

Winter County Tour (Grade 4 & 5)

Competition Guide

2018 Winter (1st September 2018 – 31st March 2019)

[General Winter County Tour information](#)

Description of the tour / draw sizes & draw format / acceptances / withdrawals

[Linking Tournaments 2018-2019: Grade 4 to Grade 3](#)

How the linking of grade 4 to grade 3 tournaments work

[Step by step guide – LTA Staged Winter County Tour 2018 - 2019](#)

How to enter / What happens after the closing deadline, the withdrawal deadline, the tournament



General Winter County Tour Information

STRUCTURE

The LTA Winter County Tour (WCT) comprises both grade 4 & grade 5 individual tournaments for juniors. Tournaments are run over 1 day and ranking points earned are counted towards British Tennis Rankings for 12U – 18U and Recent Form for 9U – 10U.

The different competition grades in the winter are often interlinking giving players the opportunity to ‘feed up’ from one grade to the next e.g. Winners of specific grade 4 WCT tournaments can gain a place in the linked grade 3 tournament, which are part of the LTA Winter Regional Tour (WRT).

Details on the specific linking tournaments are available in the linking calendars on the [Winter County Tour webpage](#).

FORMATS

The format used will depend on entry numbers and court hours booked. Possible format options are listed below for each age group.

DRAW TYPE	DRAW SIZE	FORMAT	SCORING
9U (1 day)	8 or 16	Round Robin to Elimination with Consolation or Compass draw	One match tiebreak to 10 points or best of three tie breaks to 7 points
10U (1 day)	8 or 16	Compass Draw or Round Robin to Elimination with Consolation	FAST4 Tennis - 1 set or Best of 3 sets, with 3 rd set a MTB
12U-18U (1 day) Singles or Doubles	8	Compass draw	FAST4 Tennis - Best of 3 sets, with 3 rd set a MTB
12U-18U (1 day) Singles or Doubles	16	Elimination with Consolation or Compass draw	FAST4 Tennis - Best of 3 sets, with 3 rd set a MTB

ENTRY REGULATION SPECIFIC TO LTA STAGED COMPETITIONS

- Before entering an LTA Staged Winter County Tour competition please ensure you are familiar with the following regulation from the LTA Competition Regulations, which applies to all LTA Staged Competitions:

In relation to LTA Staged Winter Competitions (i.e. National Tour, weekend Winter Regional Tour, and weekend Winter County Tour tournaments) a player can enter only one competition at each grade in the same age group on the same weekend.

Explanatory note – If a 12U Grade 3 Winter Regional Tour weekend competition is taking place on a Saturday and Sunday a player may not enter another 12U Grade 3 Winter Regional Tour competition taking place that weekend. However, this player may enter a 14U Grade 3 Winter Regional Tour competition and/or a grade 4 Winter County Tour competition taking place on the same weekend. Following publication of acceptances the player would have to withdraw from all but one of the competitions entered before the respective withdrawal deadlines in order to avoid penalty.

This means a player can only enter and play in one LTA Staged Winter County Tour grade 4 competition in the same age group per weekend.

ONLINE ENTRY

- All entries for the Winter County Tour must be made via the online entry system on the [LTA website](#) by entering the relevant tournament code.
- Payment details will be required at time of online entry. PayPal will be used as the payment system and the entry fee will be taken at the time of entry.
- Once entered you can check your entry has been received by going to the entrant list for that tournament using the [Competition Search](#). You must ensure that your name is on the entrant list before the closing date in order to be considered for the tournament.
- If you experience any problems with online entry and your name does not appear on the entrants list you must contact the Tournament Organiser **before** the entry closing date for a valid entry to be considered.
- Once entered you will receive an email acknowledging receipt of entry. **This is not an acceptance notification.** If you do not receive the entry email please contact the Tournament Organiser straight away, and before the entry closing date.
- Please keep the automated email acknowledgement of entry which you will receive after successfully submitting an online entry as proof of entry.
- Please remember to update your BTM details with your correct contact details as these will be used to communicate with you.

LATE ENTRIES

With one exception late entries may be accepted to the entry list if the draw is not full or the reserve list is short;

Exception: If at the time a player requests to be a late entry he/she would be seeded that player **cannot** be accepted.

