

Winter National Tour Information

2018 - 2019

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What changes are there for the 2018 – 2019 Tour?

- Entry fee is: £27 for all ages

How can players enter a tournament in the Tour?

All entries for WNT events must be made by online entry via [Competition Search](#), by entering the relevant tournament code.

- The following rule is in [the LTA Competition Regulations](#) 3.10b and applies to LTA Staged Winter Competitions; it restricts the number of competitions a player can enter:

'In relation to LTA Staged Winter Competitions (ie. 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 taking place on the same weekend.'

- Payment will be taken at time of online entry via PayPal: 10U-18U: £27.00.
- Once entered you must check your entry has been received by logging on to the LTA website and going to the entrant list for that tournament using the [Competition Search](#). It is your responsibility to ensure your name is on the entrant list before the closing deadline in order to be considered for the tournament.
- If you experience any problems with online entry or your name does not appear on the entrants list you must contact the Tournament Organiser **before** the entry closing deadline (the time of voicemails/emails will be taken into consideration if they are before the entry deadline).
- Once entered you will receive an email acknowledging receipt of entry and acknowledging payment has been taken. **This is not an acceptance notification.** If you do not receive this email you must contact the Tournament Organiser immediately, and before the entry closing deadline.
- Keep both of these automated email acknowledgements of entry & payment which you will receive after successfully submitting an online entry.
- Please remember to keep your contact details up to date in your British Tennis Members area. These will be used to communicate with you by the Organiser & the Referee.

What is the structure & format for each age group?

KEY

Q – Qualifying MD – Main Draw C – Consolation RR – Round Robin R – Round
 QF – Quarter Final SF – Semi-Final F – Final WC – Wild cards DA- Direct Acceptance

Age Group	No. of tournaments in Tour	Links from WRT into Q of WNT	Scoring	Wild Card	Draw Type	Draw Size	Proposed Order of Play
18U	2	Boys: 6 Girls: 4					
16U	2	Boys: 7 Girls: 5	Q: Two tie-break sets + deciding match tie-break if the score reaches one set all MD: Best of 3 tie-break sets C: Two tie-break sets + deciding match tie-break if the score reaches one set all	Q: Max of 3 MD: Max of 4	Round robin qualifying event + Elimination main draw with compulsory consolation	Q: 24 (including WRT link players + Q WCs) MD: 32 (24 DAs, including MD WCs + 8 qualifiers from the RR)	Day 1 – Q, RR (2 rounds) Day 2 – MD R1; C R1 Day 3 – MD R2 Day 4 – MD SF & Finals; C Finals
14U	2	Boys: 8 Girls: 6					
12U	3	Boys: 10 Girls: 6	Up to & including SF matches: Two tie-break sets + deciding match tie-break if the score reaches one set all Final: The best of three full tie-break sets.	Q: Max of 6 MD: Max of 8			
10U	3	Boys: 16 Girls: 10	Two short sets + deciding match tie-break if the score reaches one set all, with no-advantage scoring	Max of 8	Compass draw	32 (including WRT link winners & WCs)	Day 1 – MD R1, R2 & QF, C R1 & C QF Day 2– MD SF & Final & 3 rd /4 th play-off, C SF & Final & all other play-offs

Alternative draw formats may be used where the number of participants is less than the stated draw size.

Are late entries accepted before the draw has been made?

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

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

If at the time a player requests to be a late entry and that player would not be a seed his/her entry can be accepted and placed as follows if the draw has not been made yet:

- If the tournament is not full the player can be accepted directly
- If there is a reserve list this player will be placed at the bottom and will be accepted into the tournament when the player reaches the top of the reserve list and a space becomes available regardless of if the player would be a seed or not

Please see below in ‘Reserves’ the process to be used if a reserve that would now be seeded is moved into the tournament AFTER the draw has been made.

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

What are the acceptance criteria?

- **12U – 18U age groups**

Acceptance is based on a player's British Tennis combined ranking as at the closing deadline. Where this is equal the players will be drawn by lot, i.e. randomly, by the tournament software used.

- **10U age group**

Acceptance is based on a player's mini tennis rating followed by their recent form** as at the closing deadline. Where this is equal the players' acceptance position will be drawn by lot, i.e. randomly, by the tournament software used.

**Recent form is the player's best individual tournament performance at that ball colour within the last 3 months. Please see the [Mini Tennis Acceptance & Seeding Criteria](#) for details.

What are 'linked' tournaments & 'linked' spaces?

