

Aegon Team Tennis 2017

Open (adult) Age Group Rules (County, Regional & National Tier)

13. Eligibility

Venue Eligibility

13.1 Entry to Aegon Team Tennis ('the Competition') is open only to LTA registered venues, defined as Associates in Rule 28 of the LTA.

Team Eligibility

13.2 Events: Men's & Women's Open.

13.3 A venue may enter as many teams as it wishes in the competition but may have no more than 2 teams in any division of the National, Regional or County Tier. This rule applies to men and women separately.

13.4 Where a venue has two or more teams in the National and/or Regional Tier the top 4 rated players nominated may only play for team 'A'. Any other nominated players in the venue may play up or down in line with rule 13.5.

13.5 Where a venue has two or more teams in the Competition (County, Regional or National Tiers) a player may 'play up' on a maximum of one occasion without loss of eligibility for their lower team. Once a player has represented a higher team on more than one occasion, they are no longer eligible to represent the lower team.

Player Eligibility

13.6 A player may only:

- I. Represent one venue in the Open (adult) age group.
- II. Play in a maximum of two age groups (including 14&U, 16&U or 18&U).

13.7 All players must:

- I. Have a British Tennis Membership number which links to the venue they are competing for.
- II. Have a British Tennis rating.
- III. Be a member of the venue they are competing for as of 1 April 2017.
- IV. Be born on or before 31 August 2003

13.8 A venue with a team(s) in the County Tier, does not need to nominate players and can play players of any standard.

A venue with a team in the National or Regional Tier may nominate up to 12 players rated 3.2 or better no later than 6 March 2017¹. For each additional team in the National/Regional Tier, up to a further 9 players rated 3.2 or better may be nominated by the venue.

Of the nominated players a venue may include up to 2 players that have an ATP/WTA singles world ranking of 750 or better as of 6 March 2017 who have not played in at least 2 Aegon Team Tennis fixtures for the venue in each of the last 2 seasons.

This rule applies to men and women separately.

13.9 County Tier Play-offs

Players must have represented their venue in at least 1 division match prior to the Playoffs or have a rating of 4.1 or worse as of 6 March 2017.

Where two teams compete in a division match and a player is given a walkover, the rubber will count towards a player's eligibility. An entire team walkover does not count for player eligibility.

National Tier Play-offs & Finals

Players must have represented their venue in at least 2 group matches prior to the Play-offs/Finals or have a British Tennis rating of 4.1 or worse as of 6 March 2017. Exception: Where less than 7 fixtures are played, for each fixture not played, teams are permitted to nominate 1 extra player who has represented the team in only one group match.

Where two teams compete in a group match and a player is given a walkover, the rubber will count towards a player's eligibility. All completed rubbers against a team which is subsequently withdrawn will stand for the purposes of player qualification to the Playoffs and/or Finals.

14. Competition Structure

14.1 County Tier

Teams shall be entered in a County Tier league based on their venue registration code. Each league will be divided into divisions of 3-6² teams. Each team will play each other team in their division once.

County Tier Play-off

The winning team from each County Division 1 shall qualify to the County Play-offs for promotion to the Regional Tier.

14.2 Regional Tier

Comprises of 8 groups each consisting of up to 8 teams based on specific Counties which will remain fixed year on year. Each team will play each other team in their group once. The winning team in each group shall be promoted to its respective National Tier group.

¹ No player nominations will be accepted after 6 March 2017. Any venue failing to nominate by this deadline will not be allowed to field in their team(s) any player rated 3.2 or better. Venues with no players rated 3.2 or better do not need to nominate. Players rated 4.1 or worse as of 6 March 2017 may play in any fixture and do not need to be nominated.

² County exceptions may apply.

14.3 National Tier³

Comprises of 4 groups each consisting of up to 8 teams based on specific regions (and therefore Counties) which will remain fixed year on year. Each team will play each other team in their group once. The winner of National Tier South East, South West, Midlands and North divisions will automatically qualify to the Finals.

National Tier Play-offs

Teams finishing in the following positions will compete in the National Open Playoffs.

WOMEN'S NATIONAL OPEN PLAYOFFS 2017	
2nd Place Midlands	3rd Place South West
2nd Place North	2nd Place South East
1st Place Scotland or 3 rd place North	3rd Place South East
2nd Place South West	4th Place South East

MEN'S NATIONAL OPEN PLAYOFFS 2017	
2nd Place Midlands	2nd Place South West
3rd Place Midlands	2nd Place South East
2nd Place North	3rd Place South East
1st Place Scotland or 3 rd place North	4th Place South East

A pre-playoff fixture will take place on Saturday 1 July where the 1st placed Scotland team will play at home to 3rd place in the North group. The winner of this fixture will compete in the National Open Playoffs. The draw for the National Open playoffs will take place on Sunday 2 July 2017. The referee will seed 4 teams in the draw based on the top 4 eligible players. Home/Away scheduling will be drawn by lot. Matches will take place at 12pm on Saturday 22 July 2017.

National Tier Finals

The top men's and women's teams in each of the 4 National Tier divisions are joined by the 4 winning play-off teams. Prior to the Finals, teams shall nominate 4 to 8 players. The Referee shall seed 4 teams in the draw. The top 4 players who are playing on Friday must be nominated by 6.00pm on the Thursday before the Finals to determine seeding for the event. Any team not adhering to this rule will be subject to a fine decided by the Competition Team which shall be deducted from any prize money earned. Team captains and/or nominated players will be allowed on court and will be subject to the Code of Conduct.

