

# LTA COMPETITION REGULATIONS

## OVERLAPPING COMPETITIONS REGULATIONS – A SUMMARY

This document clarifies the LTA Competition Regulations in relation to overlapping competitions.

The [LTA Competition Regulations](#), specifically 15.7, state that a Player may enter and play in events (including qualifying draws) in different competitions where the dates for those events overlap (as published on the relevant competition information page(s) on the LTA Website). However, there are exceptions to this regulation, and this document will clarify those exceptions specifically for LTA Staged competitions and LTA Weeklong Competitions. The document covers the following areas:

- [Summary of overlapping competition regulations – LTA Staged and LTA weeklong](#)
- [Overlapping Competition Regulation – LTA Staged competitions](#)
- [Overlapping Competition Regulation – LTA weeklong competitions](#)
- [Overlapping Competition Regulations – General FAQs](#)

### OVERLAPPING COMPETITION REGULATIONS - LTA STAGED AND LTA WEEKLONG

	LTA STAGED	LTA WEEKLONG
<b>Rule Summary</b>	A player can only enter one competition of the same grade and same age group in the same weekend	A player can only enter one grade 3 Singles event in the same age group per tournament week*
<b>Relevant Competitions</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• National Tour</li> <li>• Summer/Winter Regional Tour</li> <li>• Summer/Winter County Tour (Grade 4)</li> <li>• FAST4 Open Regional Tour</li> </ul> <p><u>The regulation does not apply to Grade 5 tournaments.</u></p>	Grade 3 Holiday (Weeklong) Tournaments
<b>Applicable age groups</b>	9U to Open	11U to Open
<b>What age groups does this not apply to?</b>	8U events	8U, 9U and 10U events
<b>Does the regulation apply to Doubles?</b>	Yes	No

\*Please note that a tournament week runs from Sunday to Saturday

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## SUMMARY

### LTA Staged Competitions (weekend events)

**Covers:** National Tour (G2), Regional Tour (G3), County Tour (G4), FAST4 Open Regional Tour (G3)

**Does not apply to:** Grade 5 tournaments

**Core Rule:** A Player can enter only one competition at each grade in the same age group taking place on the same weekend

**Applies to:** 9U–Open, Singles & Doubles

**Players may enter:**

Different age groups (e.g., 12U + 14U)

Different grades (e.g., G3 + G4)

**Penalty:** Loss of all ranking points from overlapping competitions

### LTA Weeklong Competitions (Grade 3 Holiday Tournaments)

**Covers:** Grade 3 holiday (weeklong) tournaments

**Core Rule:** A Player can only enter one competition at each grade in the same age group per tournament week

**Competition Week:** Sunday → Saturday (events starting/ending one day outside still count if the majority falls within the week)

**Applies to:** 11U, 12U, 14U, 16U, 18U, Open **singles only**

**Does NOT apply to:** Doubles, 8U, 9U, 10U & Christmas holiday Grade 3 events

**Penalty:** Loss of all ranking points from overlapping competitions.

### The regulations are in place to:

- Prevent players from holding multiple places in different events and withdrawing late
- Improve fairness and acceptance rates
- Help organisers plan schedules reliably
- Make reserve lists more meaningful

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## OVERLAPPING COMPETITION REGULATION - LTA STAGED COMPETITIONS

### What is the overlapping regulation for LTA Staged competitions?

#### **LTA Competition Regulations 15.7 (a)**

*In relation to certain weekend competitions, a Player can enter only **one** competition at each grade in the same age group taking place on the same weekend. If a Player is found to have contravened the overlapping competitions Regulation and competed in more than one event in breach of Regulation 15.7, then he/she will lose all ranking points obtained from the relevant competitions. A full list of the weekend competitions which are subject to this Regulation 15.7(b) can be found at [www.LTA.org.uk/CompetitionRegulations](http://www.LTA.org.uk/CompetitionRegulations).*

**Explanatory note:** If a 12U Grade 3 Winter Regional Tour weekend competition is taking place on a Saturday and Sunday a player may not enter another 12U Grade 3 Winter Regional Tour competition taking place that weekend. However, this player may enter a 14U Grade 3 Winter Regional Tour competition and/or a grade 4 Winter County Tour competition taking place on the same weekend. Following publication of acceptances, the player would have to withdraw from all but one of the competitions entered before the respective withdrawal deadlines in order to avoid penalty.