If the player would not be a seed his/her entry can be accepted and placed as follows:

- a) if the draw is not full the player can be accepted directly into the draw
- b) if there is a reserve list this player will be placed at the bottom and will be accepted into the draw when the player reaches the top of the reserve list and a space becomes available

Payment for late entries: The player will be sent a request for payment via Paypal (which must be paid within 48 hours)

WITHDRAWALS

- The withdrawal deadline for each tournament can be found by referring to the tournament details in [Competition Search](#), by putting in the relevant tournament code.
- If a player is withdrawing **before** the withdrawal deadline he/she must withdraw online via their British Tennis Membership Area – see instructions below.
- If a player withdraws **after** the withdrawal deadline he/she will incur withdrawal points. See information on withdrawing from an LTA Official Competition in the [LTA Competition Regulations](#).
- If the player is withdrawing **after** the withdrawal deadline please contact the tournament organiser/referee by phone as soon as possible. If voicemails are left they must be followed up to make sure the message has been received by the tournament organiser/referee.
- A player who withdraws from the reserve list after the withdrawal deadline will be subject to the same withdrawal points as a player in the draw. The only exception is if the offer to play is during the 24 hours immediately before an event, in which case no penalty will be incurred. Players on the reserve list after the withdrawal deadline are committed to being available for the competition.

ACCEPTANCES

Criteria

- Acceptance for Winter County Tour competitions is based on a player's British Tennis Rating & Ranking as at the closing date.
- For 8U, 9U and 10U tournaments acceptance will be done according to Mini Tennis Rating & Recent Form. Please see the [Mini Tennis Acceptance and Seeding Criteria](#) for details.

Wild Cards

- Wild cards can be awarded up to a maximum number of one place in eight (one place in four for 9U - 10U age groups only).

Acceptance list

- Acceptances will be published within 72 hours of the closing deadline in the 'entrant list' link in tournament details, which is accessible using [Competition Search](#).
- It is the player's responsibility to check his/her status for each event entered.

Reserves

- Before the withdrawal deadline it is the responsibility of reserves to check the website to track their status as reserves will not be contacted.
- After the withdrawal deadline a reserve will be contacted if a space becomes available.
- Any reserve not available to play must withdraw before the withdrawal deadline or will incur penalty points if not available when called upon to play. Players on the reserve list after the withdrawal deadline are committed to being available for the competition.
- A reserve may only decline an offer to play without incurring a penalty if the player is contacted and asked to play during the 24 hours immediately before an event.

Seeding

- Seeding for Winter County Tour competitions will follow the acceptance criteria outlined above, using ratings & rankings as available on the day of the withdrawal deadline, i.e. these will be updated from when the acceptances were done (the reserve list order will not change as a result of updated ratings and rankings).
- Seeding for mini tennis events will be done according to Mini Tennis Rating and Recent Form.

DRAWS & MATCH TIMES

- The draw for each competition will be made as soon as possible after the withdrawal deadline and will be published no later than one day before the event.
- First match start times will be published no later **than 48 hours after the withdrawal deadline**. It is the responsibility of the player to check the website for match times.
- First match start times will also be emailed to all players who are in the draw.
- All players must reply to confirm 'start times' emails have been read.

LINKING INFORMATION

- For more detailed information on what to do if you are the winner of a WCT competition and how to gain your linked space please view the relevant 'Linking Information' below.

Linking Tournaments Winter 2018 - 2019

LTA Staged Grade 4 Winter County Tour to LTA Staged Grade 3 Winter Regional Tour

The LTA Staged Winter County Tour (grade 4) and the LTA Staged Winter Regional Tour (grade 3) are linked. This means players have the opportunity to 'feed up' from one grade to the next. It allows **winners** of specific LTA Staged Winter County Tour (WCT grade 4) tournaments to gain a place in the linked LTA Staged Winter Regional Tour (WRT) tournament. (Grade 4 to grade 3 links are not available at 8U age group or in Doubles events).

The linked space is NOT OFFERED to the runner-up of the grade 4 WCT event if the winner does not use the linked space in the grade 3 WRT event.

