LTA FAST4 OPEN REGIONAL TOUR CIRCUIT 2027

Referee and Organiser Manual

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FAST4 TENNIS

LTA TENNIS FOR BRITAIN

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OVERVIEW

FAST4 Open Regional Tour events allow adult players who may have previously played at a high standard (including nationally and internationally) the opportunity to compete in one day competitions that fit around their busy lifestyles. Many adult players are not able to compete in current week long, or three-day Tier 1 and Tier 2 British Tour events due to other commitments. The FAST4 Regional Tour competitions allow players to play more matches in a short period of time.

This document is intended to support referees and organisers in the delivery of FAST4 Open Regional Tour events.

The FAST4 Open Regional Tour circuit is made up of a series of Grade 3 Open tournaments. Tournaments are run at weekends and individual events take place on one-day. Men & Women can either play on the same day, or Men one day and Women the other.

This guide should be used in conjunction with:

1. Tennis Tournament Planner User Guide
2. LTA Competition Regulations
3. LTA Competition Management System Organiser Portal User Manual

Concept of FAST4 Open Regional Tour Events

- These events cater for players who play at a high standard but wish to compete in **one day competitions at the weekend.**
- The events use the **FAST4** format which has proved popular at all levels of competition.
- Using FAST4 scoring players are able to play up to **4 matches in a day**
- Organisers are required to use a **16 player elimination draw with first match consolation,** allowing players a minimum of 2 matches, **or where feasible a 16 player full compass draw (preferable)**.
- Venues/organisers have the opportunity to run FAST4 Open Regional Tour events on **specified dates. There will be 9 'rotations' in 2027 with approximately 10-12 FAST4 competitions taking place across the country in each rotation. There will also be one doubles rotation.**
- Venues are required to run both a **Men's and Women's** event in **one weekend** *(some exceptions may be made at the discretion of the Competitions Team)*
- **To compete in 2026 FAST4 Open Regional Tour events a player must have been born on or before 31 December 2013**

CONTACT

If you require further support, please contact:

LTA Customer Support Team (Enquiry Form)

WHAT IS FAST4 TENNIS?

FAST4 Tennis provides a simple, exciting way of speeding up a conventional tennis match. The fundamentals of tennis remain the same, but there are four innovative rules that ensure matches are fast, competitive, exciting and can be completed in a reasonable period of time.

The differences:

1. **First to 4 games wins** – Hence the name FAST4. It doesn't matter how you get there, just make sure you get to four before your opponent does. No advantage games.

2. **No-ad scoring** – as soon as a game gets to deuce it's a sudden death point. The receiver chooses which side to receive the serve from. This applies to doubles too with the receiving pair deciding who returns the point.

3. **Tiebreak at 3 games all** – at 3 games all a tiebreak is played, first to 7 points with a 2-point advantage.

4. **Match tie-break** (to 10 points with a 2-point advantage) in place of third set.

WHY ARE WE USING FAST4 TENNIS?

FAST4 Tennis has proven to be popular at all levels of competition for reasons including the following:

- **Time -** Life is busy and many players can no longer commit a whole week to a tennis tournament so these quicker matches mean players are more likely to find time to compete in their busy schedule. The matches rarely take more than an hour (usually 50-55 minutes or less) so can align to standard court booking slots.

- **Additional revenue opportunities -** for venues/organisers as you can run draws up to 16 players on one day and as matches are quicker your court fees will be reduced.

- **New and exciting -** to encourage both current and new players. FAST4 has been endorsed and has been played by some greats of the game including Roger Federer, Rafael Nadal, Lleyton Hewitt, John McEnroe and more.

WHAT ARE THE BENEFITS OF RUNNING A FAST4 OPEN REGIONAL TOUR EVENT?

- Use of court time at quiet times
- Opportunity to generate revenue via entry fees
- Secondary spend if you offer food and drinks on site
- Enhanced reputation for your venue
- Opportunity for your players to compete locally

