



# WEST OF SCOTLAND SUMMER 2025 – RULES

**8 & Under**

**9 & Under**

**10 & Under**

**12 & 16 Under**

**Open Mixed**

**Problem Solving Issues & Regulations**

All rules are subject to change up until 1<sup>st</sup> April 2025



## 8&U Age Group Rules

### 1. Eligibility

#### Venue Eligibility

1.1 Entry to LTA Youth League ('the Competition') is open only to LTA registered venues, defined as Associates in Rule 28 of the LTA.

#### Team Eligibility

1.2 Event: Mixed 8 & under (born in 2017 or later).

1.3 A venue may enter more than one team in the event.

1.4 Where a venue has two or more teams in the event, the 'A' team should be the strongest team, and if applicable, the 'B' team should be stronger than the 'C' team etc.

1.5 Where a venue has two or more teams in the event, a player may 'play up' on a maximum of one occasion without 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 the lower team. In the case of a venue having two teams in the same division, players will only be able to play for the team they represent in their first match.

#### Player Eligibility

1.6 A player may only:

- I. Represent one venue in the Youth League Summer competition.
- II. Play in a maximum of two age groups.

1.7 All players must:

- I. Have an LTA Advantage Membership number which links to the venue they are competing for.
- II. Be a member of the LTA registered venue they are competing for as of 1 April 2025 and commit to representing that venue.
- III. Be of the correct age (see rule 1.2).

### 2. Competition Structure

2.1 County Tier

Teams shall be entered in a County Tier league based on their LTA venue registration code. Counties may run a central venue event at 8&U.

### 3. Match Arrangements

3.1 Time & Date

Fixtures shall be played on the fixed dates and times specified. Three sessions are scheduled for each match date. Times are published online. Players should report to their team captain [on the viewing gallery](#) 10 minutes before the match start time and wait to be called down to court by the supervisor. This will prevent disruption to matches being played in the earlier session.

As a central venue format is being used, the league organiser will contact all team captains pre-season to provide arrangements and advise the date and time of a pre-season virtual meeting.

3.2 Courts and Equipment

The venue shall provide a minimum of 2 red courts (preferably 4); supply the court equipment and set-up the court in line with the Competition Framework - [www.lta.org.uk/8-9-10competitions/](http://www.lta.org.uk/8-9-10competitions/)

3.3 Balls

The venue will supply a minimum of 3 red balls (sponge for indoor; felt for outdoor) for each rubber.

3.4 Match Format

A match shall consist of 16 singles rubbers if two teams are playing each other. Each player shall play all opposing players. There will be no doubles rubbers at 8&U.

If three teams in a group then each match shall consist of 8 singles rubbers. Counties using a central venue format are permitted to adjust the match format at their discretion.

3.5 Team Format

A team shall consist of 4 players of any gender. There are no additional players or substitutions permitted at a match.

3.6 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 which should be in order of merit.

#### Singles Playing Order

Players should play in order of merit as determined by the team captain. Boys and girls may play against one another. 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.

### 3.7 Order of play

The venue supervisors will have an order of play which will be shared with the team captains.

### 3.8 Rubber Scoring

	Set 1
8&U	Match Tie Break (to 10 points, with 2 clear)

### 3.9 Match Scoring

A team is awarded 2 points for each rubber won.

### 3.10 Match Result

The team with the most rubber points shall win the match. If teams are level on rubbers the match shall result in a draw.

A team will receive 2 match points on the league table for a match win and 1 match point for a draw.

In a knock-out format, if match points are equal, the team with the higher number of points won will be the winner. If points are equal, the result of the rubber between players 1 v 1 will determine the winner;

Both captains must complete and sign the Youth League scorecards and retain their copy. The winning captain (or home captain if a draw) must then submit the result online within 48 hours. The result may be added by the losing team captain if agreed on match day. Any teams found guilty of submitting false results shall be subject to rule 17.2.