### What does 'LTA Staged' mean?

'LTA Staged' refers to all National Tour, Regional Tour (Grade 3) **weekend** events and County Tour grade 4 **weekend** (one day) events, planned or run by the LTA. In addition, the FAST4 Open Regional Tour events are also included.

'LTA Approved' competitions, which are run by clubs/organisers and are approved by the LTA as meeting specific grading guidelines, are not included in this regulation. 'LTA Approved' competitions include week-long competitions during school holiday periods.

### What tournaments does this apply to?

The LTA Staged Overlapping Competition Regulation applies to:

- National Tour (Grade 2)
- Winter Regional Tour (Grade 3) Weekend Events
- Summer Regional Tour (Grade 3) Weekend Events
- Winter County Tour (Grade 4) Weekend Events
- Summer County Tour (Grade 4) Weekend Events
- FAST4 Open Regional Tour (Grade 3)

**It does not apply to Grade 5 tournaments.**

### Does the LTA Staged overlapping regulation apply to all age groups?

Yes. The LTA Staged regulation covers all age groups from 9U to Open and includes both singles and doubles events.

### What does the LTA Staged overlapping regulation mean?

Players can only enter and play in **one** competition at each grade in each age group per weekend.

For example:



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In relation to LTA Staged Winter Regional Tour (WRT) competitions a player will only be able to enter one 12U event that is taking place on the weekend of the 12<sup>th</sup>/13<sup>th</sup> October.

In relation to the County Tour a player will only be able to enter one grade 4 event per weekend. If there is a 14U Boys Singles grade 4 event on a Saturday and another 14U Boys Singles grade 4 event on the Sunday of the same weekend then the player will need to select one competition to enter.

Players **can** enter competitions of the **same grade if they are in different age groups**, so they could enter one 14U Boys Singles County Tour grade 4 event on a Saturday and also enter and compete in a 12U Boys Singles County Tour grade 4 event on a Sunday.

If a player is entering more than one event per weekend where the event dates overlap the player must be aware of the full regulation on Overlapping Competitions and understand that, following the publication of acceptances, they will have to withdraw from all but one of the competitions entered before the respective withdrawal deadlines in order to avoid penalty.

### What will happen if a player breaches the LTA Staged Rule?

A player who is found to contravene the Overlapping Competition LTA Staged Regulation will lose all ranking points gained from all competitions. Where relevant, the player will also be ineligible to accept any corresponding linked spaces (the player may still apply directly for the linked competition).

If you are aware of a player who has breached the LTA Overlapping Regulations please contact the LTA Customer Support Team, providing the player's details (name and LTA number) and tournament codes, and we will investigate accordingly and apply the sanction where relevant.

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## OVERLAPPING COMPETITION REGULATION - LTA WEEKLONG COMPETITIONS

### What is the LTA weeklong overlapping competition regulation?

#### LTA Competition Regulations 15.7 (b)

In relation to weeklong holiday tournaments a Player can only enter **one** competition at each grade in the same age group (where that age group is 11U – Open) taking place during one week.

The competition week runs from Sunday through to Saturday, some competitions that run for 8 days may start on the day preceding the competition week or finish the day after the competition week but fall into the competition week where the majority of the competition is held.

If a player is found to have contravened the overlapping competitions regulation and competed in more than one event in breach of Regulation 15.7 then he/she will lose all ranking points obtained from the relevant competitions.