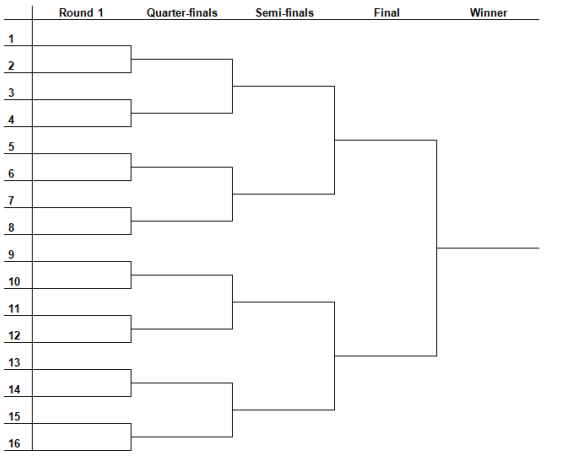
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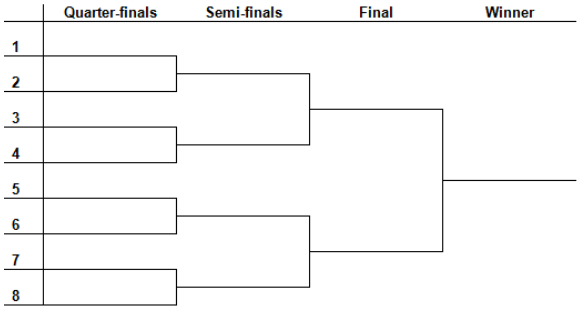
We will be providing winners and runners up medals for both the Men's and Women's events.

DRAW FORMATS

All FAST4 Open Regional Tour events will be able to accept 16 Men and 16 Women over the weekend. Each event will use a 16 player elimination draw with compulsory first match (custom) consolation, however where possible please aim to run a full compass draw. Should numbers be less than 16, please follow the draw guidance below. **Please clearly communicate to players at the entry deadline which form of consolation you are intending to operate, plus confirmation of whether the event is scheduled to be played indoors or outdoors.**

Elimination with consolation draw





Each tournament should use one of the following event formats:

Option 1	Option 2
4 courts	8 courts
7 hours (per day)	7 hours (per day)
2 days	1 day
16 Men	16 Men
16 Women	16 Women

Dealing with fewer than 16 Players

Number of Players	Draw Format	Impact on Court Bookings
9-15	16 player Elimination with consolation draw or Compass	4 courts required
6-8	8 player Compass draw	2 courts required
5	5 player Round Robin draw	2 courts required
0-4	Cancel event	Cancel court bookings

UNDERSTANDING THE FINANCES

To make the finances understandable, we've broken them down below and provided some examples. Venues may select their own entry fee.

	Option 1	**Option 2**
Players	32 players	32 players
Format	Elimination	Elimination
Courts	4 courts	8 courts
Days	2	1
Court hours	56	56
Suggested Entry Fee. (Organisers discretion)	£20.00	£20.00
Income		
Entry Fees	640.00	640.00
Total	640.00	640.00
Expenditure		
Balls @ £10 doz if using 3 new balls per main draw match	75.00	75.00
Referee @ £100 per day	200.00	100.00
Court Fees @ £0ph	0.00	0.00
	275.00	175.00
Profit	375.00	475.00
Income per court hour	6.70	8.48

Note: Organisers may provide prize money. Where prize money is available, this must be stated when creating the tournament.

ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

To help you understand your responsibilities as a venue / tournament organiser / referee, we've documented them below.

LTA Competitions Team

- Overall responsibility for the FAST4 Open Regional Tour
- Co-ordinate the calendar of events
- Provide ongoing support to tournament organisers
- Provide medals

Tournament Organiser

- Submit availability to apply to run events via Organiser Portal on CMS (Competition Management System)
- Once events are confirmed, finalise tournament application is correct on CMS and add additional details where required.
- Promote the event locally
- Order & provide balls for the event (7 ½ dozen per event)
- Engage a referee to run the event
- Book courts
- Ensure catering is available onsite
- Create a great competition experience

Tournament Organiser or Referee

- Manage the entries and queries from players
- Create and maintain the acceptance list
- Make the draw and publish first match times
- Communicate with players
- Process the results after the tournament
- Process refunds

Tournament Referee

- Run the event!

APPLY FOR & CREATE YOUR TOURNAMENTS

Application Process

Each venue may apply to run a FAST4 Open Regional Tour event by filling in the availability form on the new CMS system.

The availability form will be open **from 23 September – 18 October 2026.** Please visit competitions.lta.org.uk and log in to your Organiser Portal. Complete the 'FAST4 Open Tour 2027' availability form and submit by **18 October 2026.**

Venues must apply to run both a Men's and a Women's event in the specified weekend. In order to be selected venues must meet the following requirements:

- Venues must have their own Stripe account.