### 3.11 Division Standings if competition played as a round robin league.

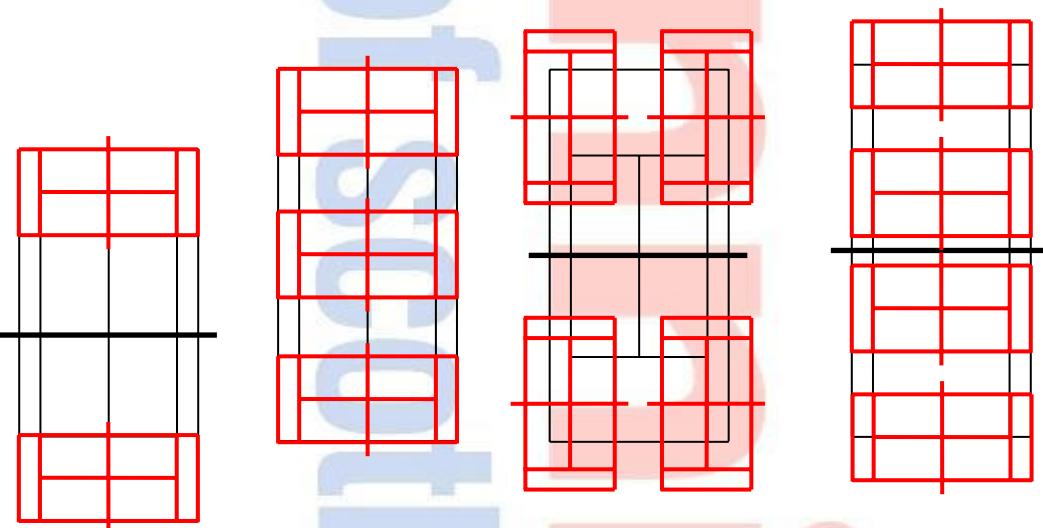
The final standings in each division shall be determined by the following:

- I. The team with the greatest number of match points.
- II. If match points are equal, the team with the greatest number of rubber points.
- III. If only two teams are level on match points and rubber points: their head to head result.
- IV. If more than 2 teams are level, the round robin rule in the LTA Competition Regulations will determine the league standings.

#### Red Equipment & court lay-out

For more information, please visit [www.lta.org.uk/8-9-10competitions/](http://www.lta.org.uk/8-9-10competitions/)

Ball:	Red (sponge indoor, felt outdoor)
Court:	11m x 5.5m (ok to use badminton court lines)
Net Height:	80cm
Recommended Racket Size:	Up to 58cm (23")



## 9&U Age Group Rules

### 4. Eligibility

#### Venue Eligibility

4.1 Entry to LTA Youth League ('the Competition') is open only to LTA registered venues, defined as Associates in Rule 28 of the LTA.

#### Team Eligibility

4.2 Event: Mixed 9 & Under (born in 2016 or 2017). Passport players will be allowed to play up in line with the Player Passport system.

4.3 A venue may enter more than one team in the event.

4.4 Where a venue has two or more teams in the event, the 'A' team should be the strongest team, and if applicable, the 'B' team should be stronger than the 'C' team etc.

4.5 Where a venue has two or more teams in the event, a player may 'play up' on a maximum of one occasion without 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 the lower team. In the case of a venue having two teams in the same division, players will only be able to play for the team they represent in their first match.

#### Player Eligibility

4.6 A player may only:

- I. Represent one venue in the Youth League Summer competition either at County or National level.
- II. Play in a maximum of two age groups.

4.7 All players must:

- I. Have an LTA Advantage Membership number which links to the venue they are competing for.
- II. Be a member of the LTA registered venue they are competing for as of 1 April 2025 and commit to representing that venue.
- III. Be of the correct age (see rule 4.2).

### 5. Competition Structure

#### 5.1 County Tier

Teams shall be entered in a County Tier league based on their LTA venue registration code. Each league will be divided into divisions of 3-6 teams. Each team will play each other team in their division at least once.

### 6. Match Arrangements

#### 6.1 Time & Date

Mixed League fixtures shall be played on the Wednesday afternoon fixed dates specified. It is both team captains' responsibility to contact each other before the match. There will be flexibility to play before a fixed date if both teams agree.

Girls League fixtures should be played on the day and time scheduled. There will be flexibility to play before a fixed date if both teams agree.

Mixed League matches are to start no later than 5.00 pm unless both teams agree otherwise, and must be completed before the start of adult home matches with a 7.00 pm start time. The home team must confirm start time with the away team a minimum of 14 days before the match date. It is both team captains' responsibility to contact each other to confirm start times. By the Tuesday, the week prior to the fixture, the away team must also confirm their team's attendance. 3 rubber points may be deducted from the match accumulated league total at the discretion of the league organiser for non-compliance from either team. Each team must have an adult captain present at each match. The home team captain shall be responsible for welcoming the away team and organising refreshments.

#### 6.2 Courts and Equipment

The home venue shall provide a minimum of 2 orange courts. Where more than one court surface is used, the away team shall have the choice of court allocation. The home team captain shall supply the court equipment and set up the court in line with the National Competition Framework - [www.lta.org.uk/8-9-10competitions/](http://www.lta.org.uk/8-9-10competitions/)

#### 6.3 Balls

The home team shall supply a minimum of 3 orange balls for each rubber.

#### 6.4 Match Format

A Mixed League match shall consist of 8 singles and 2 doubles rubbers. A Girls League match shall consist of 4 singles and 1 doubles rubber..

