

WINTER COUNTY TOUR (GRADE 4) AND LTA YOUTH LOCAL TOUR (GRADE 5) COMPETITION GUIDE

2020 WINTER (1ST SEPTEMBER 2020 – 31ST MARCH 2021)



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GENERAL WINTER COUNTY TOUR INFORMATION

OVERVIEW

The LTA Winter County Tour (WCT) is comprised of Grade 4 tournaments and the LTA Youth Local Tour includes all junior Grade 5 tournaments. Tournaments in both the County Tour and Local Tour are run over 1 day and ranking points earned count towards LTA Rankings for 11U – 18U and Recent Form for 9U – 10U.

In addition to the singles events available at Grade 4 there are also doubles events in the 11U – 18U age groups which will count for LTA Ranking points.

The FAST4 scoring format will be used throughout the Winter County Tour and LTA Youth Local Tour circuits for 10U – 18U events. More information on FAST4 is available on the [LTA FAST4 webpage](#).

COMPETITION CHANGES

We'd like to take this opportunity to remind you once again about some key Competition improvements that have previously been announced and are relevant to the Winter County Tour and Winter Local Tour;

- Competition Age Groups have changed to a 'calendar year' based system
- Mini Tennis Ratings have been removed and replaced with a Competition Reward scheme

Competition Age Group Changes

From 1 April 2020, competition age groups for junior players are calculated based on a calendar year, e.g. a player's age on the 31 December. This new competition age group system offers the following benefits:

- It is easier to explain and simpler to calculate than the previous age group system
- It enables a meaningful performance player pathway by aligning to the same age group system used for international events.
- It offers greater flexibility at mini tennis

To support the new age group system an 11U age group has also been introduced at all levels of competition to aid players in their transition from Green to Yellow ball.

You can read more about competition age group changes [here](#).

Mini Tennis Ratings

Some exciting changes have been made to Mini Tennis Competition, which came into effect on 1 April 2020. The changes were made as there is a clear need to reduce some of the unnecessary pressure experienced in mini tennis competitions and provide players with an improved incentive to get on court to play matches.

- Mini Tennis orange and green ratings have been removed to ensure the focus is on having fun and learning to play at this age rather than chasing wins.
- A participation based competition reward scheme has been introduced for young players to help recognise their progress
 - Players will receive a digital certificate when they have played in 10 recorded matches in a specific ball colour (Red, Orange or Green)
 - Players will receive a t-shirt when they have played in 20 recorded matches (a further 10 matches) in a specific ball colour (Red, Orange or Green)
 - Players will receive a hoody when they have played in 40 recorded matches (a further 20 matches) in a specific ball colour (Red, Orange or Green)

Recent form has been modified from April 2020 and is calculated using a player's best 3 individual performances in Grade 1 to 5 competitions over the last 6 months at that ball colour.

COUNTY AND LOCAL TOUR 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	MAX 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
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

ENTERING WINTER COUNTY TOUR AND LTA YOUTH LOCAL TOUR COMPETITIONS

ENTRY REGULATION SPECIFIC TO WINTER COUNTY TOUR GRADE 4 (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 and LTA Youth Local 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. Stripe 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 Management System](#). 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 using the [Competition Management System](#), by putting in the relevant tournament code.
- If a player is withdrawing **before** the withdrawal deadline he/she must withdraw online via their LTA website – 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 they must 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

By entering a Winter County Tour or LTA Youth Local Tour competition you are not guaranteed a space in the event. The criteria for acceptances for events that are oversubscribed are provided below. Organisers should publish the acceptances for their events within 72 hours of the closing deadline. It is the player's responsibility to check his/her status for each event entered.

WINTER COUNTY TOUR (GRADE 4 EVENTS)

Acceptance for Yellow Ball age groups must be done according to:

1. Wild cards: A maximum of 1 wild card for every 8 places in the draw size
2. LTA Ratings
3. LTA Rankings

Seeding shall be based on the players' LTA Rating followed by LTA Ranking as of the draw date.

Acceptance for 9U and 10U events must be done according to:

1. Wild cards: A maximum of 1 wild card for every 4 places in the draw size decided in conjunction with the relevant LTA Performance Team contact
2. Recent Form (a player's best 3 tournament performance at that ball colour within the last 6 months)
3. By lot if more than one player has the same recent form

Seeding shall be based on the players' Recent Form as of the draw date

LTA YOUTH LOCAL TOUR (GRADE 5 EVENTS) – **FIRST COME, FIRST SERVED**

'First Come, First Served' will be used as the method for determining acceptances for Grade 5 events.

The [Acceptance and Seeding Guide](#) on the LTA website has been updated to reflect this change.

Acceptance for all Grade 5 events, regardless of age group, must be done according to:

1. Date and time of entry* (First Come, First Served)
2. If two or more players enter at the exact same time, acceptance will be determined by LTA Rating (or Mini Tennis Rating for Mini Tennis Age Groups), then by LTA Ranking (or Recent Form for Mini Tennis Age Groups)

Seeding shall be based on the player's LTA Rating (or Mini Tennis Rating for Mini Tennis Age Groups) followed by LTA Ranking (or Recent Form for Mini Tennis Age Groups) as of the draw date.

**The date and time that an online entry was completed (or was requested via email). Manual entries for Grade 5 competitions will not be accepted until 24 hours before the closing deadline. Manual entries must be made by email only.*

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.

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 TOURNAMENTS

There are no longer any linked spaces from Winter County Tour to Winter Regional Tour competitions.