



## **LTA County Cup Events 2021**

### **Rules & Regulations (as of 18 January 2021)**

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Please refer to the individual County Cup Event for detailed information on that Event. This is located on the [Adult](#) and [Junior](#) County Cup Areas on the LTA website.

## General Rules & Regulations – applicable for all Events County Cup Events 2021

1. The management of the County Cup Events shall be entrusted to the LTA Competitions Team, with power to suspend or modify any of these Regulations to meet exceptional circumstances and to decide any question of eligibility, qualifications of competitors and interpretation of the Regulations. The LTA Competitions Team's decision shall be final.
2. For the purpose of the County Cup Events, which shall be area competitions subject to the Lawn Tennis Associations Limited Rules 35 and 36 (including appendix 1), the following shall be regarded as Counties: East of Scotland, North of Scotland, South of Scotland, West of Scotland, North Wales, South Wales, Channel Islands, Isle of Man.
3. Although it is not compulsory to compete, all Counties shall be entered in the relevant County Cup Event. Any County intending not to compete in an Event must email notification to the Event Director ([countycup@LTA.org.uk](mailto:countycup@LTA.org.uk)) 9 months before the relevant event. Where appropriate, any County that withdraws from an Event shall be placed in the lowest group for the following year and will have any applicable funding for that Event withdrawn.
4. A player is qualified to represent an area in any County Cup Event if they meet the criteria outlined in the Lawn Tennis Association Limited Rule 36. No player may represent more than one County in any Event.
5. Referee(s) shall be appointed for each venue by the LTA Competitions Team. The Referee shall decide any point that relates to the interpretation of the Rules of Tennis, County Cup Rules & Regulations and / or LTA Code of Conduct which may be referred to him/her. He/she shall decide whether or not the match shall be stopped owing to the state of the courts, the state of the weather, darkness, or other unavoidable hindrance. After consulting with the Event Director and / or Event Referee if necessary, the Referee shall have the final say in all on-site matters.
6. Once final nominations have been submitted no other player may represent the County during the Event except in exceptional circumstances (such as illness, injury or bereavement) which reduces the number of available nominated players for a County to less than the minimum required for the relevant County Cup Event. In this case the Referee shall consult the Event Director, who may authorise the nomination of the necessary number of substitutes for the remainder of the Event.

If any County fails to field at least two singles players on any day, or, in the case of the Summer County Cup Event, 2 pairs, (unless for exceptional circumstances, as decided by the Event Director), all their matches in the competition shall be declared null and void and they shall finish bottom of the group.

Any County failing to show, report to the referee or nominate a full team on any day, (unless for exceptional circumstances, as decided by the Event Director), will have all their matches in the Event declared null and void and they shall finish bottom of the group. Furthermore, subject to investigation, they may be precluded from the following year's Event and will be placed in the bottom group of the relevant Event.

7. A County shall not be bound to play the same team throughout the Event but no change shall be made in the composition of the teams engaged in a match after daily nominations have been submitted. If any player, team or doubles pairing play out of order, those rubbers they competed in and below shall be declared null and void. If a match is postponed to the next day before any play has taken place the composition of the competing teams may be changed.
8. If a player(s) is / are defaulted, except in cases of punctuality, then that player(s) is no longer allowed to take any further part in that competition.
9. For Events being played outdoors, indoor courts must not be used unless the courts are on-site and any additional cost to the LTA or a County Association has been authorised in advance by the Event Director.
10. The County Association via its appointed captain (or other designated person accompanying the Team) is responsible for the behaviour of its Team on and off the site for the duration of the event which includes but is not limited to travelling to, staying at accommodation and returning to the County.

Any incident shall be dealt with in accordance with these Regulations and the Lawn Tennis Association Limited Rules (including, for the avoidance of doubt, any Appendices). Entry into the County Cup Events constitutes acceptance, by both the County and its individual members of the team, of the LTA's jurisdiction to deal with any disciplinary matter in accordance with these Regulations (including the Code of Conduct) and the Lawn Tennis Association Limited Rules (including, for the avoidance of doubt, any Appendices). In particular, the following shall apply:

- 10.1 Any disciplinary matter relating to an incident occurring on site shall be referred to the Referee for decision and any appeal against his / her decision shall be referred to the LTA Competitions Team and will be dealt with in accordance to the LTA Disciplinary & Dispute Resolution Procedures as set out at Appendix 3 to the Lawn Tennis Association Limited Rules.
- 10.2 Any disciplinary matter relating to an incident off site shall be referred to the LTA Competitions Team and will be dealt with in accordance with the LTA Disciplinary and Dispute Resolution Procedures as set out at Appendix 3 to the Lawn Tennis Association Limited Rules.
- 10.3 Any disciplinary matter relating to match fixing, financial speculation and betting, as set out in the Disciplinary Code, shall be referred to the LTA Competitions Team and will be dealt with in accordance with the LTA Disciplinary and Dispute Resolution Procedures as set out in Appendix 3 to the Lawn Tennis Association Limited rules.
11. Any complaint relating to eligibility of players and / or nominations must be lodged, in writing, with the Event Director within 48 hours after the end of the Event.
12. No complaint in connection with any LTA County Cup Event can be entertained by the LTA unless lodged with the LTA at [officiatingsupport@lta.org.uk](mailto:officiatingsupport@lta.org.uk) within 48 hours of the occurrence of the cause of the complaint (please see LTA Competition Regulation 8.1).