#### 6.5 Team Format

A Mixed team shall consist of 4 players of any gender. There are no additional players or substitutions permitted at a match. A Girls team shall consist of 2 girls. No additional players are allowed in either 9U competition.

#### 6.6 Singles Nominations

At least 15 minutes before the start time of each match, team captains must nominate in writing (on a scorecard) their singles players, in order of merit.

#### Singles Playing Order

Players should play in order of merit as determined by the team captain. Boys and girls may play against one another. 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.

## 6.7 Doubles Pairings

Pair 1: Singles players 1&2. Pair 2: Singles players 3&4.

## 6.8 Order of Play

	Court 1	Court 2
Round 1	Doubles 1	Doubles 2
Round 2	Singles 4v4	Singles 3v3
Round 3	Singles 1v1	Singles 2v2
Round 4	Singles 4v3	Singles 3v4
Round 5	Singles 2v1	Singles 1v2

Matches should follow one another immediately. There should be no rest period between rubbers other than any required toilet break.

## 6.9 Rubber Scoring

Singles & Doubles

	Sets 1 & 2	Set 3 (if necessary)
9&U	Tie-Break (to 7 points, 2 clear at 6-6)	Tie-break (to 7 points, 2 clear at 6-6)

## 6.10 Match Scoring

A team is awarded 2 points for each rubber won.

## 6.11 Match Result

The team with the most rubber points shall win the match. If teams are level on rubbers the match shall result in a draw.

A team will receive 2 match points on the league table for a match win and 1 match point for a draw.

In an elimination match only

At 5 points each, a doubles tie-break shoot-out (to 10 points, with 2 clear) shall be played. No bonus rubber point will be awarded to the winning team in a tie-break shoot-out.

Tie-Break Shootout (1 pair):

Player 1: One of the players from the 1<sup>st</sup>/2<sup>nd</sup> singles rubbers. Player

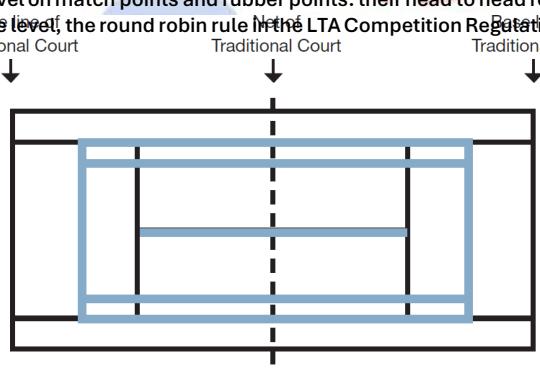
2: One of the players from the 3<sup>rd</sup>/4<sup>th</sup> singles rubbers.

Both captains must complete and sign the Youth League scorecards and retain their copy. The winning captain (or home captain if a draw) must then submit the result online within 48 hours. The result may be added by the losing team captain if agreed on match day. Any teams found guilty of submitting false results shall be subject to rule 17.2.

## 6.12 Division Standings

The final standings in each division shall be determined by the following:

- I. The team with the greatest number of match points.
- II. If match points are equal, the team with the greatest number of rubber points.
- III. If only two teams are level on match points and rubber points: their head to head result.
- IV. If more than 2 teams are level, the round robin rule in the LTA Competition Regulations will determine the league standings.



**Orange** Equipment & court lay-out

For more information, please visit [www.lta.org.uk/8-9-10competitions/](http://www.lta.org.uk/8-9-10competitions/)

Ball:	Orange
Court:	Singles court: 18m x 6.5m; Doubles court: 18m x 8.23m
Net Height:	80cm (at middle of net)
Recommended Racket Size:	58cm - 63cm (23" - 25")

## 10&U Age Group Rules

### 7. Eligibility

#### Venue Eligibility

7.1 Entry to LTA Youth League ('the Competition') is open only to LTA registered venues, defined as Associates in Rule 28 of the LTA.

#### Team Eligibility

7.2 Event: Mixed 10 & Under (born in 2015 or 2016). Passport players will be allowed to play up in line with the Player Passport system.

7.3 A venue may enter more than one team in the event.

7.4 Where a venue has two or more teams in the event, the 'A' team should be the strongest team, and if applicable, the 'B' team should be stronger than the 'C' team etc.

7.5 Where a venue has two or more teams in the event, a player may 'play up' on a maximum of one occasion without 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 the lower team. In the case of a venue having two teams in the same division, players will only be able to play for the team they represent in their first match.

#### Player Eligibility

7.6 A player may only:

- I. Represent one venue in the Youth League Summer competition.
- II. Play in a maximum of two age groups.

