



**NATIONAL
LEAGUE**

PREMIER WINTER 2020 – RULES

12 & Under / 14 & Under / 18 & Under Problem Solving Issues & Regulations

All rules are subject to change, up until 1st September 2020

Note -

Due to the Coronavirus pandemic the LTA National League Premier Summer competition has been postponed to the winter months. Only those teams that were originally accepted into the summer competition are eligible to play this winter. The summer 2021 competition will run as normal, and will open for entries later in the year.



**TENNIS
FOR BRITAIN**

12&U – 18&U Age Group Rules (Premier Tier)

10. Eligibility

Venue Eligibility

10.1 Entry to the LTA National League ('the Competition') is open only to LTA registered venues, defined as Associates in Rule 28 of the LTA.

Team Eligibility

10.2 Competition Age Groups are calculated on the last date of the league, therefore, the following age groups should be used based on the league period:

Age Group	For players born in...
12 & Under	2008 or 2009
14 & Under	2006 - 2009
18 & Under	2002 - 2009

Player passports may be issued at the discretion of the LTA Performance Team, which will supersede these regulations.

10.3 A venue may enter more than one team in each event.

10.4 Where a venue has two or more teams in an event, the 'A' team should be the strongest team based on ratings, and if applicable, the 'B' team should be stronger than the 'C' team based on ratings etc.

10.5 Where the venue has two or more teams in an event, a player may 'play up' on a maximum of one occasion without loss of eligibility in 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. In the case of a venue having two teams in the same division, players will only be able to play for the team they represent in their first match.

Player Eligibility

10.6 A player may only:

- I. Represent one venue in the 8&U-18&U age groups in the LTA National League competition
- II. Play in a maximum of two age groups

10.7 All players must:

- I. Have an LTA Membership number which links to the venue they are competing for.
- II. Have an LTA Rating.
- III. Be a member of the LTA registered venue they are competing for as of 1 September 2020, and commit to representing that venue.
- IV. Be of the correct age (see rule 10.2)

11. Competition Structure

11.1 Premier 12&U-18&U

The Premier 12&U-18&U is open to 12&U, 14&U and 18&U age groups only. The top 8 teams in 4 set regions (determined by LTA venue registration codes and the competition structure) may be accepted in each age group event. Acceptance for the winter season has already taken place, as only teams accepted into the Summer competition are eligible to play – this is due to the summer season originally being cancelled due to Covid-19. Teams have already nominated 6 players at the time of entry in line with rule 10.6 and 10.7. Further players can represent the team during the season in line with rule 10.5, 10.6 and 10.7. A team who withdraws once the competition has started, may be penalised for the following years acceptance into the competition.

11.2 Premier 12&U-18&U Finals

The winning team from each regions knockout draw will qualify to the finals. The Referee shall seed 2 teams in the draw. Players must have played in one knockout stage fixture for the qualifying team to be eligible to compete in the Finals and may only play in one age group at the Finals. Teams may nominate one player who has not played a knockout stage fixture, provided she or he is ranked no better than the lowest ranked nominated player who has played in at least one league stage fixture. Qualifying teams who have played two or less fixtures in the season may nominate one player of any standard who has not played in the knockout stage.

Team captains will be allowed on court during the Finals and will be subject to the LTA Code of Conduct.

11.3 At such a time that the ITF World Tennis Number is introduced, the ITF World Tennis Number (as set out in Appendix 5 Section 3 of the LTA Competition Regulations) will replace the LTA Rating and be referred to as a rating for the purposes of these regulations.

12. Match Arrangements

12.1 Time & Date

Fixtures shall be played on or before the fixed dates specified. It is both team captains responsibility to contact each other before the match. Fixtures will be scheduled over a particular weekend. It will be the home team that can decide when the fixture takes place over the weekend, primarily based on court availability. On match day the home team captain shall be responsible for welcoming away teams and organising refreshments (if guidelines allow this at the time).

If the allocated home venue is unable to host the match due to court availability, the home team may be reversed.

Fixtures are to start between 10am-2pm unless both teams agree otherwise. Where one way travel distance exceeds 120 miles from club to club (based on Google Maps), the start time must be between 11am and 2pm unless both teams agree otherwise. The home team must confirm start time with the away team a minimum of 14 days before the match date. Away teams must still be active in obtaining the time. By

the Tuesday, the week prior to the fixture, the away team must also confirm their team's attendance. Each team must have an adult captain (age 18+) present at each fixture.

In exceptional cases, fixtures may be rescheduled at a later date where 2 or more nominated players in the same team are involved in an 'LTA Staged' activity that takes place on the same date. LTA staged activities includes National Camps, International Representation or other National/International competitions taking place in Great Britain (e.g. County Cup, Junior Internationals). This must be approved by the league organiser (in writing) a minimum of 14 days in advance of the original match date.

12.2 Courts

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

12.3 Balls

The home team shall supply a minimum of 3 new ITF approved balls for each singles rubber.

12.4 Match Format

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

12.5 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.

12.6 Singles Nominations

At least 15 minutes before the start time of each fixture, team captains must nominate in writing (on a National League scorecard) their singles players in order of merit in accordance with current LTA rankings. If players have the same ranking, the captain can decide the team order which may change from fixture to fixture. Any player(s) playing doubles only must be nominated at the same time.