## LTA Summer County Cup Event Special Regulations

1. Competing Counties will be divided into groups. Men's & Ladies' Groups 1 to 6 shall comprise six Counties. Men's & Ladies Group 7 shall comprise eight counties divided into two Sections of four Counties, allocated in accordance with Regulation 18.
- Groups 1 to 6 - Each County shall play one match against each other county over 5 days.
- Group 7 - Each County shall play one match against each other County in the same Section, followed by an Inter-Section Stage in which the Counties placed first and second in each Section shall then play one match against each of the Counties placed first and second in the other Section; and the Counties placed third and fourth in each Section shall play one match against each of the Counties placed third and fourth in the other Section.
2. Final nominations must be submitted to the Referee 30 minutes before the start of play on the first day. Counties should nominate a minimum of 6 and maximum of 10 players for the event.
- To be eligible for nomination players must be born on or before 31 December 2005.
3. Each match shall consist of nine doubles rubbers. As a one year trial in 2020, all rubbers shall be the best of two tie-break sets and a match tie-break (to 10 points).
4. Daily nominations must be submitted to the Referee 15 minutes before the start of play on each day. The Team Captain shall nominate the team in pair order, plus 2 substitutes. Each pair shall play against each pair of the opposing team.
5. At set breaks, Team Captains, or nominated deputy, are allowed to communicate with their players within the permitted two minute break and must leave once play resumes.
6. If any player is absent when called upon to play by the Referee the opponents shall be entitled to two love sets. If in any rubber one or more player(s) are absent from each pair, the rubber shall be void.
7. If any player is unable to start a rubber, he/she may be replaced by a nominated substitute. It will be a straight substitution and the pairs may not be reordered. The player being substituted shall take no further part in the match. A player who is defaulted may not be substituted.
8. If a player is unable to complete a rubber that has started due to injury, sickness or disqualification the opposing pair shall be awarded the requisite number of games to win the rubber. If the player is subsequently fit to start the next rubber, he/she may do so; if not Regulation 7 applies.
9. If any County fails to field at least two pairs on any day (unless for exceptional circumstances, as decided by the Event Director), all their matches in the competition shall be declared null and void and they shall finish bottom of the group.
10. If any County fields an ineligible player, all rubbers contested by that player shall be awarded to the opposition by a score of 6-0 6-0.

11. If a match in progress cannot be finished or a scheduled match has been unable to start on any day, it shall be completed on the following day before the start of the scheduled match for that day. In order to complete all matches, the use of abbreviated scoring should be considered for complete rounds of unfinished matches and, if necessary, the scheduled matches for that day.
12. If there are still unfinished matches at the close of play on the final day, the result of the matches shall be determined by the rubbers that have been completed providing one or two rounds of the day's programme have been completed in all matches of the group or section at that venue. Second round rubbers will only count if all second round rubbers of all matches at that venue have been completed. If no play is possible or fewer than 3 rubbers have been completed in any match at any venue, the results of all the matches for that day at that venue shall be declared null and void.
13. The Referee may order any match or part of a match to be played on a surface other than grass.
14. A team is awarded 1 point for each rubber won.
15. The team with the most rubber points shall win the match. A team will receive 2 match points on the league table for a match win.

Under no circumstances should rubbers be conceded. If under the terms of Regulation 12 less than nine rubbers shall have been completed, the match shall be decided:

- (a) By the majority of counting rubbers won; or
  - (b) If there is equality of rubbers, by the majority of sets (in counting rubbers) won; or
  - (c) If there is equality of rubbers and sets, by the majority of games (in counting rubbers) won.
  - (c) If there is equality of rubbers, sets and games, the match shall be tied with each team scoring one match point.
16. The final standings in each Group or Section shall be determined by the following:
    - (a) The team with the greatest number of match points.
    - (b) If match points are equal, the team with the greatest number of rubber points.
    - (c) If only two teams are level on match points and rubber points; their head to head result.
    - (d) If more than two teams are level, the percentage of sets won out of sets played (if after this calculation, only two teams remain level, their head to head result will be used to break the tie).
    - (e) If more than two teams are level, the percentage of games won out of games played (if after this calculation, only two teams remain level, their head to head result will be used to break the tie).
  17. In a group of more than six Counties the first four places shall be allotted to the Counties placed first and second in their respective sections, these four places to be dependent on the results of all matches played between those four Counties (ie in each case one match within the section and two matches in the inter-section stage). The remaining places in the group shall likewise be allotted to the Counties not placed first or second in their section, according to all matches played between the four or three Counties concerned.
  18. Each year, the Event Director shall rearrange the Counties in each group as follows:
    - (a) In Men's & Ladies' Groups 1-7 the Counties which finish first and second shall be placed in the group immediately above the one in which they last competed (except Group 1).
    - (b) The Counties which finish respectively last and last but one (other than Men's & Ladies' Group 7) shall be placed in the group immediately below the one in which they last competed.
    - (c) In Men's & Ladies' Group 7 one section shall comprise the Counties standing 2nd, 3rd, 6th and 7th and the other section the remainder.
  19. Each year, the Event Director may rearrange the number of Counties in all groups, other than Groups 1 and 2, in such manner as they may deem necessary, and for the purpose of such arrangement may promote to a higher group or relegate to a lower group more than two Counties; provided that in such promotion or relegation the order of precedence established by the previous competition is strictly maintained.
  20. In the event of any two or more Counties in the same group or section entering and failing to compete, the final order of their precedence in the group or section as between each other shall be determined by the Event Director.

