyshire		
D	Northamptonshire		

Men's Group 5a		W	R
A	Cornwall		
B	Northamptonshire		
C	Gloucestershire		
D	South of Scotland		
Men's Group 5b		W	R
A	Essex		
B	Buckinghamshire		
C	Berkshire		
D	Wiltshire		

Men's Group 6a		W	R
A	Channel Islands		
B	Staffordshire		
C	Nottinghamshire		
D	Isle of Man		

Men's Group 6b		W	R
A	Shropshire		
B	Northumberland		
C	Cumbria		
D	Durham & Cleveland		

Women's Group 5a		W	R
A	Cornwall		
B	Dorset		
C	Devon		
D	Suffolk		
Women's Group 5b		W	R
A	Cambridgeshire		
B	Wiltshire		
C	North Wales		
D	West of Scotland		

Women's Group 6a		W	R
A	Shropshire		
B	Cumbria		
C	South of Scotland		
D	Channel Islands		

Women's Group 6b		W	R
A	Oxfordshire		
B	Isle of Man		
C	Northumberland		
D	Staffordshire		

***North Wales women's team has withdrawn**



LTA MEN'S & WOMEN'S OVER 35s COUNTY CUP EVENT

Women's Event – Friday 31 July to Sunday 2 August 2026

Men's Event – Friday 7 to Sunday 9 August 2026

TEAM CAPTAINS FACT SHEET

Personnel	Event Director – Hollie Milligan (Women's), Paul Midgley (Men's) Event Referee – Women's Event – Andy Fyfe Event Referee – Men's Event – Gill Andersson Court Supervisor – Women's Event – Suzi Larkin, David Mitchell, Kerrin Cross Court Supervisor – Men's Event – Suzi Larkin, Graham Hunt Physio – Pippa Kirtley and team Stringer – TBC
Tournament Office	Ground Floor Offices ITC Building – Devonshire Park College Road EASTBOURNE, BN21 4JJ Tel: 07703 472 406 E-Mail: countycup@lta.org.uk
Captain's Meeting	• Women's – Friday 31st July 9.15am in the Large Downstairs Room in the New Locker Room • Men's – Friday 7th August 9.15am in the Large Downstairs Room in the New Locker Room
Welcome Drinks	• Women's – Thursday 30th July 6.45pm in the Welcome Centre – overlooking the courts • Men's – Thursday 6th August 6.45pm in the Welcome Centre – overlooking the courts All teams / players and supporters are welcome.
Physiotherapist Pippa Kirtley	The treatment area will be on the 1st floor of the Locker Room building. On-court treatment or those players whose injury requires immediate treatment takes priority. This service will be available from one hour before play. The physio service cost is £200.00 per team and payment will be required on the first day at the relevant Event. Payment can be made either by cash or cheque at the Team Captains Meeting.
Stringer Luciano Cestari	<u>Women's – Friday 31st July to Sunday 2nd August 2026</u> Collect 10.00am each morning and return at approximately 5.00pm same day <u>Men's – Friday 7th to Sunday 9th August 2026</u> Collect 10.00am each morning and return at approximately 5.00pm same day The charge will be £15.00 per racket with strings – to be confirmed If you bring your own equipment you are requested not to operate on-site at Devonshire Park.
Player Eligibility	It is a county's responsibility to check the eligibility of all team players. The use of an ineligible player may result in a county forfeiting all rubber(s) in which that player competed and/or relegation. Please refer to LTA Rule 66. Provisional nominations have been entered into the LP file. However, it is the Referee's responsibility to check all players are Advantage members. If a player is not listed and the player does not have an Advantage number, then the player in question must join Advantage prior to play commencing.