12.7 Doubles Pairings

Pair 1: Singles players 1&2.
Pair 2: Singles players 3&4.

A 5th/6th player can substitute directly for any of the four singles players (e.g. if player number 5 substitutes for the singles player number 2, then player number 5 will play in the number 1 doubles pair). The nominated doubles substitutions must be on site at the agreed start time of the fixture.

12.8 Order of Play

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

There is to be a maximum of 30 minutes rest between rounds.

12.9 Rubber Scoring

Premier	Sets 1 & 2	Set 3 (if necessary)
12&U – 18&U	Tiebreak at 6-6	Match tiebreak (to 10 points, 2 clear at 9-9)

12.10 Match Scoring

A team is awarded 2 points for each rubber won.

At 6 points each, a doubles tiebreak shoot-out (to 10 points, with 2 clear) shall be played.

Tie-Break Shootout (1 pair):

Player 1: One of the original players from either the 1st/2nd singles rubbers or number 1 doubles pair.

Player 2: One of the original players from either the 3rd/4th singles rubbers or number 2 doubles pair.

12.11 Match Result

The team with the most rubber points shall win the match, in the event of a tie, the winner of the tiebreak shoot-out will win the match.

Both captains must complete and sign the National League scorecards, and retain their copy. The winning captain must then submit the result online within 48 hours. The result may be added by the losing team captain if agreed on match day. Any teams found guilty of submitting false results shall be subject to rule 17.2.

12.12 Knockout Stage

The winning team from each knockout stage/section will qualify for the finals.



Problem Solving Issues & Regulations (All age groups)

16. Problem Solving Issues

16.1 Late Arrival

If any nominated player is not ready to play within 15 minutes of a rubber due on court then the opposing team shall be awarded a walkover for this rubber (by a score of 6-0, 6-0). No substitutions or alteration to the nominations or playing order may be made. The player concerned shall be permitted to play a doubles rubber (and tiebreak shoot-out) provided he/she is ready to play when the doubles rubber is due on court. If he/she is not ready when the doubles rubber is due on court the team will be deemed 'incomplete' and Rules 16.2 and 16.6 will apply.

In the event that the entire away team is going to be late for extenuating circumstances (e.g. motorway closure etc) and has contacted the home team in good time, a reasonable degree of flexibility on start time should be shown by the home team.

16.2 Incomplete Teams

If a venue is unable to field a complete team for the whole fixture then they shall first forfeit the lowest singles rubber and the doubles rubber. The complete team shall be deemed to have won the forfeited rubbers by a score of 6-0 6-0. When it is known before the match that one team is going to be incomplete, the lowest nominated singles player(s) of the opposing team does not have to be present for the fixture.

16.3 Player Retirement

If a player retires during a rubber, the opponent shall be deemed to have won all the remaining games and sets necessary to win the rubber. The player retiring from the rubber shall be eligible to compete in any remaining rubbers.

16.4 Completion of Matches (due to inclement weather)

If play is suspended after a match has started then the match shall resume at the point of suspension.

If a match cannot be started due to rain or rain stops play before any rubbers have been completed then the match may be rearranged to take place before the date of the next round, however, this must be agreed by the league organiser. At the discretion of the league organiser, the home venue of a fixture may be reversed in the case of inclement weather and/or courts being unfit for play.

Where one or more rubbers have been completed, then the winner of the match shall be the team winning the most number of completed rubbers.

16.5 Team Withdrawal

In the event of a team being unable to fulfil a fixture they will be withdrawn and the opposing team will be given a walkover through to the next round.

16.6 Playing out of order / Ineligible Player(s)

If players play out of order then the singles rubbers involving those players shall be forfeited by a score of 0-6, 0-6.

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 by a score of 0-6, 0-6.

If both teams field a player out of order or an ineligible player then each team shall be deemed to have lost the singles rubber in a similar manner. Likewise if a team fields an ineligible player as a doubles only player they shall forfeit that rubber.

17. Regulations

17.1 All matches in the Competition shall be conducted in accordance with the ITF Rules of Tennis, the Rules and Regulations of the LTA, the LTA Competition Regulations, the LTA Code of Conduct and the National League Competition Regulations (in the event of any inconsistency, the National League Regulations shall prevail). Each player participating in the competition grants and assigns to the LTA the right to make, use and show from time to time and at its discretion, motion pictures, still pictures and live taped or filmed television and other reproduction of him/her during the event and in connection with the promotion of the event without compensation for him/herself. Such promotional activities by the LTA shall not be identified as or represented to be an endorsement by the player of any product/company.

17.2 The day to day organisation of the Competition shall be carried out by the League Organiser under the auspices of the LTA Competitions Team (CT). The Competition is sanctioned by the LTA under the management of the CT. The CT shall have the power to decide on matters of interpretation of these regulations, to impose penalties including, but not limited to, the deduction of points and suspension for breaches of these Regulations; to suspend or modify any of these Regulations in appropriate circumstances. The CT decision on all matters is final.

17.3 Any complaint/dispute shall be made in writing on email to the League Organiser - nationalleague@LTA.org.uk by the team captain within 48 hours of the complaint/dispute arising. Nevertheless, the League Organiser/CT shall have the power to consider any matter coming to their attention subsequently.

17.4 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.

17.5 Where a LTA registered venue is suspended, the LTA Competitions Team shall determine if the venue shall play any further part in the current or further stages of the Competition.