

LTA 14U, 12U & 10U COUNTY CUP EVENTS 2021

Change in Format Summary

(subject to change according to latest Government roadmaps)

KEY DATES

REVISED DATES IN RED

LTA 14U COUNTY CUP EVENT

Saturday 1 & Sunday 2 May 2021

LTA 12U COUNTY CUP EVENT

Saturday 24 & Sunday 25 April 2021

Saturday 8 & Sunday 9 May 2021 – Scottish group

LTA 10U COUNTY CUP EVENT

Saturday 22 & Sunday 23 May 2021

INTRODUCTION

- As a result of the past few months and the knock-on effects of Covid19, we needed to consider the format for this year's LTA 14U, 12U, and 10U County Cup Events.
- We need to be mindful on the easing of restrictions for Wales and Scotland as these differ from those for England. All proposals are subject to change according to the latest Government roadmaps / guidance.
- Current (England) Government guidance states 'formally organised outdoor sport' can restart from 29 March which would allow the Events to take place as scheduled but in the case of the 14U, 12U and 10U County Cup Events not the Finals due to restrictions regarding accommodation (hotels do not officially open until Monday 17 May).
- There are currently no plans to cancel any of the junior age group County Cup Events but it should be noted, whatever revised format is agreed, there will be challenges for all concerned. Given tennis is now permitted, and that there were no County Cup tennis in 2020 for these age groups, it is hoped counties will participate in whatever format is agreed.
- Subject to Government guidance on Covid19,, there are currently no plans to change the format for the 11U & 9U County Cup Events and they will take place as scheduled.
- This document highlights the challenges we are faced with and outlines the revised format for the 2021 14U, 12U and 10U County Cup Events.
- **No overnight (hotel) stays permitted before Monday 17 May at the earliest (and this is still 'tbc').**
- Unfortunately The Isle of Man and The Channel Islands would not be able to complete in the 14U, 12U & 10U County Cup Events because of the restrictions on accommodation and have been automatically withdrawn.
- We were mindful for the majority of players this would be their first County Cup Event, since spring 2019

POTENTIAL CHALLENGES

(NEED TO REMEMBER THESE IN CASE SITUATION RE COVID19 HAS NOT IMPROVED)

- **Area 'lockdowns'** – we need to consider the restrictions for the Welsh and Scottish counties as these differ to those for England. NB: Competitive outdoor sports are not permitted in Scotland until Monday 27 April (hence the reason why they are scheduled to play their 12U County Cup Event the weekend of Saturday 8 and Sunday 9 May).
- **Venues** – for the majority of venues this will be their first 'competition' since re-opening and they will be facing challenges in ensuring their facilities meet the legislation with regards to catering, cleaning, one-way systems, sufficient court availability, access to facilities, seating, number of people on site (ensuring social distancing), access to changing rooms & toilets, catering, etc
- **Island Associations** – currently the Channel Islands & IOM would be unable to compete due to accommodation restrictions and knock-on effects of travel due to lack of flights and border restrictions / quarantine regulations.
- **Travel** – currently players would have to travel individually (ie) not as a team in one vehicle (this may change)
- **Accommodation** – **No overnight (hotel) stays permitted before Monday 17 May at the earliest (and this is still 'tbc')**.
- **Players** – for some counties, player availability could be a challenge as players (parents) may not feel comfortable playing in the event. Need to consider the age of the player.
- **County Training** – there will have been little opportunity for counties to have had any county training for their respective squads
- **Calendar** - postponing the Events to later in the year was not feasible due to pressures on the calendar, officials and availability of venues

REVISED STRUCTURE FOR 14U, 12U & 10U COUNTY CUP EVENT 2021

When looking at revising the format for these junior age group County Cup Events there were a number of factors we took into account:

- We needed to consider the relevant Government roadmaps / guidance on Covid19 at the time of each Event as this might effect the running of the Event.
- It should be noted for all venues, it is unknown as to whether they are operating in their usual capacity and there may be restrictions to access to changing facilities, catering, etc. and, in order to keep on-site numbers at venues to a minimum, players may only be allowed to have one person accompanying them
- Respective junior age group Events to run as a 'one-off Event with no Finals on dates indicated on slide 2.
- Groups reformatted into groups of 4 or 3 counties so they are based, as far as possible, geographically / regionally close to one another given venue availability.
- Counties nominate minimum of 4 and maximum of 6 players
- Play same format - 4 singles and 2 doubles using Fast4 scoring format. Championship shoot-out if 3 rubbers all 2 sets and a MTB (to 10) in both singles and doubles
- Practice available for most venues from 11.00am. Matches to start at 12.00noon on both days to allow teams to travel daily
- Counties would receive 'Group Points' to go towards the County Cup Race
- 2022 Event would return to normal format (ie) Qualifying f/b a Finals for each age group