If no play is possible in any group for the duration of the Event, the Event Director shall decide the promotion and relegation of Counties for the following year, whether a Champion County can be declared or to declare the competition void.

# LTA Winter & 18U County Cup Event

## Special Regulations

1. Competing Counties will be divided into Groups. Excluding Group 1, Groups will be divided into Sections A and B of not more than four Counties. Each County shall play one match against each other County in the same Section or Group over 3 days.
2. For the Winter County Cup Event - final nominations, in ATP / WTA Singles Ranking order, followed by ITF World Tennis Ranking 1500 or better and thereafter World Tennis Number order, must be submitted to the Referee 30 minutes before start of play on the first day. Equally rated players may be nominated in any order but the nominated order must be maintained throughout the Event.

For the Winter County Cup Event – To be eligible for nomination players must be born on or before 31 December 2006.

For the 18U County Cup - final nominations, in British Tennis Ranking order, must be submitted to the Referee 30 minutes before start of play on the first day. Equally ranked players may be nominated in any order but the nominated order must be maintained throughout the Event. The rankings used for Final Nominations will be based on the available list of the Monday of the Event week.

Counties should nominate a minimum of 6 and a maximum of 10 players.

3. Each match shall consist of nine rubbers - six singles followed by three doubles: commencing with No 6 playing No 6 of the opposing team, No 5 playing No 5 and so on.

All rubbers to be the best of 3 sets. Any 3<sup>rd</sup> set in the doubles rubbers shall be replaced by a Match Tie-break.

For the 18U County Cup, all doubles rubbers will use no-ad scoring (receiver's choice) throughout the match.

4. Daily singles nominations must be submitted to the Referee 15 minutes before the start of play on each day. The singles players shall be nominated in order according to the final nominations (Reg 2).
5. Doubles nominations must be submitted 15 minutes after the No.1 singles match going onto court. All players nominated for doubles must be on-site at the time of nomination. Doubles pairings shall be nominated in accordance with the lowest cumulative total of the players listed in the final nominations (Reg 2). Where the total is the same, the pairing with the highest nominated player shall be nominated as the higher pair.

The substitute will be nominated at the same time as the doubles nominations. Players nominated as singles 1 & 2 players in the competition nomination list (Reg. 2 or daily nomination list (Reg. 4)) may not be a doubles substitute. Any player nominated for doubles that is on court playing singles at the time of nomination, may be substituted and will replace that player directly. The doubles nomination order remains unaltered.

Any player playing both singles & doubles on the same day will be entitled to a minimum of 30 minutes rest between matches.

6. A player who has been defaulted may not be substituted.
7. For Winter County Cup, at set breaks, team captains or their nominated deputy are allowed to communicate with their players within the permitted two minute break and must leave once play resumes.

For 18U County Cup, team captains or their nominated deputy are allowed to communicate with their players at change of ends within the 90 second break and may remain on court.

8. If any player(s) is absent when called upon to play by the Referee that rubber and all rubbers below shall be awarded to the opponent(s) and they shall be entitled to two love sets. This shall apply separately to singles and doubles. If in any rubber one or more player(s) is absent from each side the rubber shall be void.
9. If a player or doubles pair plays out of order, the opponent(s) shall be awarded two love sets.
10. If a player is unable to complete a rubber that has started due to injury, sickness or disqualification, the opposing player or pair shall be awarded the requisite number of games to win the rubber.
11. If any County fields an ineligible player, including the mis-use of the substitute, the rubbers contested by that player and all rubbers below shall be awarded to the opposition by a score of 6-0 6-0. This shall apply separately to singles and doubles.
12. If a match in progress cannot be finished or a scheduled match has been unable to start on any day, it shall be completed on the following day before the start of the scheduled match for that day. In order to complete all matches, the use of abbreviated scoring should be considered for complete rounds of unfinished matches and, if necessary, the scheduled matches for that day.

13. A team is awarded 1 point for each rubber won.
14. The team with the most rubber points shall win the match. A team will receive 2 match points on the league table for a match win.

Under no circumstances should rubbers be conceded. If on the final day a match in progress cannot be finished, the result of the match shall be determined by the rubbers that have been completed as follows:

- a) By the majority of rubbers won; or
  - b) If there is equality of rubbers, by the majority of sets won; or
  - c) If there is equality of rubbers and sets, by the majority of games won
15. The final standings in each Group or Section shall be determined by the following:
    - a) The team with the greatest number of match points.
    - b) If match points are equal, the team with the greatest number of rubber points.
    - c) If only two teams are level on match points and rubber points; their head to head result.
    - d) If more than two teams are level, the percentage of sets won out of sets played (if after this calculation, only two teams remain level, their head to head result will be used to break the tie)
    - e) If more than two teams are level, the percentage of games won out of games played (if after this calculation, only two teams remain level, their head to head result will be used to break the tie)
  16. The Group formation for the following year's Event shall be as follows:

Group 1:

- 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> placed teams remain in Group
- 3<sup>rd</sup> placed team goes to Group 2a
- 4<sup>th</sup> placed team goes to Group 2b

Groups 2a & 2b:

- 1<sup>st</sup> placed teams go to Group 1
- 2<sup>nd</sup> placed teams remain in Group 2 and swap sections
- 3<sup>rd</sup> placed teams remain in Group and section
- 4<sup>th</sup> placed teams remain in section and are relegated to Group 3