Linked tournaments allow players to 'progress' from one grade of tournament to another:

- A number of places will be reserved in specific LTA Staged Winter National Tour events for **winners** from LTA Staged WRT (Grade 3) linked events – [Please click here for further information on this topic.](#)
- The linked winners will be accepted regardless of rating and ranking/recent form.
- The linked space does NOT go to the runner-up if the winner is not able to accept the space for any reason. The linked space will be occupied by the next highest reserve.

How are wild cards awarded?

Wild cards may be awarded for the Winter National Tour (Grades 1 & 2) in all age groups and awarded in line with the [LTA's Wild Card Policy.](#)

- All players entered will be considered for a wild card. No wild cards are awarded to late entries.
- Only if returning from illness/injury should a player contact the Organiser to request a wild card, giving the reason for this. All wild card requests must be made before the entry deadline to NationalTour@LTA.org.uk.
- The wild cards will be selected by the Performance Team.
- In the 10U – 12U age groups up to one wild card in 4 places of the maximum draw size can be awarded.
- In the 14U – 18U age groups up to one wild card in 8 places of the maximum draw size can be awarded.
- Wild cards may be awarded up to the time the draw is made.
- If a Wild Card player withdraws from the competition **before** the draw is made he/she may be replaced by another Wild Card entry - [LTA Competition Regulations](#) 4.16.
- Any wild card spaces not used will be released and the next eligible player(s) will move up accordingly.

- Wild cards are awarded on an entirely discretionary basis and we shall not enter into any correspondence as to why a particular player was (or was not) issued a wild card.

When are acceptances published?

Acceptances will be published online, via [Competition Search](#), within 72 hours of the closing deadline and will indicate a player's status (acceptance/reserve status). An email will be sent to players once the acceptance list has been published.

It is the player's responsibility to check his/her status for each event entered.

How Reserves are managed – before & after the draw is published

(All players should read this information)

- Reserves are important to any tournament and may be called upon to play if other players withdraw.
- 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. **However it is still the responsibility of each player to check the website entry list up to 24 hours before the start of the event to see if they have been accepted into the competition from the reserve list.**
- Any reserve not available to play must withdraw before the withdrawal deadline when an automatic refund will be made.
- Players who remain on the reserve list after the withdrawal deadline are committed to being available for the competition. If reserves withdraw after the withdrawal deadline they will incur penalty points & the entry fee will not be refunded - except as detailed below.
- A reserve may only decline an offer to play without incurring a penalty if the player is contacted during the 24 hours immediately before the event date. The entry fee will be refunded if the player declines the offer during this period.
- Players who remain on the reserve list during the tournament will be refunded after the tournament.
- If a reserve that would now be a seed is moved into the main draw after the draw is made the following process will take place:
 - **Before 8pm the day before the tournament:** In the situation of the reserve being seeded, the seeding will be adjusted according to Competition Regulations. **This may involve time changes & changes of opponent for players so a player may be required to report earlier than previously notified. We will contact the player by phone to let them know of this change. If no one is available a message will be left and an email sent.**
 - **After 8pm the day before the tournament:** In the situation of the reserve being seeded, the reserve will move into the vacant position. It is possible that this position may be against a seed.

What if a player needs to withdraw?

Any player not available to play **must withdraw before the withdrawal deadline** or he/she will incur withdrawal penalty points.

- The withdrawal deadline for each tournament can be found in the age group calendars or by referring to the tournament details in [Competition Search](#), by putting in the relevant tournament code.
- If the competitor is withdrawing **before** the withdrawal deadline he/she must withdraw online (see instructions below) **and the entry fee will be refunded automatically.**
- **If a competitor withdraws after the withdrawal deadline he/she will incur withdrawal points and the entry fee will not be refunded.**
- **An exception applies if a reserve is contacted less than 24 hours before the published start time or an event and declines an invitation to play, in which case no penalty will be incurred and the entry fee will be refunded.**
- See information on withdrawing from an LTA Official Competition in [the LTA Competition Regulations](#)
- If the competitor is withdrawing **after the withdrawal deadline, but before the draw** has been made **he/she must contact the Tournament Organiser 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.
- If the competitor is withdrawing **after the draw has been made he/she must contact the 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.

When and how is the draw made?

The draw will be made & published no later than 2 days before the event.