7.7 All players must:

- I. Have an LTA Advantage Membership number which links to the LTA registered venue they are competing for.
- II. Be a member of the venue they are competing for as of 1 April 2025 and commit to representing that venue.
- III. Be of the correct age (see rule 7.2).

### 8. Competition Structure

#### 8.1 County Tier

Teams shall be entered in a County Tier league based on their LTA venue registration code. Each league will be divided into divisions of 3-6 teams. Each team will play each other team in their division at least once.

### 9. Match Arrangements

#### 9.1 Time & Date

Mixed League fixtures shall be played on the Friday afternoon fixed dates specified. It is both team captains' responsibility to contact each other before the fixture.

Girls League fixtures should be played on the day and time scheduled. There will be flexibility to play before a fixed date if both teams agree.

Mixed League matches are to start not later than 5.00 pm unless both teams agree otherwise and must be completed before the start of any adult match with a 7.00 pm start time. The home team must confirm start time with the away team a minimum of 14 days before the match date. It is both team captains' responsibility to contact each other to confirm start times. By the Tuesday, the week prior to the fixture, the away team must also confirm their team's attendance. 3 rubber points may be deducted from the match accumulated league total at the discretion of the league organiser for non-compliance from either team. Each team must have an adult captain present at each match. The home team captain shall be responsible for welcoming the away team and organising refreshments.

#### 9.2 Courts

The home team shall provide 2, 3 or 4 courts of the same surface. Where more than one court surface is used, the away team shall have the choice of court allocation.

#### 9.3 Balls

The home team shall supply a minimum of 3 green balls for each rubber.

#### 9.4 Match Format

A Mixed League match shall consist of 4 singles and 2 doubles rubbers. A Girls League match shall consist of 2 singles and 1 doubles rubber. The match must be played over 2 rounds of rubbers.

#### 9.5 Team Format

A Mixed League 4-player team shall consist of 4 players of any gender. Up to two additional players may play doubles only.

A Mixed League 2-player team shall consist of 2 players of any gender. One additional player may play doubles only.

A Girls League team shall consist of 2 girls. One additional player may play doubles only.

#### 9.6 Singles Nominations

At least 15 minutes before the start time of each match, team captains must nominate in writing (on a scorecard) their singles players in order of merit.

#### Singles Playing Order

Players should play in order of merit as determined by the team captain. Boys and girls may play against one another. 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.

#### 9.7 Mixed League Doubles Pairings [4 player teams]

Pair 1: Singles players 1&2.

Pair 2: Singles players 3&4.

9.8 Order of Play [4 player teams]

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

Order of Play [2 player teams]

	On 2 courts
Round 1	Singles 1&2
Round 2	Doubles

Team captains should agree an appropriate rest period between rubbers however the match must be completed by 7.00 pm if match courts are required for an adult match.

9.9 Rubber Scoring

	Sets 1 & 2	Set 3 (if necessary)
10&U	FAST4 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>First to 4 games</li> <li>Tie-break at 3-3 (to 7 points, 2 clear at 6-6)</li> <li>No advantage scoring</li> </ul>	Match tie-break (to 10 points, 2 clear at 9-9)

9.10 Match Scoring

A team is awarded 2 points for each rubber won.

At 6 points each, a doubles tie-break shoot-out (to 10 points, with 2 clear) shall be played. No bonus rubber point will be awarded to the winning team in a tie-break shoot-out.

Tie-Break Shootout (1 pair):

Player 1: One of the players from the 1<sup>st</sup>/2<sup>nd</sup> singles rubbers. Player 2: One of the players from the 3<sup>rd</sup>/4<sup>th</sup> singles rubbers.

There is no shoot-out in a league of 2 player teams.

9.11 Match Result

The team with the most rubber points shall win the match, in the event of a tie, the winner of the tie-break shoot-out will win the match. A team will receive 2 match points on the league table for a match win.

Both captains must complete and sign the Youth League scorecards and retain their copy. The winning captain must then submit the result online within 48 hours. The result may be added by the losing team captain if agreed on match day. Any teams found guilty of submitting false results shall be subject to rule 17.2.

9.12 Division Standings

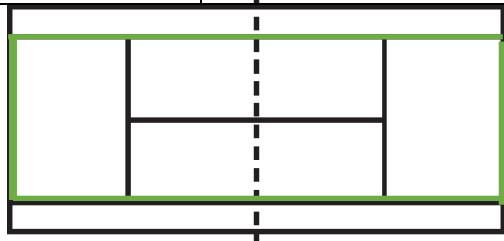
The final standings in each division shall be determined by the following:

- The team with the greatest number of match points.
- If match points are equal, the team with the greatest number of rubber points.
- If only two teams are level on match points and rubber points: their head to head result.
- If more than 2 teams are level, the round robin rule in the LTA Competition Regulations will determine the league standings.