Nominations & Use of Substitute	Counties may nominate a minimum of 4 and a maximum of 6 players. Please refer to Points 2 and 4 in the Rules and Regulations	
Practice Courts Arrangements TBC	6 courts are available at Devonshire Park. These can only be booked on-site – 30 mins per county. - Women's Event – Thursday 30 July 2.00pm to 6.30pm - Men's Event – Thursday 6 August 2.00pm to 6.30pm During the Event, weather and condition of courts permitting, practice courts will be available from 10.00am each day.	
Start Time of Play	Weather and condition of courts permitting, matches should start no later than 10.30am. Please refer to Points 11 and 14 in the Rules and Regulations.	
Match Format	Please refer to Points 3, 11 and 14 in the Rules and Regulations Rubbers should not be conceded if this affects the final position of counties in a group. Please refer to points 15 and 16 in Rules and Regulations.	
Order of Play	Round 1 Match 1 – Singles 2 v Singles 2 Match 2 – Singles 1 v Singles 1 Match 3 – Doubles 2 v Doubles 2 Friday – A v C and B v D Saturday – D v A and B v C Sunday – A v B and C v D	Round 2 Match 4 – Doubles 1 v Doubles 2 Match 5 – Doubles 2 v Doubles 1
Discipline & Code Violations	Your attention is drawn to Rule 14, 14.1, 14.2 and 14.3 of the Rules & Regulations regarding discipline of all players, both on and off-site, during the Event. All players must abide by the LTA Code of Conduct. The referee will inform the Team Captain if it has been necessary to issue a code violation. These will be recorded on the LP file and sent to the LTA. The LTA will be notified (verbally) immediately if it has been necessary to default a player. A default counts for the duration of the Event regardless of however many matches/days remain.	
Miscellaneous	<u>Tennis Balls</u> – The Dunlop Fort all-court ball will be used. Each match will be given 3 new cans of balls for the 1st Round of matches (2 singles + 1 doubles). The best used balls from earlier matches will be re-used for Round 2 (2 reverse doubles). <u>Clothing</u> - Players are reminded about the County Cup clothing regulations. Shirts with oversized logos should <u>NOT</u> be worn! <u>Finals Day Presentations – Sunday 2 and Sunday 9 August</u> Weather permitting; these will take place after play has ended. Medals will be given to each county winning their respective group. <u>Catering</u> – In the Catering area of the Welcome Building in the Devonshire Quarter Friday 31 July to Sunday 2 August – 10.00am to 4.00pm Friday 7 to Sunday 9 August – 10.00am to 4.00pm Team Captains are reminded about the necessity for teams to keep the venue tidy. All cups, crockery, glasses, etc. should be returned to the catering area. <u>Car Parking</u> – Reduced price car parking is no longer available and so the full price as detailed on the parking meters apply. <u>Changing Facilities</u> - Available in the New Fitness / Changing Room Building. The showers in the Tennis Centre are <u>NOT</u> available for use.	

General Rules & Regulations – applicable for all Events County Cup Events 2026

1. The management of the County Cup Events shall be entrusted to the LTA Competitions Team, with power to suspend or modify any of these Regulations to meet exceptional circumstances (including adaptation of scoring format(s)) and to decide any question of eligibility, qualifications of competitors and interpretation of the Regulations. The LTA Competitions Team's decision shall be final.
2. For the purpose of the County Cup Events, which shall be area competitions subject to the Lawn Tennis Associations Limited Rules 64 and 66 (including appendix 1), the following shall be regarded as Counties: East of Scotland, North of Scotland, South of Scotland, West of Scotland, North Wales, South Wales, Channel Islands, Isle of Man.
3. Although it is not compulsory to compete, all Counties shall be entered in the relevant County Cup Event. Any County intending not to compete in an Event must email notification to the Event Director (countycup@LTA.org.uk) 9 months before the relevant event. Where appropriate, any County that withdraws from an Event shall be placed in the lowest group for the following year and will have any applicable funding for that Event withdrawn.
4. A player is qualified to represent an area in any County Cup Event if they meet the criteria outlined in the Lawn Tennis Association Limited Rule 66. No player may represent more than one County in any Event.
5. Referee(s) shall be appointed for each venue by the LTA Competitions Team. The Referee shall decide any point that relates to the interpretation of the Rules of Tennis, County Cup Rules & Regulations and / or LTA Code of Conduct which may be referred to him/her. He/she shall decide whether or not the match shall be stopped owing to the state of the courts, the state of the weather, darkness, or other unavoidable hindrance. After consulting with the Event Director and / or Event Referee if necessary, the Referee shall have the final say in all on-site matters. Including adaptation of scoring formats.
6. Once final nominations have been submitted no other player may represent the County during the Event except in exceptional circumstances (such as illness, injury or bereavement) which reduces the number of available nominated players for a County to less than the minimum required for the relevant County Cup Event. In this case the Referee shall consult the Event Director, who may authorise the nomination of the necessary number of substitutes for the remainder of the Event.

If any County fails to field at least two singles players on any day, or, in the case of the Summer County Cup Event, 2 pairs, (unless for exceptional circumstances, as decided by the Event Director), all their matches in the competition shall be declared null and void and they shall finish bottom of the group.

Any County failing to show, report to the referee or nominate a full team on any day, (unless for exceptional circumstances, as decided by the Event Director), will have all their matches in the Event declared null and void and they shall finish bottom of the group. Furthermore, subject to investigation, they may be precluded from the following year's Event and will be placed in the bottom group of the relevant Event.