- The Tennis Tournament Planner (TTP) software is used to make the draw. The software uses the same principles as a draw for professional tournaments, i.e. seeds are placed on their designated line on the draw (as per LTA Competition Regulations), whilst the unseeded players are randomly assigned their place in the draw. For LTA staged tournaments players from the same county will be separated in initial stage of the draw.
- Before the draw is made the ranking/rating & recent form for each player is updated to ensure the draw is made using current information - i.e. ranking/rating & recent form is updated from that of the closing deadline.
- Seeding for the 12U – 18U WRT events will follow the acceptance criteria and will use current rankings as of the day the draw is made.
- Seeding for 10U events is determined by current rating & recent form. Where this is equal the players will be drawn by lot, i.e. randomly. **For the Winter National Tour 2018-2019 season, players allocated a passport with a yellow rating will be treated the same as a 1* rating when they compete in their own ball colour for seeding purposes only.**
- Although the ranking/rating /recent form information is updated for all players the reserve list order will not change as a result of this update.
- First match start times will also be emailed to all players who are in the draw, but it is the responsibility of the player to check the website for match times.

Who qualifies for the main draw after the qualifying round: 12U-18U?

The **Qualifiers** for the Main Draw are the players who have won all their matches in their group, or if it is a round robin box the player who comes 1st in the group.

The **Runners-up** are the players who lost in the final round of their qualifying group, or if it is a round robin it is the player who finishes in 2nd place. These players will be Lucky Losers for the Main Draw.

The acceptance order of Lucky Losers is drawn as follows:

1. All names of the runners-up **with** a ranking are placed in a hat and names are drawn out randomly. The order in which the names are drawn will be the acceptance order if there is a Lucky Loser space available.
2. All names of the runners-up **without** a ranking are placed in a hat and names are drawn out randomly. **These players will be below the order of the ranked players in the Lucky Loser List.**

If there are withdrawals from the Main Draw, during the qualifying stage, the relevant Lucky Loser will be informed of the place in the draw.

However, please note that to be considered as a Lucky Loser on the day of the Main Draw **the player must sign in 30 minutes before the scheduled start of the first match of the event the following day.** Speak to the Referee at your event for further information if you are a runner up.

How are players rewarded?

Players earn points, depending on which round they reach in a tournament. The points go towards the WNT Leaderboard and at the end of the Tour the best players from the leaderboard are invited to compete in a Grade 1 event called the Winter National Tour Finals.

Final Position of Grade 2	Medal	Voucher to the value of
12U – 18U Singles Winner	✓	£25.00
12U – 18U Singles Runner-Up	✓	£15.00
10U Singles Winner	✓	NA
10U Singles Runner-Up	✓	NA

What happens at the end of the Tour?

After the last Grade 2 tournament has been completed the final WNT leaderboard will be calculated to decide a player's final position on the leaderboard.

There will be a competition, titled 'Winter National Tour Finals' to bring together the most successful players, according to leaderboard positions of the Winter National Tour to determine the Champions in the 10U – 18U age groups.

The Finals will be a 16 player draw; players who finish in the top 14 of their leaderboard will earn a place in the Finals, whilst the remaining 2 places in the draw will be reserved for wild cards to be awarded by the relevant age group captains if they feel this is appropriate. If no wild cards are awarded the next player on the leaderboard will be awarded the space in the draw.

The next 8 players on the leaderboards, after the top 14 players have been identified, will be recognised as reserves for the Finals. The relevant players will be contacted with an invitation to attend the Finals or to be on the Reserve list shortly after the final WNT leaderboard has been published.

WINTER NATIONAL TOUR LEADERBOARD INFORMATION

Players will accumulate points from each Winter National Tour event (grade 2) which will feed in to a leaderboard for each age group.

Leaderboard points are the same value as ranking points for the 12U – 18U age groups and recent form for the 10U age group. Points are assigned according to the round reached in a draw and a player must win a match in a draw in order to receive points respective to that particular draw stage. Where there are multiple draws in an event, a player will be given the highest single set of points earned.

The leaderboards are published weekly every Friday after the standard British Tennis rankings run.

It is the player's responsibility to check his/her points regularly to ensure all results are appearing correctly on the leaderboard.

Please read further details on how leaderboards operate in the [Competition Leaderboard Guide](#)

14U – 18U

Results from a player's **top 2 tournaments** – i.e. the highest points from the **qualifying event or main draw event, including consolation**, will count towards the Winter National Tour leaderboard; If an event has two stages such as Round Robin to Elimination, the first Round Robin draw is the qualification draw.

10U & 12U

Results from a player's **top 3 tournaments** - i.e. the highest points from the **qualifying event or main draw event, including consolation**, will count towards the Winter National Tour leaderboard; If an event has two stages such as Round Robin to Elimination, the first Round Robin draw is the qualification draw.

Note to 10U players: The draw for the 10U tournament is a compass draw **which has its own inbuilt consolation (left hand side of the draw)**. Players will be assigned either main draw points or consolation points depending on their progress within the tournament. For example in a 16 player compass draw the player who loses his/her first match, but wins the next three matches, on the left side of the draw, will receive consolation winner points, not points for coming 9th in the main draw.

