

FAGE LTA Youth Schools - National Championships Rules 2026

1. Eligibility

School Eligibility

- 1.1 Entry to the FAGE LTA Youth Schools National Championships (“the Competition”) is open only to LTA Registered Schools and Further Education Colleges in England, Scotland, Wales, Channel Islands and Isle of Man.

Team Eligibility

- 1.2 Events:
Boys (Glanville Cup) and Girls (Aberdare Cup).
- 1.3 A school may enter a maximum of two teams in each event (unless agreed by the national organisers).
- 1.4 Where a school has two teams in an event, the ‘A’ team should be the strongest team in accordance with the player measure outlined below.
- 1.5 Where a school has two teams in an event, a player may ‘play up’ on a maximum of one occasion without the loss of eligibility in their lower team. Once a player has represented a higher team on more than one occasion, from that point onwards, they are no longer eligible to represent a lower team. Where a team is pre-seeded to the Finals, the top 4 nominated players, based on the ITF WTN from the entry process, are not eligible to represent the ‘B’ team in the knockout stage.

Player Eligibility

- 1.6 A player must be a registered member of the school on match day.
- 1.7 A player must be in Years 7-13 and born between 1 September 2006 and 31 August 2014 inclusive.
- 1.8 A player must be an LTA Advantage Member.
- 1.9 A player may only represent one school in the competition. For the finals, where a senior school has an attached prep school, this will be considered as part of the same school.

2. Competition Structure

- 2.1 Knockout Stage
Teams shall be entered in 1 of 12 groups based on geography. Four teams in each event will be pre-seeded to the finals based on the World Tennis Number of the top 4 nominated players. Captains are not allowed on court during the knockout stage.
- 2.2 Finals
The 12 winning teams in each event from the knockout stage, as well as the four pre-seeded teams, will compete in the finals. Prior to the finals, teams can nominate a maximum of 6 players for the week.

4 teams will be seeded by the tournament team based on the pre-seeding process in February. Seeding is subject to change up until Day 1 of the Finals if player nominations received from pre-seeded finalists change. The team captain will be allowed on court during rubbers and will be subject to the ‘on court team captains’ Code of Conduct.

3. Match Arrangements

- 3.1 Dates
Matches shall be played on the fixed dates specified. However, there will be flexibility to play before a fixed date if both teams agree and there is prior consent from the national organisers. Each team must have an adult captain present at each match.
- Time
Matches shall have a start time between 2.00pm and 4.00pm unless both teams agree otherwise. The home team must confirm start time with the away team a minimum of 14 days before the match date. Away teams must still be active in obtaining the time.
- 3.2 Balls
The home team shall supply 3 LTA approved balls for each rubber.
- 3.3 Match Format
A match shall consist of 4 singles and 2 doubles rubbers.
- 3.4 Team Format
A team shall consist of 4 or 5 players for each match. Four players shall play one singles rubber each and the 5th player may be selected for the doubles only.
- 3.5 Singles Nominations
At least 15 minutes before the start time of each fixture, team captains must nominate in writing, on a scorecard, their singles players in order of their ITF World Tennis Number singles band i.e., 20.0-20.9 is band 20. If two or more players are within the same ITF World Tennis Number band (or no ITF World Tennis Number), the team captain can decide the team playing order which may change from fixture to fixture. Where players are in the same ITF World Tennis Number Band (or no ITF World Tennis Number), Team Captains are encouraged, in the spirit of providing an enjoyable and competitive experience, to nominate in order of playing standard i.e., strongest player should play as singles 1, second strongest player as singles 2 and so on. At the same time, captains shall provide the name of any other player(s) who may be selected for the doubles only. Please see below the ITF World Tennis Number (singles) bands:

ITF World Tennis Number (singles)	Band	ITF World Tennis Number (singles)	Band	ITF World Tennis Number (singles)	Band	ITF World Tennis Number (singles)	Band
1.0-1.9	1	11.0-11.9	11	21.0-21.9	21	31.0-31.9	31
2.0-2.9	2	12.0-12.9	12	22.0-22.9	22	32.0-32.9	32
3.0-3.9	3	13.0-13.9	13	23.0-23.9	23	33.0-33.9	33
4.0-4.9	4	14.0-24.9	14	24.0-24.9	24	34.0-34.9	34

5.0-5.9	5	15.0-15.9	15	25.0-25.9	25	35.0-35.9	35
6.0-6.9	6	16.0-16.9	16	26.0-26.9	26	36.0-36.9	36
7.0-7.9	7	17.0-17.9	17	27.0-27.9	27	37.0-37.9	37
8.0-8.9	8	18.0-18.9	18	28.0-28.9	28	38.0-38.9	38
9.0-9.9	9	19.0-19.9	19	29.0-29.9	29	39.0-39.9	39
10.0-10.9	10	20.0-20.9	20	30.0-30.9	30	40.0-40.9	40

3.6 Doubles Nominations

Doubles nominations may be made after the completion of all singles rubbers.

Doubles Pair 1: Must be singles players 1 & 2.

Doubles Pair 2: Must be singles players 3 & 4.