7. A County shall not be bound to play the same team throughout the Event but no change shall be made in the composition of the teams engaged in a match after daily nominations have been submitted. If any player, team or doubles pairing play out of order, those rubbers they competed in and below shall be declared null and void. If a match is postponed to the next day before any play has taken place the composition of the competing teams may be changed.
8. If an ineligible player competes then the singles rubber involving the player concerned, and all singles rubbers lower in the team order shall be forfeited. Any completed matches may stand for the purposes of ITF World Tennis Number, however, the overall team score for that particular match will be awarded to the opposing team for the purposes of the league table.
9. If a player(s) is / are defaulted, except in cases of punctuality, then that player(s) is no longer allowed to take any further part in that competition.
10. If a match in progress cannot be finished or a scheduled match has been unable to start on any day, it shall be completed on the following day before the start of the scheduled match for that day. In order to complete all matches, the use of abbreviated scoring should be considered for complete rounds of unfinished matches and, if necessary, the scheduled matches for that day.
11. If there are still unfinished matches at the close of play on the final day, the result of the matches shall be determined by the rubbers that have been completed providing one or two rounds of the day's programme have been completed in all matches of the group or section at that venue. Second round rubbers will only count if all second-round rubbers of all matches at that venue have been completed. If no play is possible or fewer than 3 rubbers have been completed in any match at any venue, the results of all the matches for that day at that venue shall be declared null and void.
12. For Events being played outdoors, indoor courts must not be used unless the courts are on-site and any additional cost to the LTA or a County Association has been authorised in advance by the Event Director.
13. All players are subject to the Rules and Regulations of the LTA (including, without limitation, the LTA's Anti-Doping Programme, the Disciplinary and Dispute Resolution Procedures and the Regulations Concerning Match Fixing, Financial Speculation and Betting) and fully and unconditionally submit to the jurisdiction and authority of the LTA by competing in the Competition.

14. The County Association via its appointed captain (or other designated person accompanying the Team) is responsible for the behaviour of its Team on and off the site for the duration of the event which includes but is not limited to travelling to, staying at accommodation and returning to the County.

Any incident shall be dealt with in accordance with these Regulations and the Lawn Tennis Association Limited Rules (including, for the avoidance of doubt, any Appendices). Entry into the County Cup Events constitutes acceptance, by both the County and its individual members of the team, of the LTA's jurisdiction to deal with any disciplinary matter in accordance with these Regulations (including the Code of Conduct) and the Lawn Tennis Association Limited Rules (including, for the avoidance of doubt, any Appendices). In particular, the following shall apply:

- a) Any disciplinary matter relating to an incident occurring on site shall be referred to the Referee for decision and any appeal against his / her decision shall be referred to the LTA Competitions Team and will be dealt with in accordance to the LTA Disciplinary & Dispute Resolution Procedures as set out at Appendix 3 to the Lawn Tennis Association Limited Rules.
 - b) Any disciplinary matter relating to an incident off site shall be referred to the LTA Competitions Team and will be dealt with in accordance with the LTA Disciplinary and Dispute Resolution Procedures as set out at Appendix 3 to the Lawn Tennis Association Limited Rules.
 - c) Any disciplinary matter relating to match fixing, financial speculation and betting, as set out in the Disciplinary Code, shall be referred to the LTA Competitions Team and will be dealt with in accordance with the LTA Disciplinary and Dispute Resolution Procedures as set out in Appendix 3 to the Lawn Tennis Association Limited rules.
15. Any complaint relating to eligibility of players and / or nominations must be lodged, in writing, with the Event Director at countycup@lta.org.uk within 48 hours after the end of the Event.
16. No complaint in connection with any LTA County Cup Event can be entertained by the LTA unless lodged with the LTA at countycup@lta.org.uk within 48 hours of the occurrence of the cause of the complaint.
17. Any on-site dispute(s) or complaint(s) during any County Cup Event can only be discussed by the officially appointed (County Cup) Team Captain with the Event Director and / or relevant referee for that Event.

LTA Men's & Women's Over 35s County Cup Event 2026 Special Regulations

1. Competing Counties will be divided into Groups. Excluding Group 1, Groups will be divided into Sections A and B of not more than four Counties. Each County shall play one match against each other County in the same Section or Group over 3 days.
2. Final nominations, in ITF (singles) World Tennis Number (WTN), must be submitted to the Referee 30 minutes before start of play on the first day. Equally ranked players may be nominated in any order but the nominated order must be maintained throughout the Event.

Counties should nominate a minimum of 4 and a maximum of 6 players.

Doubles nominations is at Team Captain's discretion.

3. Each match shall consist of five rubbers - two singles and three doubles: commencing with No 2 playing No 2 of the opposing team and then No 1 playing No 1 of the opposing team followed by doubles.

