

# LTA 9U COUNTY CUP 2021

Change in Format Summary

# INTRODUCTION

- Following the Competition Review of 2017 there was a recommendation that, in 2021, there should be 2 x 9U County Cup Events – one in the spring and one in the winter
- Original proposal was to have 2 x 9U County Cup Events using the same format currently in place but over the last few months we have been reviewing this option
- Currently there is no overall County Cup Champion for the 9U age group. Our recommendation is there should be one for the south and one for the north areas.
- Changing the format to a qualifying event and then a Final would bring the 9U County Cup Event in line with the other age group County Cup Events.
- This document highlights the current structure, potential challenges, options and a recommendation from the LTA Competitions Team
- Need to be mindful, for majority of players, this will be their first experience of County Cup tennis and so it should be a good one

# POTENTIAL CHALLENGES

(NEED TO BE MINDFUL OF THESE IN CASE SITUATION RE COVID19 HAS NOT IMPROVED)

- **Venues** – may still be facing challenges in ensuring their facilities are meeting the legislation with regards to ensuring social distancing, cleaning, one-way systems, sufficient court availability, access to facilities, seating, number of people on site, access to changing rooms & toilets etc
- **Local lockdowns** – need to be mindful of, if there are local lockdowns, this could have a bearing on venues hosting and / or teams competing which could increase withdrawals
- **Travel** – most counties travel on an independent basis (ie) parents take players to Event.
- **Island Associations** – Currently the Channel Islands & IOM unable to travel due to lack of flights and border restrictions / quarantine regulations.
- **Players** – player availability as there may still be nervousness from County Associations and parents about players so young playing in a team environment.
- **Pressure** – given the age of the player should they be playing at a *potentially* competitive level

# PREVIOUS STRUCTURE

- Event currently scheduled for Saturday 15 May (1 day Event)
- 10 groups with 4 counties x 8 groups and 2 groups of 5 counties (regionalised)
- 10 different venues used. Indoor venues used to ensure Event gets played.
- All counties play each other over the 1 day
- 4 boys & 4 girls singles, 1 boys and 1 girls doubles and 2 mixed doubles per fixture
- All rubbers best of 1 abbreviated set to 4 with a tie-break at 3-3 (2 clear to 7) with no ad-scoring
- Counties nominate a minimum of 8 and a maximum of 10 players for the event
- No overall County Champion at this age group
- On average there would be 32 to 40 players at each event (not including team captains, officials and spectators)
- The CI and IOM do not send teams to the Event

# REVISED STRUCTURE

- Dates for Qualifying rounds Saturday 15 May 2021
- Two regional Finals (north and south) to be played Sunday 6 June - venues TBC
- 8 groups of 4 counties and 2 groups of 5 counties per group (IOM and CI not entering) to be played on round-robin basis using 4 to 6 courts for qualifying and 6 to 8 courts for Finals.
- Counties organised in geographical areas (as they currently are) to minimise travel (and possibly accommodation) costs and parents time.
- 1 county per group progress to regional Finals which will be played on round-robin basis. 5 counties per group.
- LTA Competition Team to arrange qualifying fixtures, venues, balls and referee. LTA to provide medals for group winner.
- Follow same format, team composition, etc. as is currently in place
- Changes to be piloted for 2 years (2021 and 2022) – in line with other Junior age group County Cup Events