Groups 3a to 5b:

- 1<sup>st</sup> placed teams change in section and are promoted to Group above
- 2<sup>nd</sup> placed teams remain in Group and swap sections
- 3<sup>rd</sup> placed teams remain in Group and section
- 4<sup>th</sup> placed teams remain in section and are relegated to Group below

Group 6a & 6b:

- 1<sup>st</sup> placed teams change section and are promoted to Group above
- 2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> placed teams remain in Group and swap sections
- 3<sup>rd</sup> placed teams remain in Group

# LTA 14U, 12U, 11U & 10U County Cup Events

## Special Regulations

1. The Event shall be played in two stages - Qualifying and Finals.

The match format for Qualifying groups comprising of 5 counties will be each county plays all other counties in a round robin.

The match format for the Qualifying groups comprising 6 County teams will be to play two round robin boxes of 3 teams over the first two days followed by the winners, runners-up and 3<sup>rd</sup> placed teams of the two boxes playing each other on day 3.

The match format for the Finals comprising of 8 counties will be to play two round-robin boxes of 4 teams over the first two days followed by the winners, runners-up, 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> placed teams playing each other on day 3.

2. For the 14U, 12U & 11U Events - final nominations, in LTA Ranking order, must be submitted to the Referee 30 minutes before start of play on the first day. Equally ranked players may be nominated in any order but the nominated order must be maintained throughout the Event. The rankings used for Final Nominations will be based on the latest list available.

For the 10U Event - final nominations, in World Tennis Number order, must be submitted to the Referee 30 minutes before start of play on the first day. Equally rated players may be nominated in any order but the nominated order must be maintained throughout the Event. The rating order is outlined in the table below (Priority 1 rating must play above Priority 2 rated players and so on):

Priority 1	Priority 2
Eligible players in order of their World Tennis Number	Unrated players in any order (Team Captain's Discretion)

3. Counties should nominate a minimum of 4 and maximum of 6 players.
4. Subject to age group rules, players will be permitted to play in more than one County Cup Event
5. Each match shall consist of six rubbers - four singles followed by two doubles: commencing with No 4 playing No 4 of the opposing team, No 3 playing No 3 and so on.

All singles and doubles rubbers shall be played using the Fast4 scoring format - best of two sets to 4 games with a tie-break at 3 – 3 (to 7 points with a 2 point advantage and a 3<sup>rd</sup> set Match tie-break (to 10 points, with a 2 point clear advantage). All rubbers will use no-ad scoring (receiver's choice) throughout the match.

For the 10U Event - the doubles event will be played on the singles court – the tramlines will not be part of the court and the singles sticks should remain in place.



6. Match nominations must be submitted to the Referee 15 minutes before the start of each match. The team shall be nominated in singles order according to the final nominations (Reg 2).

Doubles pairings shall be nominated in accordance with the lowest cumulative total of the nominated positions of the players in each pairing including players nominated 5 & 6 (as per Reg 2). Where the total is the same, the pairing with the highest nominated player shall be nominated as the higher pair.

Doubles pairings can be nominated once all singles matches have been completed.

7. If a player who has been nominated to play singles is unable to either begin the singles rubber or retires during a rubber, for whatever reason, that player is permitted to compete in doubles on the same day if fit to do so.
8. At set breaks, Team Captains or a nominated deputy, are allowed to communicate with their player(s) within the permitted 120 seconds break and must leave court once play has resumed.

Team Captains may also stay on court for the match tie-break / shootout.

9. If a player or doubles pair plays out of order or a county is unable to field a full team, the opponent(s) shall be awarded two love sets.
10. If any player is absent when called upon to play by the Referee, that rubber and all rubbers below shall be awarded to the opponent(s) by two love sets. This shall apply separately to singles and doubles. If in any rubber one or more player(s) is absent from each side the rubber shall be void.
11. If a player is unable to complete a rubber that has started due to injury, sickness or disqualification, the opposing player or pair shall be awarded the requisite number of games to win the rubber.
12. If any County fields an ineligible player, the rubbers contested by that player and all rubbers below shall be awarded to the opposition by a score of 4-0 4-0. This shall apply separately to singles and doubles.
13. A team is awarded 1 point for each rubber won.
14. At 3 points each a doubles tiebreak shoot-out (to 10 points with 2 clear) shall be played to establish a winner.
15. Tie-Break shoot out (1 pair):

Player 1: one of the players from the number 1 doubles pair

Player 2: one of the players from the number 2 doubles pair

16. The team with the most rubber points shall win the match. A team will receive 2 match points on the league table for a match win.
17. Under no circumstances should rubbers be conceded. Where there are weather issues, in order to complete all matches, the use of abbreviated scoring should be considered for complete rounds of unfinished matches and, if necessary, the scheduled matches for that day. If, on the final day, a match in progress cannot be finished, the result of the match shall be determined by the rubbers that have been completed as follows:
  - a) By the majority of rubbers won; or
  - b) If there is equality of rubbers, by the majority of sets won; or
  - c) If there is equality of rubbers and sets, by the majority of games won

18. The final standings for both qualifying and final Groups shall be determined by the following:
  - a) The team with the greatest number of match points.
  - b) If match points are equal, the team with the greatest number of rubber points.
  - c) If only two teams are level on match points and rubber points; their head to head result.
  - d) If more than two teams are level, the percentage of sets won out of sets played (if after this calculation, only two teams remain level, their head to head result will be used to break the tie).
  - e) If more than two teams are level, the percentage of games won out of games played (if after this calculation, only two teams remain level, their head to head result will be used to break the tie).