**Green** Equipment & court lay-out

For more information, please visit [www.lta.org.uk/8-9-10competitions/](http://www.lta.org.uk/8-9-10competitions/)

Ball:	Green
Court:	Singles & Doubles are both played on the singles court
Net Height:	91.4cm (3ft - as per regulation court)
Recommended Racket Size:	63cm - 66cm (25" - 26")



## 12&U & 16&U Age Group Rules

### **10. Eligibility**

#### **Venue Eligibility**

10.1 Entry to LTA Youth & National League ('the Competition') is open only to LTA registered venues, defined as Associates in Rule 28 of the LTA.

#### **Team Eligibility**

10.2 Events:

Girls/Boys 16 & Under (born in 2009 - 2014)

Girls/Boys 12 & Under (born in 2013 - 2014)

10.3 A venue may enter more than one team in each event.

10.4 Where a venue has two or more teams in an event, the 'A' team should be the strongest team based on singles ITF World Tennis Number as of 1<sup>st</sup> April 2025, and if applicable, the 'B' team should be stronger than the 'C' team based on singles ITF World Tennis Number etc.

10.5 Where the venue has two or more teams in an event, a player may 'play up' on a maximum of one occasion without loss of eligibility in their lower team. Once a player has represented a higher team (e.g., 'A' team in Premier 16&U) on more than one occasion, from that point onwards, they are no longer eligible to represent the lower team (e.g., 'B' team in County Tier 16&U).

 In the case of a venue having two teams in the same division, players will only be able to play for the team they represent in their first match.

#### **Player Eligibility**

10.6 A player may only:

- I. Represent one venue in the 8&U-18&U age groups in the Youth & National League Summer competition
- II. Play in a maximum of two age groups, including Open (adult).

10.7 All players must:

- I. Have an LTA Advantage Membership number which links to the venue they are competing for.
- II. Have an ITF World Tennis Number.
- III. Be a member of the LTA registered venue they are competing for as of 1 April 2025 and commit to representing that venue.
- IV. Be of the correct age (see rule 10.2)

## **11. Competition Structure**

11.1 LTA Youth League (County Tier)

Teams shall be entered in a County Tier league based on their venue registration code. Each league will be divided into divisions of 3-6 teams. Each team will play each other team in their division once.

## **12. Match Arrangements**

12.1 Time & Date

Fixtures shall be played on the fixed dates and times specified. It is both team captains' responsibility to contact each other before the match. There will be flexibility to play before a fixed date if both teams agree. Fixtures scheduled on Saturdays may be played on the immediate day after the match date (next day) if both team captains agree.

Division 1 matches in the 12U and 16U events must be played at the time published online unless both captains agree to play at a different time. Matches in Division 2 and below must be played on the scheduled date at a mutually agreed time.

Fixtures are to start at the online time 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. By the Tuesday, the week prior to the fixture, the away team must also confirm their team's attendance. 3 rubber points may be deducted from the match accumulated league total at the discretion of the league organiser for non-compliance from either team. Each team must have an adult captain (age 18+) present at each fixture. The home team captain shall be responsible for welcoming the away team and organising refreshments.

In exceptional cases, fixtures may be rescheduled at a later date where 2 or more nominated players in the same team are involved in National training camps, International representation or other National/International competitions taking place in Great Britain (e.g., County Cup, Junior Internationals) on the same date.

Participation of nominated players competing in all other activities is not a reason for a match to be rescheduled.

12.2 Courts

The home team shall provide 2, 3 or 4 courts of the same surface. Where more than one court surface is used, the away team shall have the choice of court allocation.

12.3 Balls

The home team shall supply a minimum of 3 new ITF approved balls for each singles rubber.

12.4 Match Format

4-player teams

A match shall consist of 4 singles & 2 doubles rubbers. County Tier Division 2 onwards may apply a 2 singles & 1 doubles rubber format.

2-player teams

A match shall consist of 2 singles & 1 doubles rubber.

## 12.5 Team Format

### 4-player teams

A team shall consist of four to six players. Four players shall play one singles rubber each and the 5th and/or 6th player(s) may be selected for one doubles rubber only.

### 2-player teams

Where the format is 2 singles and 1 doubles rubber, a team shall consist of two or three players. Two players will play one singles rubber each and the 3rd player may be selected for the doubles rubber only.

## 12.6 Singles Nominations

### I. LTA Youth League (County Tier)

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 merit in accordance with the ITF World Tennis Number singles band i.e., 20.0-20.9 is band 20.

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.

