

WINTER NATIONAL TOUR EVENTS INFORMATION

FEBRUARY 2021

The COVID-19 pandemic has caused challenges for all areas of everyday life and in spite of this the LTA has endeavoured to offer national level indoor competition during the February half-term. **There is still the possibility that the virus could peak again, forcing certain counties, or the whole country, into lockdown once more. Whilst we have created an opportunity for each age group, between 10U – 18U, to participate in a National Tour competition we cannot guarantee that the tournament will take place as planned.**

The LTA will continue to follow the Government guidelines, and will also liaise with all venues to follow their individual guidelines and restrictions. These will of course vary from one venue to another.

At all times we will keep players updated, but because of the nature of the pandemic please be aware that notice times of any change may be extremely short.

We thank you for your interest in National Tour and thank you for your understanding of the situation.

- In February 2021 there will be one Grade 2 competition for each age group between 10U – 18U.
- These National events are stand-alone events - there are no qualifying events, or links from Regional Tour events.
- There will be an optional consolation singles event for the 12U – 18U age groups.
- There is no National Leaderboard and there will be now no Winter National Tour Finals.
- Parents are asked to be mindful of the precarious health situation and that wherever possible players attend a tournament with only one parent/guardian.

How to enter a tournament

All entries must be made by online entry via the [Competition Management System](#) ,

- Payment will be taken at time of online entry via Stripe: £30.00.
- Ensure you complete the check-out process on your payment transaction. If you are experiencing issues with the entry / payment please contact Nationaltour@LTA.org.uk **before the closing deadline.**

NOTE: Players who have not paid online and who have not made contact, before the closing deadline, with the Organiser regarding any online entry issues they may be experiencing, cannot be accepted on to the entry list.

- Once entered you must check your name appears on the entry list. 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.
- After entering successfully you should receive one email acknowledging receipt of entry and a second email confirming that payment has been taken. **This is not an acceptance notification.** If you do not receive these emails you must contact the Tournament Organiser immediately, and **before** the entry closing deadline. Please retain these automated email acknowledgements of entry & payment.
- Remember to keep your contact details up to date in your LTA Members area. These will be used to communicate with you by the Organiser & the Referee.

[Enter a Winter National competition](#)

Late entries

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:

- a) If the tournament is not full the player can be accepted directly
- b) 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.

Publishing of acceptances

Acceptances will be published online, 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.

Wild Cards

Wild cards may be awarded for the Winter National Tour in all age groups and awarded in line with the [LTA's Wild Card Policy](#), by the Performance Team.



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.

Adopting the exception permitted in the LTA Regulations, wild cards for the National Tour will be awarded in the following manner:

- In the 10U – 11U age groups up to one wild card in 4 places of the maximum draw size can be awarded.
- In the 12U – 18U age groups up to one wild card in 8 places of the maximum draw size can be awarded.
- 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.
- 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](#).
- Any wild card spaces not used will be released and the next eligible player(s) will move up accordingly.
- All players entered will be considered for a wild card. No wild cards are awarded to late entries.

Acceptance criteria

10U age group

1. Wild cards - 1 wild card for every 4 places of the draw size
2. Recent Form (a player's best three tournament performances at that ball colour within the last 6 months)
3. By lot if more than one player has the same recent form

11U age group

1. Wild cards - 1 wild card for every 4 places of the draw size
2. LTA Rankings
3. By lot if more than one player has the same ranking

12U – 18U age groups

1. Wild cards - 1 wild card for every 8 places of the draw size
2. LTA Rankings
3. By lot if more than one player has the same ranking

Structure & format for each age group

KEY MD – Main Draw C – Consolation RR – Round Robin QF – Quarter Final SF – Semi-Final F – Final

Age Group	Singles Draw Size	Wild Card	Scoring	Draw Type	Proposed Order of Play
14U – 18U	32	Max of 4	<p>First 3 rounds: Two tie-break sets + deciding match tie-break if the score reaches one set all.</p> <p>Semi-Finals & Final: Best of 3 tie-break sets.</p> <p>Consolation: Two tie-break sets + deciding match tie-break if the score reaches one set all.</p>	Elimination draw with first round OPTIONAL consolation	<p>Day 1 – MD Round 1 + C Round 1</p> <p>Day 2 – MD Rounds 2 & 3 + C Round 2</p> <p>Day 3 – MD SF + C SF & F</p> <p>Day 4 – MD Finals;</p>
12U	32	Max of 4	<p>First 3 rounds: Two tie-break sets + deciding match tie-break if the score reaches one set all.</p> <p>Semi-Finals & Final: Best of 3 tie-break sets</p> <p>Consolation: Two tie-break sets + deciding match tie-break if the score reaches one set all</p>		<p>Day 1 – MD R1, R2 + C R1</p> <p>Day 2– MD SF & F, 3rd/4th play-off & all other play-offs + C SF & Final & all other play-offs</p>
11U	16	Max of 4	Two tie-break sets + deciding match tie-break if the score reaches one set all	Compass draw	<p>Day 1 – MD R1, R2 + C R1</p> <p>Day 2– MD SF & F, 3rd/4th play-off & all other play-offs + C SF & Final & all other play-offs</p>
10U	24	Max of 6	<p>Best of 2 x Fast4 sets + MTB if the score reaches one set all</p> <p>Click here for full details on the scoring format</p>	<p>Round Robin qualification groups with winner and runner up progressing to compass main draw.</p> <p>Third-place players in each box to compete in ratings only compass draw</p>	<p>Day 1 – 3 x RR +1 MD compass match</p> <p>Day 2– MD R2, R3 & R4 + all Extra Matches in 8 player compass</p>

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.

Withdrawals

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

- 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 (minus the admin fee).**
- **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 Referee by phone** as soon as possible. If voicemails are left they must be followed up to make sure the message has been received.

Draw & Seeding

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, ie. 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 / recent form for each player is updated to ensure the draw is made using current information - i.e. ranking/recent form is updated from that of the closing deadline.
- Seeding for 10U events will follow the acceptance criteria and will use a player's recent form as of the day the draw is made; Where this is equal the players will be drawn by lot, i.e. randomly
- Seeding for 11U events will follow the acceptance criteria and will use a player's ranking as of the day the draw is made; Where this is equal the players will be drawn by lot, i.e. randomly
- Seeding for the 12U – 18U WNT events will follow the acceptance criteria and will use current rankings as of the day the draw is made.
- Although the ranking/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.

Prizes

Final Position of Grade 2	Medal/Trophy	Voucher to the value of
11U – 18U Singles Winner	✓	£25.00
11U – 18U Singles Runner-Up	✓	£15.00
10U Singles Winner	✓	NA
10U Singles Runner-Up	✓	NA

[PLEASE CLICK HERE TO SEE THE WINTER NATIONAL TOUR DATES IN FEBRUARY 2021](#)

[PLEASE CLICK HERE TO ENTER ONLINE](#)