



Information & FAQ's

Following on from extensive feedback from venues, coaches, players and officials, we are expanding our Team Tennis Summer competition further, with the launch of the new **LTA National League – Winter**. Please see below some information and FAQ's regarding the competition, and further details can also be found online via www.LTA.org.uk/national-league-winter.

What is the National League? – This is the new competition name for what was formerly known as Team Tennis. We are launching a new Winter version of the competition which will run from September-March, and the summer competition continuing to run from April-July, will also be referred to as 'LTA National League – Summer' from 2020.

Why is the National League been introduced in the winter? – In 2018, the Competition Team held an internal review of the Competition Plans for British Tennis, as well as running 12 consultations across the country with officials, coaches, parents, players and County Associations. One of the top three recommendations that came out of this review was to 'Introduce more opportunities to compete as a team for your club, county and region'. As well as this, the summer team competition continues to grow with over 26,000 players and 1,200 venues taking part, and we want to provide a similar opportunity to players and venues throughout the winter months.

How does this link with the LTA Vision? – The LTA's vision is 'Tennis Opened Up' and by introducing this new team competition, we are opening up team competition, which will now take place all year round, rather than for just a few months during the summer season.

Are all counties running a National League this winter? – 24 out of the 44 counties are running a league this winter. This is a two year approach, with 2019 acting as a pilot year. We are delighted that over half of the counties are running a league this winter, and we hope to have more counties coming on board in 2020. Some counties are transferring their existing leagues across – to complement further what they already run and to help provide consistency for players and venues, whereas some counties are introducing this as a new league, to fill gaps within the competition pathway. Where there is not currently a league available in your county, please check whether a neighbouring county is, as if the travel distances aren't too far – you may be able to play in their league.

Why is the National League only for juniors and not adults? – The focus to begin with is on the junior age groups. There is already a very successful adult league that operates in a similar way throughout the winter, and we encourage any venues that wish to play adult team competition during the winter months to enter the National Premier League. More information on this competition can be found at www.nationalpremierleaguetenis.com.



Who can enter the National League? – This competition is open to all LTA registered venues. Any players interested in taking part must speak to their Club Contact / Coach, who can enter a team online.

How do we enter the National League? – To enter just visit www.LTA.org.uk/national-league-winter, click on the 'entry information' page on the right hand side of the page, find your county, and the entry link will be provided. The closing date for the majority of leagues is Monday 22nd July.

What is the entry fee? – Each county has set their entry fee, to reflect how their league will be operated. E.g. indoors or outdoors, so the entry fees do differ – please refer to the 'entry information' page for your county and this will state the entry fee for the specific events.

What is the format of the National League? – We have tried to keep the entry, rules and format as similar as possible to the summer league – to provide clear consistency for players, parents and venues. There will however, be an element of flexibility within each county. As in the summer, each county will have an appointed league organiser who will be responsible for the day to day running of the league. The winter season brings up challenges such as indoor court provision and availability etc. – therefore we have given each county the ability to adapt rules and formats as they wish. This is fully explained on the entry information page for your county, and will also be confirmed by your league organiser ahead of the season. Please visit www.LTA.org.uk/national-league-winter for all the league dates, rules and regulations for the competition.

Will matches be played indoors or outdoors? – The majority of matches in the league will take place outdoors. Clearly weather could be an issue for some matches, and if this is the case matches can be rearranged to be played on or before the specific rain date. Some counties that are running a 'central venue' format may run the events using indoor courts – if this is the case the league organiser will confirm this when the league fixtures are sent out.

What is a 'central venue' format? – The majority of leagues will be run using a home and away fixture list, however, in some events, particularly in the mini tennis age groups, a central venue format may be used. This is where a cluster of venues would come together at a set venue, date and time – and lots of fixtures/matches would be played at once. Any leagues running this format are encouraged for this to be done at least two times (ideally more) during the season. More information on this will be sent to league organisers.

Are there any team prizes or resources? – All Captains will receive a printed 'Captains Guide' prior to the start of the season; this will contain lots of useful resources including the league rules and scorecards. Each team that wins a division will also receive a team prize!