- Organisers must source a Referee for the event. Preference will be given to an R3 or higher, although an R4 Referee may be considered in exceptional circumstances.
- Venues should have one of the following preferred surfaces: Indoor or Outdoor Acrylic, Clay or Artificial clay or Grass (other surfaces may be considered at the discretion of the LTA Competitions Team).
- Venues must have a minimum of 4 courts on one surface & state clearly on all tournament information whether it is intended to play the event(s) on indoor or outdoor courts.

The LTA Competitions Team will review all availability before selecting venues for events, aiming to have 7-12 FAST4 Open tournaments per rotation, with a spread across the country. Once events have been selected organisers will be notified and will be asked to confirm their events online. The planning timelines for the 2025 calendar are provided below:

Application timescales

- **23/09/2026 – 18/10/2026** - Venue/Organiser to complete the online availability form
- **By 06/12/2026** - Competitions Team will contact organisers and confirm allocations
- **10/01/2027** - Organisers to finalise competition details online
- **24/01/2027** - Competitions Team will approve tournament applications
- **14/02/2027 -** FAST4 Open Calendar to be published online

Event Timescales

The following mandatory timescales apply to all FAST4 Open Regional Tour events.

Online entries open	46 days before the competition start date
Entry Deadline	Tuesday 10:00am, 11 days before the rotation weekend
Publication of acceptance lists	Must be within 48 hours of the entry deadline. Ensure the 'OAG (Own Age Group) Priority' is highlighted when setting up your tournament, and in the courtesy email to players at the time of publishing your acceptance list
Withdrawal deadline	Monday, 10:00am, 6 days after the entry deadline
Publication of draws and match dates/times	Before 10:00 PM, Wednesday before the event

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.

Note: A copy of these Rules must be displayed at the venue and where possible email to players prior to the event.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

- 9 weekend competition dates (rotations) in the calendar year, with an additional Doubles rotation taking place in July.
- 7-10 tournaments in each rotation (including both a Men's and Women's event at each tournament).
- Using the LTA Staged Rule, players will only be able to enter one event in a rotation.
- **To compete in 2027 FAST4 Open Regional Tour competitions a player must have been born on or before the 31 December 2011**

LTA Staged Rule

Tournament Organisers and players alike are reminded that the following rule from the LTA Competition Regulations applies to LTA Staged Competitions (both internal and external events); it restricts the number of competitions a player can enter:

In relation to LTA Staged Competitions a player can enter only one competition at each grade in the same age group taking place on the same weekend (i.e. not two FAST4 Open Regional Tour events in one weekend).

If a player is found to have contravened the overlapping competitions regulation and competed in more than one event in breach of regulation 3.10 then he/she will lose all ranking points obtained from the relevant competitions.

If players contact you to request a late or manual entry you should always remind them of the above regulation and ensure that they are aware of the consequence of contravening the regulation. It is the player's responsibility to ensure they have not contravened the regulation by entering more than one event.

BEFORE TOURNAMENT OPENS FOR ENTRY

Please action the following steps **before** a tournament opens for online entries:

1. Check details are correct and timings and maximum draw sizes are completed.
2. Ensure a Stripe account has been linked to the competition so that you can accept online entries.
3. Ensure a reference appears in the online Fact Sheet stating the 'season age 19+ priority for acceptance', and ensure it is clearly stated whether the event is scheduled to be played indoors or outdoors.
4. Ensure that you have stated in the Tournament Information that in order to take part in the event a player must have been born on or before the 31 December 2011.
5. The referee has been confirmed for the event, and added on CMS. If the referee, rather than the Tournament Organiser, needs access to set up the TTP file, please contact us to give them access.

TOURNAMENT PROMOTION – PRIOR TO CLOSING DEADLINE

Promote your FAST4 Open Regional Tour event using the following channels to minimise cancellations (please note that this is not an exhaustive list):

- Display posters at your venue/other local venues

- Display your FAST4 banner at your venue
- Encourage coaches at the venue to promote the event to players
- Contact local team tennis organisers/captains of local teams in the National and Regional divisions of National League

CLOSING DATES

Prior to the closing deadline, the referee/organiser should not enter any players manually into the TTP file. If a player is having technical difficulties preventing them from entering online, then they should contact the LTA. This is to try to prevent players from attempting to enter more than one event in the same weekend.

If the closing date passes and you have too few entries to run the FAST4 Open Regional Tour event, please contact the Competitions Team for support.

They may be able to notify players of oversubscribed events that your event is taking place and has spaces available. Cancelling an event will always be the last option and please remember you can accept late entries (although only in accordance with the LTA Competition Regulations).

ACCEPTANCES

All entered players will appear on the 'Main Draw' tab within Roster.