Any player(s) playing doubles only must be nominated at the same time. Please see below the ITF World Tennis Number (singles) bands:

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

## 12.7 Doubles Pairings

Pair 1: Singles players 1&2. Pair

2: Singles players 3&4.

A 5<sup>th</sup>/6<sup>th</sup> player can substitute directly for any of the four singles players (e.g., if player number 5 substitutes for the singles player number 2, then player number 5 will play in the number 1 doubles pair). The nominated doubles substitutions must be on site at the agreed start time of the fixture.

## 12.8 Order of Play

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

It is recommended that there be a maximum of 10 minutes rest between rounds.

## 12.9 Rubber Scoring

	Sets 1 & 2	Set 3 (if necessary)
12&U – 16&U	Tie-break at 6-6	Match tie-break (to 10 points, 2 clear at 9-9)

## 12.10 Match Scoring

A team is awarded 2 points for each rubber won.

At 6 points each, a doubles tie-break shoot-out (to 10 points, with 2 clear) shall be played. No bonus rubber point will be awarded to the winning team in a tie-break shoot-out.

Tie-Break Shootout (1 pair):

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

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

## 12.11 Match Result

The team with the most rubber points shall win the match, in the event of a tie, the winner of the tie-break shoot-out will win the match. A team will receive 2 match points on the league table for a match win.

Both captains must complete and sign the Youth & National League scorecards and retain their copy. The winning captain must then submit the result online within 48 hours. The result may be added by the losing team captain if agreed on match day. Any teams found guilty of submitting false results shall be subject to rule 17.2.

## 12.12 Division Standings

The final standings in each division shall be determined by the following:

- I. The team with the greatest number of match points.
- II. If match points are equal, the team with the greatest number of rubber points.
- III. If only two teams are level on match points and rubber points: their head-to-head result.
- IV. If more than 2 teams are level, the round robin rule in the LTA Competition Regulations will determine the league standings.

## Open (adult) Age Group Rules

### 13. Eligibility

#### Venue Eligibility

13.1 Entry to LTA National League ('the Competition') is open only to LTA registered venues, defined as Associates in Rule 28 of the LTA.

#### Team Eligibility

13.2 Event: Mixed Open.

13.3 A venue may enter as many teams as it wishes in the competition but may have no more than 2 teams in any division of the National, Regional or County Tier. This rule applies to men and women separately.

13.4 Where a venue has two or more teams in the Competition (County, Regional or National Tiers) a player may 'play up' on a maximum of one occasion without loss of eligibility for 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 the lower team. In the case of a venue having two teams in the same division, players will only be able to play for the team they represent in their first match.

#### Player Eligibility

13.5 A player may :

- I. Represent one venue in the Open Mixed League and the same or any other venue in one junior age group played in the Summer Season.
- II. Represent one venue in the Open Mixed League and another venue in any other Summer Season competition staged by Tennis West of Scotland.

13.6 All players must:

- I. Have an LTA Advantage Membership number which links to the venue they are competing for.
- II. Have an ITF World Tennis Number
- III. Be a member of the venue they are competing for as of 1 April 2025 and commit to representing that venue.
- IV. Be born on or before 31 December 2011.

13.7 A venue with a team(s) in the County Tier, does not need to nominate players and can play players of any standard.

### 14. Competition Structure

#### 14.1 County Tier

Teams shall be entered in a County Tier league based on their venue registration code. Each league will be divided into divisions of 3-6 teams. County exceptions may apply. Each team will play each other team in their division once.

#### 14.2 Time & Date

Fixtures are to be played on the fixed dates specified. It is both team captains' responsibility to contact each other before the match. In the County Tier, there will be flexibility to play before a fixed date if both teams agree.

On match day the home team captain shall be responsible for welcoming the away team and organising refreshments.

County Tier fixtures are to start between 10am-4pm 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. By the Tuesday, the week prior to the fixture, the away team must also confirm their team's attendance. 3 rubber points may be deducted from the home teams accumulated league total at the discretion of the league organiser for non-compliance from either team.

#### 14.3 Court Surfaces

The home team shall provide 2, 3 or 4 courts of the same surface. Where more than one court surface is used, the away team shall have the choice of court allocation for singles and doubles matches.

#### 14.4 Balls

The home team shall supply a minimum of 3 new ITF approved balls for each singles rubber. In the National and Regional Tier, new balls shall be supplied for each doubles rubber.

#### 14.5 Match Format

A match shall consist of 4 singles and 2 doubles rubbers. In the mixed event, a match shall consist of 4 singles (comprising of 2 men's singles and 2 women's singles) and 2 mixed doubles rubbers.