How the linking process works:

1. The winner of the linked WCT event will receive a letter at the tournament & a follow up email from the Referee of the WCT event.
2. The winner must contact the organiser of the WRT event within **24 hours** of completion of the WCT event to confirm **whether or not they will accept** the linked space in the WRT event.
3. If the winner is accepting the linked space THE WINNER MUST ENTER THE RELEVANT WRT TOURNAMENT ONLINE BEFORE THE CLOSING DEADLINE. The winner should write in the comments box when processing the entry: 'Link winner of WCT xxx18Wxxxx' and give code of the grade 4 competition.
4. If the winner had previously entered the linked WRT tournament a note will be added to their entry to identify them as the linked winner so they are guaranteed acceptance as the winner of a linked tournament
5. If the **winner has already entered a different WRT tournament on the same date as the linked WRT event** the winner must make a decision about which competition they wish to play in and contact the tournament organiser of the linked event **within 24 hours** to confirm whether or not they would like to accept their linked space:
 - If the player chooses to accept the space in the linked WRT event then they will need to complete the relevant actions above and withdraw from the competition they had already entered prior to the withdrawal deadline to avoid penalty
 - Alternatively if the player wishes to remain on the entry list for the tournament they entered originally they must contact the organiser of the linked WRT event to confirm they do not wish to accept the linked space.
6. **If the linked winner does not contact the organiser and does not enter the linked WRT event before the closing deadline he/she will lose their linked space.**

Conditions

- If there are fewer than 5 players in a linking WCT draw then no one will link into the WRT tournament. The reserved space in the WRT event will go to the next player on the reserve list.
- If two linking tournaments at the same grade have to merge (possibly due to lack of entries) then only the winner is guaranteed the link space
- If the linking county tournament is cancelled then there will be no link
- If the link winner accepts the space in the WRT, but subsequently withdraws, the space will be filled by the next highest reserve.

Step by step guide - Winter County Tour 2018-19

TOURNAMENT ENTRY

1. Before entering an LTA Staged Winter Competition, e.g. Winter County Tour grade 4 tournament, ensure you have read the following regulation:
'In relation to LTA Staged Winter Competitions (i.e. National Tour, weekend Winter Regional Tour and weekend Winter County Tour Tournaments) a player can enter only one competition at each grade in the same age group on the same weekend.'
For further information please read the [LTA Competition Regulations](#) (version 1st September 2016)
2. Enter the tournament online, via [Competition Search](#) before the closing date. Entry fee payment will be taken at the time of entry. Check you have received an email confirming your entry and also that your name appears on the entrant list for that tournament on the website. This shows that you have entered, not that you have been accepted.
3. Check your contact information in your British Tennis Membership account is correct as the tournament organiser/referee will use the email address and telephone numbers that are held here to contact you.

AFTER CLOSING DATE

4. After the closing date the acceptances for the competition will be published within 72 hours. It is the player's responsibility to check their status - main draw acceptance, reserve or non-acceptance.
5. Within the tournament details on the website you can view 'Tournament Overview'. Please check this as it will give you information such as the withdrawal deadline, referee name and contact and venue details.
6. If you are a 'reserve' please check your status regularly to monitor your position. If you move to the top of the reserve list and a space becomes available you may move into the main draw. If this happens your status will change accordingly. It is your responsibility to monitor your status. If you are no longer available for the tournament you must withdraw online before the withdrawal deadline.
7. If a player is 'not accepted' for a competition their entry fee will be refunded automatically. If a player is accepted or on the reserve list and withdraws **before** the withdrawal deadline, the entry fee will be refunded automatically. If the reserve does not participate in the tournament the entry fee will be refunded after the tournament.

AFTER THE WITHDRAWAL DEADLINE

8. After the withdrawal deadline players will no longer be able to withdraw online and will incur withdrawal points for withdrawing after this time.
9. The draw for each competition will be made as soon as possible after the withdrawal deadline and will be published no later than one day before the event.
10. First match start times will be published no later than 48 hours after the withdrawal deadline; it is the responsibility of the player to check the website for match times. First match start times will also be emailed to all players who are in the draw.
11. If you are still on the reserve list you could be called up until the morning of the event. If you know you will **not** be available you should withdraw before the withdrawal deadline to avoid incurring withdrawal penalty points. However, please note reserves may decline an offer to play if contacted in the 24 hours immediately before an event, without penalty.

AFTER THE TOURNAMENT

12. If the WCT tournament was linked to a subsequent competition the winner of the WCT event must contact the organiser of the relevant WRT within **24 hours** and if they haven't already previously entered, they must enter by the closing deadline
13. Tournament results will be loaded to a player's profile within 72 hours of the completion of the tournament.