Only players born on or before the 31 December 2012 are eligible to take part in FAST4 Open Regional Tour competitions. Please exclude any players that are born on or after 1 January 2013.

Priority will be given to players with a **season age of 19** or older and these players should be accepted first. Players aged 18 or younger will be taken as a second priority and should be accepted after as normal (with the exception of players born on or after 1 January 2013 who cannot be accepted).

The ITF World Tennis Number will be used for acceptance and seeding. Acceptances for FAST4 Open Regional Tour events will therefore be done as follows:

1. ITF World Tennis Number
2. LTA Ranking

WILDCARDS

Wildcards may be accepted ONLY if there are spaces on the acceptance list once all players who originally entered have been accepted. 1 wild card may be accepted for every 8 spaces of the draw at the discretion of the tournament organiser. Applications must be received to the tournament organiser ahead of making the draw. A wild card may be seeded.

LATE ENTRIES

If at the time a player requests to be a late entry, he/she would be seeded that player cannot be accepted. Please see wild card options above, for any player that would be

seeded. If, however, the player would **not** be a seed his/her entry can be accepted and placed as follows:

a) if the draw is not full the player can be accepted directly into the draw
b) if there is a reserve list this player will be placed at the bottom and will be accepted into the draw when the player reaches the top of the reserve list and a space becomes available – **regardless of whether this player would now be a seed**. (If the player would be seeded, this would need to happen before the draw has been published).

The only exception to this regulation is if, for justifiable reasons, you wish to offer a wild card to a player who requests a late entry and would be a seed. If a wild card is awarded this player can then be accepted, however wild cards must be awarded in accordance with the LTA Competition Regulations – 3.20 Please do not feel pressurised into giving wild cards to players who request a late entry. **Wild cards can only be allocated in FAST4 Open Regional Tour events if all the players who originally entered by the entry deadline, have been accepted.**

WITHDRAWALS

Monitor withdrawals, update TTP file and publish the file (preferably on daily basis) so that players can monitor their movement on the reserve list.

If you withdraw a player manually you should move them to the 'Exclude' list and record full detail of the withdrawal in TTP. You will also need to issue a Stripe refund via the Organiser Portal on CMS. NO withdrawal points are given to players who withdraw before the published withdrawal deadline. When a person withdraws you will obviously need to replace the withdrawn player.

VENUE / EQUIPMENT CHECKS

We suggest that the following is done at least one week before the tournament:

- Check the court booking
- Ensure that you have tennis balls for the event
- Ensure you have the medals for the winners and runners up of the event (if you have not received your medals please contact the Competitions Team).

Tennis Balls

New balls should be used for each main draw match. The best quality used balls should be used for any playback matches.

DRAWS & SCHEDULING

Draws (to be done on the same day as the withdrawal deadline)

- Check the **Tournament Properties** including match times and scoring format have been set up

- **Add the Draw** in TTP based on the recommended draw formats (see below) and the number of players. You may need to have byes or make a slight adjustment to the format
- Re-validate your players and re-import Rankings so that the seeding can be made with the most recent ratings and rankings for that age group (this re-validation is only for the purpose of seeding, it does not affect the order of the reserves or acceptances).
- **Seed players as appropriate (based on acceptance principles)**, if you have a 16 player main draw you will need 4 seeds. Please note that any players with a WTA/ATP ranking (then ITF Transition Tour world ranking) at the entry deadline will take preference in the order of acceptance, and likewise when seeding.
- You will then need to **Make the Draw** in TTP

NOTE:

- If there are fewer than 5 players, then the tournament will not count for ranking points.

Schedule Matches

- Once you have made the draw you will need to schedule the matches, we suggest you print the draws to keep for reference
- Publish the draws on the same day, to show all scheduled matches
- Ensure you have published before sending first match time emails
- Prepare players' first match time email
- Pick up your first match time confirmation messages.

DURING THE TOURNAMENT

- Brief all the players before the start on all relevant items, such as the scoring format, number of matches and expectation of fair play.
- Be visible.
- Log all results, code violations, withdrawals etc. in TTP.
- Publish results throughout the day or once all matches for that day have been completed.

AFTER THE TOURNAMENT (REFEREE RESPONSIBILITY)

- Check that all results have been correctly added to the tournament draws in TTP and do a final publish and sync and submit status.
- **Check that draw stages are correct.**
- Publish results. **You should publish results as soon as possible and certainly no later than 72 hours after the tournament has finished.**
- If you have encountered any disciplinary issues which need to be escalated please contact the LTA Customer Support Team via the Online Enquiry Form.