NB: A deciding Match Tie-Break shall count as 1 set and 1 game



# LTA 9U County Cup Event

## Special Regulations

1. The Event shall be played in two stages - Qualifying and Finals.

The match format for both the Qualifying and Finals will be each county playing all other counties in a round robin with the winner of each group progressing to the Finals as previously designated.

The match format for the Finals will comprise of 2 Groups (North and South) with 5 counties per group with each county playing all other counties within their group in a round robin to determine County champion – one for the north area and one for the south area.

Both the Qualifying Event and Finals will be played using indoor venues.

2. Final nominations must be submitted to the Referee 30 minutes before the start of play. Final nominations of all eligible players shall be nominated in any order (Team Captains decision).

Equally rated players may be nominated in any order but the nominated order must be maintained throughout the day.

3. Counties should nominate a minimum of 8 and maximum of 10 players.
4. Each match shall consist of twelve rubbers – four boys singles, followed by four girls singles, followed by one boys doubles, one girls doubles and two mixed doubles. In singles, No 1 shall play No 1 of the opposing team, No 2 shall play No 2 and so on, commencing with the No 3 singles. Players are only permitted to play two rubbers per match.
5. All rubbers shall be the best of 1 abbreviated set to 4 with a tie-break at 3-3 (2 clear to 7) with no ad-scoring.
6. Match nominations must be submitted to the Referee 15 minutes before the start of each match. The team shall be nominated in singles order according to the final nominations (Reg 2). Doubles pairings can be nominated once all singles matches have been completed.

If a player who has been nominated to play singles is unable to either begin the singles rubber or retires during the rubber, for whatever reason, that player is permitted to compete in doubles in the same match if fit to do so.

7. Team captains or nominated deputy are allowed to communicate with their players at the end of each set and may remain on court.
8. If any player is absent when called upon to play by the Referee, that rubber and all rubbers below shall be awarded to the opponent(s) by two love tiebreaks. This shall apply separately to singles and doubles. If in any rubber one or more player(s) is absent from each side the rubber shall be void.
9. If a player or doubles pair play out of order, the opponent(s) shall be awarded a one love set.
10. If a player is unable complete a rubber that has started due to injury, sickness or disqualification the opposing player or pair shall be awarded the requisite number of points to win the rubber.
11. If any County fields an ineligible player, the rubbers contested by that player and all rubbers below shall be awarded to the opposition by a score of 4-0. This shall apply separately to boys and girls.
12. A team is awarded 1 point for each rubber won.
13. The team with the most rubber points shall win the match. A team will receive 2 match points on the league table for a match win.

14. Under no circumstances should rubbers be conceded. If a match in progress cannot be finished on the day, and less than twelve rubbers have been completed, the result of the match shall be determined by the rubbers that have been completed as follows:
  - a) By the majority of rubbers won; or
  - b) If there is equality of rubbers, by the majority of tiebreaks won; or
  - c) If there is equality of rubbers and tiebreaks, by the majority of points won
15. The final standings for the Group shall be determined by the following:
  - a) The team with the greatest number of match points
  - b) If match points are equal, the team with the greatest number of rubber points
  - c) If only two teams are level on match points and rubber points; their head to head result
  - d) If more than two teams are level, the percentage of games won out of games played (if, after this calculation, only two teams remain level, their head to head result will be used to break the tie)

## **LTA Mens & Ladies Over 35s County Cup Event**

### **Special Regulations**

1. Competing Counties will be divided into Groups. Excluding Group 1, Groups will be divided into Sections A and B of not more than four Counties. Each County shall play one match against each other County in the same Section or Group over 3 days.
2. Final nominations, in LTA Rating order, must be submitted to the Referee 30 minutes before start of play on the first day. Equally rated players may be nominated in any order but the nominated order must be maintained throughout the Event.

Counties should nominate a minimum of 4 and a maximum of 6 players.

3. Each match shall consist of five rubbers - two singles and three doubles: commencing with No 2 playing No 2 of the opposing team and then No 1 playing No 1 of the opposing team followed by doubles.

All rubbers to be best of 2 sets and a Match Tie-break.

4. Daily singles and doubles nominations must be submitted to the Referee 15 minutes before the start of play on each day. The singles players shall be nominated in order according to the final nominations (Reg 2).

Two named substitutes, who may be used for the doubles in Round 2 only, must be nominated at the same time as the singles and doubles nominations. A change of pairing for Round 2 may be made to the Referee before the start of that round.

A 5<sup>th</sup> / 6<sup>th</sup> player may be introduced to play doubles in Round 2 as a substitute for any player nominated to play in Round 1 but no player shall meet in Round 2 a player whom he met in Round 1. If both singles players are nominated to play doubles in Round 2 they must play together as a pair.