However, a maximum of one doubles substitution is allowed where a 5th player can substitute directly for any of the four singles players. E.g. if player number 5 substitutes for singles player 2, then player number 5 will play in the number 1 doubles pair, with player 1.

3.7 Order of Play

	On 2 Courts	On 4 Courts
Round 1	Singles 3&4	Singles 1-4
Round 2	Singles 1&2	Doubles 1&2
Round 3	Doubles 1&2	

3.8 Rubber Scoring

	Set 1	Set 2	Set 3 (if necessary)
Singles & Doubles	Tiebreak at 6-6	Tiebreak at 6-6	Match tiebreak (to 10 points, with 2 clear)

In the National Championships Finals – no add deuce will be used in all doubles matches.

3.9 Match Scoring

A team is awarded 2 points for each rubber won. At 6 rubber points each, a doubles tiebreak shoot-out (to 10 points, with 2 clear) shall be played. 1 bonus point will be awarded to the winning team in a tiebreak shoot-out, i.e. 7-6.

Tie-Break Shootout Format (1 pair):

Player 1: One of the original players from the 1st/2nd singles rubbers or number 1 doubles pair.

Player 2: One of the original players from the 3rd/4th singles rubbers or number 2 doubles pair.

A 3 minute warm up is allowed prior to the tiebreak shoot-out, which must commence directly after the completion of the last doubles match

3.10 Match Result

The team with the most rubber points shall win the match.

Both captains must complete and sign the match scorecards and retain their copy. The winning captain must then submit the result online within 48 hours.

4. Problem Solving Issues

4.1 Late Arrival

If a team arrives more than 30 minutes after the agreed start time, the opponents can claim the two doubles rubbers by a score of 6-0, 6-0. If a team has not arrived 1 hour after the agreed start time, the opponents will be awarded the match by a score of 12-0.

4.2 Incomplete Teams

If a school is unable to field a complete team for the match, then they shall first forfeit the lowest singles rubber and the second doubles rubber, followed by the next lowest rubber and so on. The opposing team shall be deemed to have won any forfeited rubbers by a score of 6-0, 6-0.

4.3 Player Retirement

If a player retires during a rubber, the opponent shall be deemed to have won all the remaining games necessary to win the rubber. The player retiring from the rubber shall be eligible to compete in any remaining rubbers/tiebreak shoot-out.

4.4 Completion of Matches (due to inclement weather)

If a match cannot be started due to rain or rain stops play, then the match may be rearranged on or before the rain date at the original venue as set by the League Organiser.

If play is suspended after a match has started, then the match shall resume at the point of suspension. All points played shall stand. If a player is unavailable when a match resumes, the suspended rubber and all subsequent rubbers for that player are awarded to the opponent(s).

4.5 Team Withdrawal

Teams receiving an entire team walkover will win all rubbers 6-0, 6-0 and will receive maximum rubber points and a match win.

4.6 Playing out of order / Ineligible Player(s)

If players play out of order, then the singles rubbers involving those players shall be forfeited. If an ineligible player competes then the singles rubber involving the player concerned, and all singles rubbers lower in the team order shall be forfeited. Any completed matches may stand for the purposes of ITF World Tennis Number and the match score must remain in place, however, the overall team score for that particular match will be awarded to the opposing team.

If both teams field a player out of order or an ineligible player, then each team shall be deemed to have lost the singles rubber in a similar manner. Likewise, if a team fields an ineligible player as a doubles only player they shall forfeit that rubber and where doubles pairings are not in line with Rule 3.6 that school shall forfeit both doubles rubbers.

5. Regulations

- 5.1 All matches in the Competition shall be conducted in accordance with the ITF Rules of Tennis, the Rules and Regulations of the LTA regulations, the LTA Competition Regulations, the LTA Code of Conduct, and the competition regulations (in the event of any inconsistency, the competition rules shall prevail). Each player participating in the competition grants and assigns to the LTA the right to make, use and show from time to time and at its discretion, motion pictures, still pictures and live taped or filmed television and other reproduction of him/her during the event and in connection with the promotion of the event without compensation for him/herself. Such promotional activities by the LTA shall not be identified as or represented to be an endorsement by the player of any product/company.
- 5.2 The day-to-day organisation of the Competition shall be carried out by LTA Competitions Team (CT). The Competition is sanctioned by the LTA under the management of the CT. The CT shall have the power to decide on matters of interpretation of these regulations, to impose penalties including, but not limited to, the deduction of points and suspension for breaches of these regulations; to suspend or modify any of these regulations in appropriate circumstances. The CT decision on all matters is final.
- 5.3 Any complaint/dispute shall be made in writing on email to schoolscompetition@LTA.org.uk by the team captain within 48 hours of the cause of the complaint/dispute arising. Nevertheless, the CT shall have the power to consider any matter coming to their attention subsequently.
- 5.4 All players are subject to the rules and regulations of the LTA (including, without limitation, the LTA's Anti-Doping Programme, the Disciplinary and Dispute Resolution Procedures and the Regulations Concerning Match Fixing, Financial Speculation and Betting) and fully and unconditionally submit to the jurisdiction and authority of the LTA by competing in the Competition.
- 5.5 Relating to the Finals only - 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 the competition.

To feedback on these rules please email schoolscompetition@lta.org.uk.