[PLEASE SEE BELOW FOR INFORMATION ON LINKING TOURNAMENTS](#)

[PLEASE CLICK HERE TO SEE THE 2018-2019 WINTER NATIONAL TOUR CALENDAR](#)

[PLEASE CLICK HERE TO ENTER ONLINE](#)

Linking Tournaments 2018 – 2019

LTA Staged Grade 3 WRT to LTA Staged Grade 2 WNT 10U – 18U age groups

The LTA Staged Winter Regional Tour (grade 3 weekend events) and LTA Staged Winter National Tour (grade 2) 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 Regional Tour (WRT) tournaments to gain a place in the linked LTA Staged Winter National Tour (WNT) tournament.

The linked space is **not offered** to the runner-up of the WRT event if the WRT winner does not use the linked space in the WNT event.

- For 12U – 18U age groups the WRT links to the **qualifying event** of the WNT tournament
- For 10U age groups the WRT links to the **main draw** event of the WNT tournament
- There are no 9U WNT tournaments

How the linking process works:

- The winner of the linked WRT event will be informed by the Referee of that Grade 3 that he/she can claim a space into a corresponding grade 2 WNT
- The winner of the WRT event will receive an email, at the end of the tournament, from the Referee of the WRT event with details of the corresponding linked grade 2 WNT
- THE WINNER MUST ENTER THE LINKED WRT TOURNAMENT ONLINE, BEFORE THE CLOSING DEADLINE, IN ORDER TO CLAIM THE LINKED SPACE. The winner should write in the comments box when making the application: 'Link winner of WRT xxx18Wxxxx' and give code of the grade 3 competition
- If the linked winner **does not enter the corresponding WNT event before its closing deadline he/she will not be given the linked space.** If the linked winner wishes to enter after the closing deadline he/she will be treated as a late entrant
- If the winner had previously entered the linked WNT tournament a note will be added, by the WNT Organiser, to their entry to identify them as the linked winner

Conditions:

- If there are **fewer than 5 players** in a linking WRT tournament then no one will link into the WNT tournament. The reserved space in the WNT will go to the next player on the reserve list.
- If the linking WRT tournament is cancelled then there will be no link into the WNT tournament.

LTA Staged Winter National Tour 2018- 2019

Step by step guide

TOURNAMENT ENTRY

1. Before entering an LTA Staged Winter Competition, e.g. the Winter National Tour grade 2 tournament, ensure you have read the following regulation 3.10b:
'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](#).
2. Enter the tournament online, via [Competition Search](#) before the closing date (see calendar for closing dates).
3. Entry fee payment will be taken at the time of entry.
4. Check that you have received an email confirming your entry into this tournament 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.
5. Check your contact information in your British Tennis Membership account is up to date and correct as the tournament organisers will use the email address and telephone numbers that are held here to contact you.
6. If you are the winner of the linked WRT tournament, ensure you enter the tournament on time before the closing deadline, otherwise you will be treated as a late entrant and may not be accepted.

AFTER CLOSING DEADLINE

1. After the closing deadline the acceptances will be published within 72 hours. It is the player's responsibility to check their status - main draw acceptance or reserve.
2. Within the tournament details on the website you will be able to find venue details, details on the court bookings, and the Referee name and contact details.
3. If you are a 'reserve' it is **your responsibility** to check **your status** regularly to monitor your position. If you move to the top and a space becomes available before the draw is made you will move into event and your status will change accordingly. Please see general WRT information above to see what happens with reserves after the draw has been made.
4. If a reserve is no longer available for the tournament you must withdraw online before the withdrawal deadline.
5. If any player 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

1. After the withdrawal deadline players will no longer be able to withdraw online and will incur withdrawal points if withdrawing after this time.

2. The draw will be published no later than 2 days before the event. It is the responsibility of the player to check the website for match times. First match start times will also be emailed to players who are in the draw.
3. If you are on the reserve list you may be called up until the morning of the event. However, please note reserves may decline an invitation to play in the 24 hours immediately prior to the published starting time of an event without incurring withdrawal penalties.

Players who are on the reserve list must check the website up to 24 hours before the published starting time of the event to see if they have been accepted.

4. The Tournament Organiser will hand over to the Referee 2 days before the tournament. After this time all queries should be directed to the Referee. The Referee contact details can be found on the website on the relevant tournament page.

AFTER THE TOURNAMENT

1. Tournament results will be loaded to a player's profile on the Friday after the completion of the tournament.

[PLEASE CLICK HERE TO SEE THE 2018 - 2019 WINTER NATIONAL TOUR CALENDARS](#)

[**PLEASE CLICK HERE TO ENTER ONLINE**](#)