5. A player who has been defaulted may not be substituted.
6. If any player(s) is absent when called upon to play by the Referee that rubber and all rubbers below shall be awarded to the opponent(s) and they shall be entitled to two love sets. This shall apply separately to singles and doubles. If in any rubber one or more player(s) is absent from each side the rubber shall be void.
7. If a player or doubles pair plays out of order, the opponent(s) shall be awarded two love sets.
8. If a player is unable to complete a rubber that has started due to injury, sickness or disqualification, the opposing player or pair shall be awarded the requisite number of games to win the rubber.
9. If any County fields an ineligible player, the rubbers contested by that player and all rubbers below shall be awarded to the opposition by a score of 6-0 6-0. This shall apply separately to singles and doubles.
10. If a match in progress cannot be finished on the scheduled day, the result of the match shall be determined by the rubbers that have been completed provided that Round 1 of the day's programme has been completed in both matches of the

Group or, either team has won 2 singles rubbers. If the above has not been completed the following actions will take place:

- (a) If no result has been achieved, the Referee will consider all possible options to achieve a result as specified above. These options could include completing outstanding matches at the end of a subsequent day's play or, the use of abbreviated scoring to complete rounds or unfinished matches and, if necessary, the scheduled matches for that day.
- (b) In the event of neither of these options being considered practical by the Referee, the unfinished rubber(s) could be halved.

11. A team is awarded 1 point for each rubber won.
12. The team with the most rubber points shall win the match. A team will receive 2 match points on the league table for a match win.
13. Under no circumstances should rubbers be conceded. If on the final day a match in progress cannot be finished, the result of the match shall be determined by the rubbers that have been completed as follows:
  - (a) By the majority of rubbers won; or
  - (b) If there is equality of rubbers, by the majority of sets won; or
  - (c) If there is equality of rubbers and sets, by the majority of games won
  - (d) If there is equality of rubbers, sets and games, the match shall be tied and a draw recorded
14. If no play is possible in any group for the duration of the Event, the Event Director shall decide promotion and relegation of Counties for the following year, whether a Champion County can be declared or to declare the competition void.
15. The final standings in each Group or Section shall be determined by the following:
  - (a) The team with the greatest number of match points.
  - (b) If match points are equal, the team with the greatest number of rubber points.
  - (c) If only two teams are level on match points and rubber points; their head to head result.
  - (d) If more than two teams are level, the percentage of sets won out of sets played (if after this calculation, only two teams remain level, their head to head result will be used to break the tie)
  - (e) If more than two teams are level, the percentage of games won out of games played (if after this calculation, only two teams remain level, their head to head result will be used to break the tie)
16. The Group formation for the following year's Event shall be as follows:

Group 1:

- 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> placed teams remain in Group
- 3<sup>rd</sup> placed team goes to Group 2a
- 4<sup>th</sup> placed team goes to Group 2b

Groups 2a & 2b:

- 1<sup>st</sup> placed teams go to Group 1
- 2<sup>nd</sup> placed teams remain in Group 2 and swap sections
- 3<sup>rd</sup> placed teams remain in Group and section
- 4<sup>th</sup> placed teams remain in section and are relegated to Group 3

Groups 3a to 5b:

- 1<sup>st</sup> placed teams change in section and are promoted to Group above
- 2<sup>nd</sup> placed teams remain in Group and swap sections
- 3<sup>rd</sup> placed teams remain in Group and section
- 4<sup>th</sup> placed teams remain in section and are relegated to Group below

Group 6a & 6b:

- 1<sup>st</sup> placed teams change section and are promoted to Group above
- 2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> placed teams remain in Group and swap sections
- 3<sup>rd</sup> placed teams remain in Group

## LTA Seniors County Cup Events 2021

### General Rules & Regulations

1. The management of the County Cup Events shall be entrusted to the LTA Competitions Team, with power to suspend or modify any of these Regulations to meet exceptional circumstances and to decide any question of eligibility, qualifications of competitors and interpretation of the Regulations. The LTA Competitions Team's decision shall be final.
2. For the purpose of the County Cup Events, which shall be area competitions subject to the Lawn Tennis Associations Limited Rules 35 and 36 (including appendix 1), the following shall be regarded as Counties: East of Scotland, North of Scotland, South of Scotland, West of Scotland, North Wales, South Wales, Channel Islands, Isle of Man.
3. Although it is not compulsory to compete, all Counties are encouraged to enter all relevant County Cup Events. Any County not intending to compete in an Event must email notification to the Event Director ([countycup@LTA.org.uk](mailto:countycup@LTA.org.uk)) no later than 6 months before the relevant event. Where appropriate, any County that withdraws from an Event shall be placed in the lowest group for the following year and will have any applicable funding for that Event withdrawn.
4. A player is qualified to represent an area in any County Cup Event if they meet the criteria outlined in the Lawn Tennis Association Limited Rule 35. No player may represent more than one County in any Event.
5. The LTA Competitions Team shall decide any point that relates to the interpretation of the Rules of Tennis, County Cup Rules & Regulations and / or LTA Code of Conduct which may be referred to him/her. He/she shall decide whether or not the match shall be stopped owing to the state of the courts, the state of the weather, darkness, or other unavoidable hindrance. The LTA Competitions Team shall have the final say in all on-site / match matters.
6. With the exception of Seniors County Cup, any County failing to show or nominate a team on any day, (unless for exceptional circumstances, as decided by the Event Director), will have all their matches in the Event declared null and void and they shall finish bottom of the group. Furthermore, subject to investigation, they may be precluded from the following year's Event and will be placed in the bottom group of the relevant Event.
7. With the exception of Seniors County Cup, if any player, team or doubles pairing play out of order, those rubbers they competed in and below shall be declared null and void. If a match is postponed to the next day before any play has taken place the composition of the competing teams may be changed. For Seniors County Cup events any singles matches played shall be in rating or World Tennis Number order.
8. If a player(s) is / are defaulted, except in cases of punctuality, then that player(s) is no longer allowed to take any further part in that competition.
9. The County Association via its appointed captain (or other designated person accompanying the Team) is responsible for the behaviour of its Team on and off the site for the duration of the event which includes but is not limited to travelling to, staying at accommodation and returning to the County.
10. Any incident shall be dealt with in accordance with these Regulations and the Lawn Tennis Association Limited Rules (including, for the avoidance of doubt, any Appendices). Entry into the County Cup Events constitutes acceptance, by both the County and its individual members of the team, of the LTA's jurisdiction to deal with any disciplinary matter in accordance with these Regulations (including the Code of Conduct) and the Lawn Tennis Association Limited Rules (including, for the avoidance of doubt, any Appendices). In particular, the following shall apply:
  - 10.1 Any disciplinary matter relating to an incident occurring on site shall be referred to the Referee for decision and any appeal against his / her decision shall be referred to the LTA Competitions Team and will be dealt with in accordance to the LTA Disciplinary & Dispute Resolution Procedures as set out at Appendix 3 to the Lawn Tennis Association Limited Rules.
  - 10.2 Any disciplinary matter relating to an incident off site shall be referred to the LTA Competitions Team and will be dealt with in accordance with the LTA Disciplinary and Dispute Resolution Procedures as set out at Appendix 3 to the Lawn Tennis Association Limited Rules.
  - 10.3 Any disciplinary matter relating to match fixing, financial speculation and betting, as set out in the Disciplinary Code, shall be referred to the LTA Competitions Team and will be dealt with in accordance with the LTA Disciplinary and Dispute Resolution Procedures as set out in Appendix 3 to the Lawn Tennis Association Limited rules.