#### 14.6 Team Format

A team shall consist of four players – two men and two women. These four players shall play one singles rubber each and thereafter one mixed doubles rubber. The man and women who played at #1 singles cannot combine to play at #2 doubles. If only three courts are used for the match, rubbers should be played as below:

	COURT 1	COURT 2	COURT 3
ROUND 1	MS#1 V MS#1	WS#1 V WS#1	MS#2+WS#2 V MS#2+WS#2
ROUND 2	MS#2 V MS#2	WS#2 V WS#2	MS#1+WS#1 V MS#1+WS#1

## 14.7

**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. An ATP/WTA singles world ranking must take precedence over a player's ITF World Tennis Number. 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. 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						
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

**DOUBLES NOMINATIONS**

The team captains shall nominate in writing their doubles pairings 15 minutes after the singles rubbers have been completed. All players nominated for doubles must be on site at the time of nomination. The doubles pairings shall be nominated in accordance with the sum of the singles positions of the players in each pairing (see below). Where players are nominated for the doubles rubber(s) only then his/her singles position shall be regarded as:

Number 5 in the case of the 'doubles only player' with the higher singles ITF World Tennis Number band (or current ATP/WTA ranking)

Number 6 in the case of the 'doubles only player' with the lower singles ITF World Tennis Number band

If singles player number 1 plays with 5 and singles player 2 plays with 3 then 2 and 3 shall be the first pair. Where the total is the same, the pairing which includes the player who played in the highest order singles match shall be nominated as the first pair (e.g., if the pairings are 1 + 4 and 2 + 3, then 1 + 4 must be nominated as the first pair). If one player from a team of 4 is unable to play doubles, the nominated pair must play number 1.

In the mixed event, the men's singles matches will be matches 1&2 and the women's singles matches will be 3&4. This will be followed by two mixed doubles matches. Doubles pair 1 and doubles pair 2 will be decided using the nomination process above.

## 14.8

**Order of Play**

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

## 14.9

**Rubber Scoring****County Tier**

	Sets 1 & 2	Set 3 (if necessary)
Singles & Doubles	Tie-break at 6-6	Match Tie-break (to 10 points, 2 clear at 9-9)

## 14.10

**Match Scoring**

A team is awarded 2 points for each rubber won.

At 6 points each a tie-break shoot-out shall be played. No bonus rubber point will be awarded to the winning team in a tie-break shoot-out. A tie-break shoot-out shall consist of two singles tie breaks (to 10 points, with 2 clear) followed by a doubles tie-break (to 10 points, with 2 clear) if necessary. In the event that a team is reduced to 3 players, that team must concede the doubles tie-break. In the event that both teams are reduced to 3 players and the singles tie-breaks are shared, a deciding doubles tie-break (to 10 points, with 2 clear) shall be played between the remaining player and one of the singles shoot-out players. No substitutions or changes are permitted to the players who originally competed in the match. No player may play in more than one tie-break. Players are to be nominated as follows:

Tie-break 1 (Singles): One of the original players from the 1st/2nd singles rubbers.

Tie-break 2 (Singles): One of the original players from the 3rd/4th singles rubbers.

Tie-break 3 (Doubles): A pairing comprising any two of the other players who have played in the match. Both singles tie-breaks must take place at the same time.

## 14.11

**Match Result**

The team with the most rubber points shall win the match, in the event of a tie, the winner of the tie-break shoot-out will win the match. A team will receive 2 match points on the league table for a match win.

Both captains must complete and sign the National League scorecards and retain their copy. The winning captain must then submit the result online within 48 hours. The result may be added by the losing team captain if agreed on match day. Any teams found guilty of submitting false results shall be subject to rule 17.2.

## 14.12 Division Standings

The final standings in each division shall be determined by the following:

- I. The team with the greatest number of match points.
- II. If match points are equal, the team with the greatest number of rubber points.
- III. If only two teams are level on match points and rubber points: their head-to-head result.
- IV. If more than 2 teams are level, the round robin rule in the LTA Competition Regulations will determine the league standings.

## Problem Solving Issues & Regulations (All age groups, all tiers)

### 15. Problem Solving Issues

#### 15.1 Late Arrival

If any nominated player is not ready to play within 15 minutes of a rubber due on court, then the opposing team shall be awarded a walkover for this rubber (by a score of 6-0, 6-0). No substitutions or alteration to the nominations or playing order may be made. The player concerned shall be permitted to play a doubles rubber (and tie-break shoot-out) provided he/she is ready to play when the doubles rubber is due on court. If he/she is not ready when the doubles rubber is due on court the team will be deemed 'incomplete' and Rules 16.2 and 16.6 will apply.