**Explanatory note:** *If a 12U Grade 3 competition is taking place during one week of the summer holidays, a Player may not enter another 12U Grade 3 competition taking place that same week. However, this Player may enter a 14U Grade 3 competition and/or a 12U Grade 4 competition taking place during the same week. Players are reminded that Regulation 15.7 still applies.*

### What tournaments does the LTA weeklong overlapping competition regulation apply to?

The LTA Weeklong Overlapping Competition Regulation applies to Singles events in the 11U – Open age groups in all LTA Sanctioned Grade 3 weeklong holiday tournaments.

#### Does it apply to all age groups?

No. The LTA Weeklong regulation will only apply to 11U, 12U, 14U, 16U, 18U and Open singles events.

#### Does the LTA weeklong overlapping competition regulation apply to doubles as well?

No. Doubles events are excluded from this rule.

#### What does ‘competition week’ mean?

The **competition week** runs from **Sunday through to the following Saturday**. All competitions must run within these 7 days unless permission is granted by the LTA Competitions Team.

If a competition is granted permission to start on the Saturday before the start of the competition week and/or finish on the Sunday of the following competition week it will fall into the competition week where the majority of the competition lies.

The following tournament dates would all be considered to lie in the same competition week:

- Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> – Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> May 2026
- Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> – Saturday 31<sup>st</sup> May 2026
- Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> – Sunday 31<sup>st</sup> May 2026
- Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> – Sunday 31<sup>st</sup> May 2026

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A grade 3 tournament running for less than the full tournament week will still be considered part of this regulation.

## **Are there any exceptions to the LTA weeklong overlapping competition regulation?**

Yes, the LTA weeklong overlapping competition regulation does not apply to grade 3 competitions that take place during the Christmas holidays.

## **What will happen if a player breaches the LTA Weeklong Rule?**

A player who is found to contravene the Overlapping Competition Regulations will lose all ranking points gained from all competitions.

If you are aware of a player who has breached the LTA Overlapping Regulations please contact the LTA Customer Support Team, providing the player's details (name and LTA number) and tournament codes, and we will investigate accordingly and apply the sanction where relevant.

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## LTA STAGED AND LTA WEEKLONG OVERLAPPING COMPETITION REGULATIONS – GENERAL FAQS

### Why are these regulations in place?

Prior to the regulations being introduced a significant number of parents, players and organisers felt that their competition experience was being negatively affected by players entering and holding places in multiple competitions taking place at the same time. These players were then waiting until just before the withdrawal deadline to make a decision about which competition to participate in, which resulted in many players not having an opportunity to compete at all.

Organisers and officials also expressed concerns regarding the number of withdrawals between the closing and withdrawal deadlines. This not only affected their ability to plan competition schedules in advance but viable events then had insufficient entries to run once the withdrawal deadline had passed.

We consulted a large number of parents, players and organisers to assist us in identifying a solution to these issues and the introduction of these regulations was voted as the preferred option.

### What are the benefits of having these regulations?

- More players are accepted at the closing date because players cannot hold multiple spaces in competitions of the same grade
- Fair for all players as it doesn't allow the minority to pick their most favourable event
- The regulation makes it easier to understand and manage competition entry fees
- Travel and accommodation can be planned further in advance because a player's status is known as soon as acceptances are published
- Draw sizes do not dramatically reduce at the withdrawal deadline and organisers/referees have a more realistic idea of entry numbers at the closing deadline
- Position on reserve list is more meaningful and gives a better indication of the likelihood of being accepted

### Are there any other regulations I need to consider?

Players may continue to enter competitions of differing age groups or grades.

If a player is entering more than one event per week where the tournament dates overlap. Player's must be aware of the full Overlapping Competitions Regulations (15.7) and understand that if a Player, in order to play in an overlapping event:

- a) Withdraws from an event after having started a match in that event;
- b) fails to appear at an event ready and prepared to play without having Withdrawn;
- c) retires during an event; and/or
- d) gives a walkover during an event;

he/she will lose all Ranking points obtained from all of the overlapping events and may incur further disciplinary action.

If a player is found to have contravened the regulations, then they will lose all ranking points obtained from both competitions.