11. Any complaint relating to eligibility of players and / or nominations must be lodged, in writing, with the Event Director within 48 hours after the end of the match.

## **LTA Seniors County Cup Event 2021**

### **Womens – Over 40, 50, 55, 60, 65, 70, 75**

### **Mens – Over 45, 50, 55, 60, 65, 70, 75**

### **Rules & Regulations for 2021 Event only**

#### **1. Format of the Competition**

The following revised format outlined within these Rules & Regulations and the associated Competition Pack is for the 2021 LTA Seniors County Cup Event only and the Event will revert back to its usual format in 2022.

Please remember, that the information in these Rules & Regulations and Competition Pack, is applicable as of 6 January 2021 and further restrictions and / or localised / national lockdowns imposed at the time of the match would obviously affect arrangements for the match. It is the responsibility of both team captains in their role as county representatives to check and ensure compliance with any Covid-19 restrictions and guidelines that are in place at the time of the relevant match.

Groups shall be arranged by The LTA Competitions Team into geographical 'clusters' in order to help reduce travel costs and try and avoid the necessity for overnight accommodation. Home teams are requested to consider the proposed location for each home match to keep travelling time reasonable for the away team.

For the 2021 Event, there will be no promotion, relegation or National Finals.

The arrangement of divisions will depend on the number of counties entering the relevant age group.

#### **2. Eligibility**

Senior age qualification rules permit players to take part if they reach the minimum age at any time during the year in which the competition is played.

A player, if selected, is eligible to represent his/her County only in accordance with LTA Rule 35.

If a player moves to reside in another county, then one complete year must elapse before he/she may play a match for the new County, if selected.

Team Captains are responsible for verifying their players are eligible before nominating them to play in any representative match.

We wish to encourage as many matches as possible to be completed and, to assist with this for 2021 only, we are not restricting the number of times a player may play down in any of the younger age categories. We would however request team captains to give priority to players who fall within the age category of their team. Therefore a player aged 62 can play in the over 60s and also for the over 55s team but only when the over 55s team captain has been unable to field a team of those aged 55-59.

#### **3. Match Format**

All matches to be played on outdoor courts between Thursday 1 April and Tuesday 30 November.

For all men's and ladies' age groups for 2021 only, Team Captains shall agree at the time of arranging the match to play either of the match formats below. The home captain shall confirm their joint decision in writing to the away team captain.

##### **Format 1: 2 Singles and 3 doubles:**

###### **Round 1**

Singles 1 v singles 1  
Singles 2 v singles 2  
1st doubles v 1st doubles

###### **Round 2**

1st doubles v 2nd doubles  
2nd doubles v 1st doubles

##### **Format 2: 4 doubles;**

###### **Round 1**

1<sup>st</sup> pair v 1<sup>st</sup> pair  
2<sup>nd</sup> pair v 2<sup>nd</sup> pair

###### **Round 2**

1<sup>st</sup> pair v 2<sup>nd</sup> pair  
2<sup>nd</sup> pair v 1<sup>st</sup> pair

In the event of any dispute the default format shall be:

Format 1: All men's age groups up to and including 65

All women's age groups up to and including 55

Format 2: Men's 70s and above  
Women's 60s and above

Each rubber shall be the best of three sets. The tie-break will apply at 6 games all in the first two sets. The 3<sup>rd</sup> set in all matches will consist of a Championship Tie Break (to 10 points with a 2 point clear advantage). In the case of bad weather, Fast4 scoring format should be used if possible to finish matches (see end of pack for rules).