The Order of Play for each day will be as follows:

Round 1 Match 1 – Singles 2 v Singles 2 Match 2 – Singles 1 v Singles 1 Match 3 – Doubles 2 v Doubles 2 Friday – A v C and B v D Saturday – A v D and B v C Sunday – A v B and C v D	Round 2 Match 4 – Doubles 1 v Doubles 2 Match 5 – Doubles 2 v Doubles 1
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All rubbers to be best of 2 sets and a Match Tie-break.

Each match will be given 3 new cans of balls for the 1st Round of matches (2 x singles and 1 x doubles). The best used balls from those to be used for Round 2 (2 x remaining doubles).

4. Daily singles and doubles nominations must be submitted to the Referee 30 minutes before the start of play on each day. The singles players shall be nominated in order according to the final nominations (Reg 2).

Two named substitutes, who may be used for Round 2 doubles only, must be nominated at the same time as the singles and doubles nominations. A change of pairing for Round 2 may be made to the Referee before the start of that round.

A 5th / 6th player may be introduced to play doubles in Round 2 as a substitute for any player nominated to play in Round 1 but no player shall meet in Round 2 a player whom he met in Round 1. If both singles players are nominated to play doubles in Round 2 they must play together as a pair.

The 'away' team plays back to back matches for rubber 3 and 4.

A player who has been defaulted may not be substituted.

5. If any player(s) is absent when called upon to play by the Referee that rubber and all rubbers below shall be awarded to the opponent(s) and they shall be entitled to two love sets. This shall apply separately to singles and doubles. If in any rubber one or more player(s) is absent from each side the rubber shall be void.
6. If a player or doubles pair plays out of order, the opponent(s) shall be awarded two love sets.
7. If a player is unable to complete a rubber that has started due to injury, sickness or disqualification, the opposing player or pair shall be awarded the requisite number of games to win the rubber.
8. If any County fields an ineligible player, the rubbers contested by that player and all rubbers below shall be awarded to the opposition by a score of 6-0 6-0. This shall apply separately to singles and doubles.
9. If a match in progress cannot be finished on the scheduled day, the result of the match shall be determined by the rubbers that have been completed provided that Round 1 of the day's programme has been completed in both matches of the Group or, either team has won 2 singles rubbers. If the above has not been completed the following actions will take place:
 - (a) If no result has been achieved, the Referee will consider all possible options to achieve a result as specified above. These options could include completing outstanding matches at the end of a subsequent day's play or, the use of abbreviated scoring to complete rounds or unfinished matches and, if necessary, the scheduled matches for that day.
 - (b) In the event of neither of these options being considered practical by the Referee, the unfinished rubber(s) could be halved.
10. A team is awarded 1 point for each rubber won.
11. The team with the most rubber points shall win the match. A team will receive 2 match points on the league table for a match win.
12. Under no circumstances should rubbers be conceded. If on the final day a match in progress cannot be finished, the result of the match shall be determined by the rubbers that have been completed as follows:
 - (a) By the majority of rubbers won; or
 - (b) If there is equality of rubbers, by the majority of sets won; or
 - (c) If there is equality of rubbers and sets, by the majority of games won
 - (d) If there is equality of rubbers, sets and games, the match shall be tied and a draw recorded
13. If no play is possible in any group for the duration of the Event, the Event Director shall decide promotion and relegation of Counties for the following year, whether a Champion County can be declared or to declare the competition void.
14. The final standings in each Group or Section shall be determined by the following:
 - (a) The team with the greatest number of match points.
 - (b) If match points are equal, the team with the greatest number of rubber points.
 - (c) If only two teams are level on match points and rubber points; their head to head result.
 - (d) If more than two teams are level, the percentage of sets won out of sets played (if after this calculation, only two teams remain level, their head to head result will be used to break the tie)
 - (e) If more than two teams are level, the percentage of games won out of games played (if after this calculation, only two teams remain level, their head to head result will be used to break the tie)

15. The Group formation for the following year's Event shall be as follows:

Group 1:

- 1st and 2nd placed teams remain in Group
- 3rd placed team goes to Group 2a
- 4th placed team goes to Group 2b

Groups 2a & 2b:

- 1st placed teams go to Group 1
- 2nd placed teams remain in Group 2 and swap sections
- 3rd placed teams remain in Group and section
- 4th placed teams remain in section and are relegated to Group 3

Groups 3a to 5b:

- 1st placed teams change in section and are promoted to Group above
- 2nd placed teams remain in Group and swap sections
- 3rd placed teams remain in Group and section
- 4th placed teams remain in section and are relegated to Group below

Group 6a & 6b:

- 1st placed teams change section and are promoted to Group above
- 2nd & 4th placed teams remain in Group and swap sections
- 3rd placed teams remain in Group