In the event that the entire away team is going to be late for extenuating circumstances (e.g., motorway closure etc) and has contacted the home team in good time, a reasonable degree of flexibility on start time should be shown by the home team.

#### 15.2 Incomplete Teams

If a venue is unable to field a complete team for the whole fixture, then they shall first forfeit the lowest singles rubber and the second doubles rubber, followed by the next lowest rubber and so on. Incomplete teams will begin the fixture with 3 rubber points deducted where one player is missing and 6 rubber points from their match score where two players are missing. For example, an incomplete team consisting of 3 players will begin on -3 rubber points and will play 3 singles and 1 doubles rubber only. If the incomplete team win 3 rubbers (+6 rubber points) and lose 1 rubber the overall match score will be 6-3 to the complete team. As such no tie-break shootout is to be played.

The complete team shall be deemed to have won the forfeited rubbers by a score of 6-0 6-0. Where one team is incomplete, the complete team may play any two of the nominated players as the No 1 doubles pair. When it is known before the match that one team is going to be incomplete, the lowest nominated singles player(s) of the opposing team does not have to be present for the fixture.

#### 15.3 Player Retirement

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

#### 15.4 Completion of Matches (due to inclement weather)

If play is suspended after a match has started, then the match shall resume at the point of suspension.

If a match cannot be started due to rain or rain stops play before any rubbers have been completed, then the match may be rearranged on or before the rain date at the original venue as set by the League Organiser. New nominations may be submitted, and the match can be restarted. At the discretion of the league organiser, the home venue of a fixture may be reversed in the case of inclement weather and/or courts being unfit for play.

If a team has two matches rained off and schedules the first rained off match for the official rain date and cannot play the second rained off match prior to the rain date, then this second rained off match will be halved with both teams receiving 6 rubber points and 1 match point each. Where promotion/relegation is not affected, matches that are rained off on the agreed rain date will be halved with both teams receiving 6 rubber points and 1 match point each.

Where one or more rubbers have been completed, then the winner of the match shall be the team winning the greatest number of completed rubbers. 2 points shall be awarded for each completed rubber with any remaining points shared. For the purposes of final league placing calculations, the incomplete and unplayed rubbers shall be deemed shared by a score of 6-4, 4-6. Should each team have won an equal number of rubbers then each team shall receive 6 rubber points and 1 match point.

#### 15.5 Team Withdrawal

County Tier -

In the event of a team being unable to fulfil a fixture, on the first occurrence, their opponents shall record 12 rubbers and 2 match points, at the discretion of the league organiser. Should the team not fulfil a second fixture, they shall take no further part in the competition. Once a team has been withdrawn, they shall take no further part in the competition. All results against this team will be declared null and void for the purposes of determining the final placing in its group. However, the League Organiser shall have the power to consider a team's position regarding a team walkover with extenuating circumstances, in which case the team receiving the walkover will win all rubbers 6-0, 6-0, and will receive 12 rubber points and a match win.

League organisers may at their discretion allow a team to fulfil their remaining fixtures following a walkover. However, the team will be retired at the end of the league season and as such all results will not be counted in the final league standings calculation.

#### 15.6 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. In addition, that team shall have 3 rubber points deducted from their match score for each ineligible player.

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. Where doubles pairings are not in line with Rule 6.7/9.7/12.7/15.7 that team shall forfeit both doubles rubbers.

In the event of a match result being overturned by the League Organiser after the match has been completed which then results in a score of 6 points each then both teams will be awarded a half win (1 match point each). For 8&U/9&U/10&U/11&U age groups any forfeited/incomplete scores (as highlighted in rules 16.1-16.6) will be subject to the appropriate scoring format for that age group.

15.7 For those teams in the National and Regional tiers, if any disputes occur on the day during the fixture that can't be resolved using the above regulations, the 'on call' referee must be contacted to help resolve any disputes.

## **16. Regulations**

16.1 All matches in the Competition shall be conducted in accordance with the ITF Rules of Tennis, the Rules and Regulations of the LTA, the LTA Competition Regulations, the LTA Code of Conduct and the National League Competition Regulations (in the event of any inconsistency, the National League Regulations 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.

16.2 The day-to-day organisation of the Competition shall be carried out by the League Organiser under the auspices of the 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.

16.3 Any complaint/dispute shall be made in writing on email to the League Organiser (copying in [nationalleague@LTA.org.uk](mailto:nationalleague@LTA.org.uk)) by the team captain within 48 hours of the complaint/dispute arising. Nevertheless, the League Organiser/CT shall have the power to consider any matter coming to their attention subsequently.

16.4 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.

16.5 Where a LTA registered venue is suspended, the LTA Competitions Team shall determine if the venue shall play any further part in the current or further stages of the Competition.

