

LTA Seniors County Cup Event 2021

Competition Pack

Information correct as of 6 January 2021.

It is a county / Team Captain's responsibility to check the Covid-19 restrictions and guidelines that are in place at the time of the relevant match.

Introduction and Important Dates

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Scorecard for Doubles matches

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TENNIS
FOR BRITAIN

Introduction & Important Dates

Welcome to the Competition Pack for the LTA Seniors County Cup Event. It is hoped the following information will help answer any questions you may have about the Event.

LTA County Cup Events gives a player the opportunity of representing their county in a competitive team environment and the age groups range from 9U through to open categories.

In October 2019, Seniors Tennis GB announced that, as one of the measures the LTA is undertaking to provide greater support to seniors' tennis, it was decided that the Inter-County events would, from 2020, be organised by the LTA Competitions Team as a consolidation of the stable of County Cup Events (with Julie Piper as Tournament Director). Both the LTA and Seniors Tennis GB welcomed this initiative.

Event Details –

The following revised format outlined within this Competition Pack is for the 2021 LTA Seniors County Cup Event only and it is anticipated that the event will revert to its usual format in 2022.

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

Counties will be organised into 'geographical clusters' and wherever possible, groups have been formed to involve the least amount of travelling time for all the teams within that group and, wherever possible, avoid the necessity for overnight accommodation. Where you are the home team, please consider the proposed location for the match to keep travelling time reasonable for the away team.

Unlike previous years' Events, there is no promotion or relegation and no National Finals.

There are 7 Events per gender –

- Women – Over 40s, Over 50s, Over 55s, Over 60s, Over 65s, Over 70s and Over 75s
- Men – Over 45s, Over 50s, Over 55s, Over 60s, Over 65s, Over 70s and Over 75s

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

All matches are to be played on outdoor courts between Thursday 1 April and Tuesday 30 November 2021.

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.

	Nominations Open	Nominations Close
LTA Seniors County Cup Event 2021	1 February 2021	30 November 2021

General Rules & Regulations – Applicable for all 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 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) 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

1st pair v 1st pair
2nd pair v 2nd pair

Round 2

1st pair v 2nd pair
2nd pair v 1st 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 3rd 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.



LTA Seniors County Cup Event 2021
Scorecard for Doubles matches

Age Group _____

Men/Women (circle as appropriate)

Division _____

	Home Team Insert name of County		Away Team Insert name of County		Score	Rubbers		Sets		Games	
	Names of Players & LTA Nos.		Names of Players & LTA Nos.			H	A	H	A	H	A
Doubles	Pair 1		Pair 1								
	Pair 2		Pair 2								
	Pair 1		Pair 2								
	Pair 2		Pair 1								

Please make sure all LTA numbers are recorded

Result: _____ beat _____

by _____ Rubbers to _____ Sets to _____ Games to _____

Date Played: _____ Venue: _____

Please ensure you enter all required details - male or female, age group, division, LTA Membership number and enter county names where shown. Remember the Championship Tie Break counts as one set and one game.

Signed: _____
Home Captain
Away Captain



LTA Seniors County Cup event 2021

Scorecard for Singles / Doubles matches

Age Group _____

Men/Women (circle as appropriate)

Division _____

		Home Team Insert name of County		Away Team Insert name of County		Score	Rubbers		Sets		Games		
							H	A	H	A	H	A	
Singles	No 1 Name	Name of Player, LTA No. & LTA Rating or WTN		No 1 Name	Name of Player, LTA No. & LTA Rating or WTN								
	No 2 Name	Name of Player, LTA No. & LTA Rating or WTN		No 2 Name	Name of Player, LTA No. & LTA Rating or WTN								
Doubles	Pair 1	Names of Players & LTA Nos.		Pair 1	Names of Players & LTA Nos.								
	Pair 2	Names of Players & LTA Nos.		Pair 1	Names of Players & LTA Nos.								
	Pair 1	Names of Players & LTA Nos.		Pair 2	Names of Players & LTA Nos.								
Total													

Result: _____ beat _____

by _____ Rubbers to _____ Sets to _____ Games to _____

Date Played: _____ Venue: _____

Please be sure you enter all required details - male or female, age group, division, LTA Membership numbers and enter county names where shown. Remember the Championship Tie Break counts as one set and one game.

All players must be current LTA Members (and Singles players have an LTA Rating or a World Tennis Number). If LTA Numbers are not shown for all players or are incorrectly recorded, these match results will not be included in the LTA Ratings Run.

Signed: _____
Home Captain
Away Captain