14.4 Open Promotion/Relegation

Refer to the online document 'Open (adult) Promotion/Relegation 2017' at www.LTA.org.uk/Aegon-Team-Tennis for full details.

15. Match Arrangements

15.1 Time & Date

Fixtures are to be played on the fixed dates specified⁴. County Tier fixtures to start between 10am-4pm unless both teams agree otherwise. National and Regional Tier fixtures to start at midday unless both team agree otherwise. The home team must confirm start time with the away team a minimum of 10 days before the match date⁵. Venues with two or more National/Regional Tier teams at home on the same date are permitted to stagger start times. The home team is responsible for welcoming the away team and organising refreshments.

15.2 Court Surfaces

The home team shall provide 2, 3 or 4 courts of the same surface. Where more than one court surface is used for singles rubbers, the away team shall have the choice of court allocation

15.3 Balls

The home team shall supply a minimum of 3 new ITF approved balls for each singles rubber. At the National and Regional Tier, new balls shall be supplied for each doubles rubber.

15.4 Match Format

A match shall consist of 4 singles and 2 doubles rubbers.

15.5 Team Format

A team shall consist of four to six players. Four players shall play one singles rubber each and the 5th and/or 6th player(s) may be selected for one doubles rubber only.

15.6 Singles Nominations

At least 15 minutes before the start time of each match the team captains shall nominate in writing (on a Team Tennis scorecard) their singles players in order of current British Tennis ratings⁶. At the same time, captains shall provide the name of any other player(s) who may be selected for the doubles only. If players have the same rating, the captain can decide the team order which may change from match to match.

15.7 Doubles Nominations

The team captains shall nominate their doubles pairings after the singles rubbers have been completed. The doubles pairings shall be nominated in accordance with the sum of the singles positions of the players in each pairing (see below). Where players are nominated for the doubles rubber(s) only then his/her singles position shall be regarded as:

Number 5 in the case of the 'doubles only player' with the higher rating (or current ATP/WTA ranking of 1200 or better))

Number 6 in the case of the 'doubles only player' with the lower rating.

If singles player number 1 plays with 5 and singles player 2 plays with 3 then 2 and 3 shall be the first pair. Where the total is the same, the pairing which includes the player who played in the highest order singles match shall be nominated as the first pair (e.g. if the pairings are 1 + 4 and 2 + 3, then 1 + 4 must be nominated as the first pair). If one player from a team of 4 is unable to play doubles, the nominated pair must play number 1.

³ Teams earning prize money in the National Tier must submit a prize money form to teamentennis@LTA.org.uk no later than 30 September 2017.

⁴ It is both team captains responsibility to contact each other before the match. In the County Tier, there will be flexibility to play before a fixed date if both teams agree and there is prior consent from the league organiser. On match day the home team captain shall be responsible for welcoming the away team and organising refreshments.

⁵ 3 rubber points may be deducted from the home teams accumulated league total at the discretion of the league organiser

⁶ An ATP/WTA singles world ranking of 1200 or better on match day must take precedence over British Tennis ratings.

15.8 Order of Play

	On 2 Courts	On 3 Courts	On 4 Courts
Round 1	Singles 1&2	Singles 1-3	Singles 1-4
Round 2	Singles 3&4	Singles 4	Doubles 1&2
Round 3	Doubles 1&2	Doubles 1&2	

15.9 Rubber Scoring

County Tier

	Sets 1 & 2	Set 3 (if necessary)
Singles & Doubles	Tiebreak at 6-6	Match Tiebreak (to 10 points, with 2 clear)

Regional/National Tier

	Set 1 & 2	Set 3 (if necessary)
Singles	Tiebreak at 6-6	Tiebreak at 6-6
Doubles	Tiebreak at 6-6	Match Tiebreak (to 10 points, with 2 clear)

15.10 Match Scoring

A team is awarded 2 points for each rubber won.

At 6 points each a tiebreak shoot-out shall be played. 1 bonus rubber point will be awarded to the winning team in a tiebreak shoot-out. A tiebreak shoot-out shall consist of two singles tie breaks⁷ (to 10 points, with 2 clear) which are to be played at the same time followed by a doubles tiebreak (to 10 points, with 2 clear) if necessary. No player may play in more than one tiebreak. Players are to be nominated as follows:

Tiebreak 1 (Singles): One of the original players from the 1st/2nd singles rubbers.

Tiebreak 2 (Singles): One of the original players from the 3rd/4th singles rubbers.

Tiebreak 3 (Doubles): A pairing comprising any two of the other players who have played in the match.

15.11 Match Result

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.

Both captains must complete and sign the Team Tennis scorecards, and retain their copy. The winning captain must then submit the result online within 48 hours⁸.

15.12 Division Standings

The final standings in each division shall be determined by the following:

- I. The team with the greatest number of match points.
- II. If match points are equal, the team with the greatest number of rubber points.
- III. If only two teams are level on match points and rubber points; their head to head result.
- IV. If more than 2 teams are level, the round robin rule in the LTA Competition Regulations will determine the league standings.

⁷ In the event that a team is reduced to 3 players, that team must concede the doubles tiebreak. In the event that both teams are reduced to 3 players and the singles tiebreaks are shared, a deciding doubles tiebreak (to 10 points, with 2 clear) shall be played between the remaining player and one of the singles shoot-out players. No substitutions or changes are permitted to the players who originally competed in the match.

⁸ Any teams found guilty of submitting false results shall be subject to rule 17.2.