Under no circumstances should rubbers be conceded. Each match will be decided on the number of rubbers won. However:

- (a) If rubbers are tied, the number of sets won will decide.
- (b) If sets are tied, the number of games won will decide.
- (c) If games are tied, the combined result of the first two rubbers will decide first rubbers, then sets, then games.
- (d) If a tie still prevails, then the result of the leading rubber, i.e. 1st pair v 1st pair, will decide.
- (e) If the first round of the match has been fully completed without concessions and inclement weather prevents the whole match from being completed, then a result can be obtained on the first round, first on rubbers, then sets, then games.
- (f) If a draw still results, then the match between the first pairs will decide.

Two points are allocated per rubber and per match win and this is reflected on the league table accordingly.

#### 4. Composition of Teams

A team comprises a minimum of 4 and a maximum of 5 eligible players with one substitution allowed in the second round.

All players, singles & doubles, must be LTA Members. Singles players must be nominated in LTA Rating order or (when available) World Tennis Number order.

Team nominations must be available to the opposing Team Captain before the start of round 1. Singles players with identical LTA ratings or World Tennis Numbers may be nominated in any order.

If a player retires for any reason at any stage, he/she may take no further part in the match.

#### 5. Match Arrangements

Matches to be arranged no later than **30 April 2021**. All matches to be completed no later than Tuesday 30 November 2021. The onus is on both captains to ensure arrangements are made promptly.

The home team shall offer three dates for the fixture. The three dates must include dates over at least 2 different weekends and must be 8 clear days apart. Dates should not be offered during National Championships and World Championships unless agreed by both teams.

The matches will be managed, and all necessary arrangements made, by the County Associations via their appointed Team Captain.

The home team will be responsible for providing a minimum of three new ITF approved tennis balls for each first round of rubbers, arranging the date and venue of the match and, in accordance with the latest guidelines on Covid-19 at the time, arranging hospitality if permissible.

Matches should be played using outdoor surface(s).

Teams must be prepared to play on any surface of acceptable standard and under floodlights as offered by the home team with the following exception; if the courts that are available are of more than one surface it will be the choice of the away team as to which surface should be used.

Unless agreed otherwise by both captains matches should not start before 12.00noon

Team Officials are not allowed on court during the matches and no advice by any person is permitted during play.

Both captains must complete and sign the scorecards, and retain their copy. The winning captain must then submit the result online within 48 hours and the losing captain is responsible for checking the entry.

Any query relating to results, nominations, player eligibility, etc. must be raised in writing to the LTA Competitions Team within 48 hours of the match or it will not be considered.

## **6. Conduct, and Completion, of Matches**

If players arrive more than 30 minutes late, then the first set of each rubber not started at the agreed starting time may be claimed.

If players are more than one hour late, then each rubber scheduled to start at the agreed starting time may be claimed.

Incomplete rubbers will be void, except in the case of illness or injury (details of which must be clearly recorded in the scorecard) when the retiring player shall lose the match but may record and games and sets won in that match prior to his/her retirement.

If a match is abandoned before completion of the first round, the match may be replayed at the reverse venue with a new date and time being agreed mutually as per Rule 5.

If sufficient prior notice has been given by the home venue that no play is possible so the away team does not need to travel to that match, then a new date and time shall be agreed mutually as per Rule 5 at the original venue.

If a County fields an incomplete team, one rubber will be deducted from that team's result.

## **7. Conceded Matches**

In the event of a match being conceded the defaulting county will receive no points. Any county conceding a match must inform The LTA Competitions Team.

## **8. Final Group Position**

The final order in each division in which all matches have been completed (or results have been reached in accordance with Rule 3) shall be determined by the number of matches won.

In a division where this applies but there are teams with an equal number of matches won and in a division where not all matches have been completed but the number of matches won by two or more teams is equal, the positions shall be determined by comparing:

- (a) Percentage of rubbers won to rubbers completed for each team. Should this still fail to determine the order, then
- (b) Result of the match between them or if more than two, then
- (c) Percentage of sets won to sets completed. If two teams are still tied, then
- (d) Match result, or if more than two, then
- (e) Percentage of games won to games completed. Should this still leave two teams tied, then
- (f) Result of the match between them

## **9. Disputes**

Any dispute arising between Counties shall immediately be referred to the LTA Competitions Team within 48 hours of the occurrence or it will not be considered.





*FAST4 Tournament Scoring Format & Rules*  
Effective from 1st September 2019

1. Matches will be played as the best of two (2) short sets (first to four (4) games) with a tie-break (first to seven (7) points, two points clear at six (6) points all) played at three (3) games all. If at the conclusion of the second set, the score is 1 set all, a match tie-break (first to ten (10) points, two points clear at nine (9) points all) will be played to determine the outcome of the match.
2. All singles and doubles matches will be played using no-ad scoring, with the receiver choosing the side to receive the service from when the game reaches deuce. In doubles the receiving team cannot change positions to receive this deciding point. The player/team who wins the deciding point wins the game.
3. Between points, a maximum of twenty (20) seconds is allowed. The maximum time starts from the moment that one point finishes until the first service is struck for the next point.
4. When the players change ends at the end of a game, a maximum of sixty (60) seconds are allowed. Players are not permitted to sit down during the change of ends during a set.
5. At the end of each set there shall be a set break of a maximum of ninety (90) seconds. Players are permitted to sit down at the end of a set.
6. Players are entitled to a 20 minute rest in between matches. The minimum rest periods may be reduced in exceptional circumstances.
7. A player shall be scheduled to play up to four (4) FAST4 singles matches in a day.