



WINTER 2026-2027 RULES

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8&U Age Group Rules

1. Eligibility

Venue Eligibility

1.1 Entry to the FAGE 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 Competition Age Groups are calculated on the last date of the league; therefore, the following age groups should be used based on the league period:

AGE GROUP	League running from September 2026 - December For players born in...	League running from September 2026 — March 2027 OR January 2027 — March 2027 for players born in...
Mixed 8 & Under	2018 or later 2019 or later	2019 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 FAGE LTA Youth League Winter competition.
- II. Play in a maximum of three 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 September 2026 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. Organising counties may, at their discretion, allow venues from neighbouring counties play in their league. Each league will be divided into divisions of 3-6 teams. Each team will play each other team in their division at least once. 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 specified. It is both team captains' responsibility to contact each other before the fixture. There will be flexibility to play before a fixed date if both teams agree. Fixtures scheduled on Saturday match dates can be played on the immediate Sunday following (next day) if both team captains agree. There will also be flexibility for teams to play one or more fixtures on the same day at the same venue with agreement of the opposing teams. If opposing teams don't agree the fixture is to be played on the fixed date specified.

Matches are to start between 10am-2pm unless both teams agree otherwise, or the league organiser instructs differently. 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 (age 18+) present at each match.

The home team captain shall be responsible for welcoming the away team and organising refreshments. If a central venue format is being used, the league organiser will be in touch directly with the relevant teams with further information.

3.2 Courts and Equipment

The home 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/

3.3 Balls

The home team shall 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. Each player shall play all opposing players. There are no doubles.

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 Youth League 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 (based on 4 red courts)

	Court 1	Court 2	Court 3	Court 4
Round 1	1v1	2v2	3v3	4v4
Round 2	1v2	2v1	3v4	4v3
Round 3	1v3	2v4	3v1	4v2
Round 4	1v4	2v3	3v2	4v1

Each round should take approximately 15 minutes. Matches should follow one another immediately. Home players stay on same court.

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. 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

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

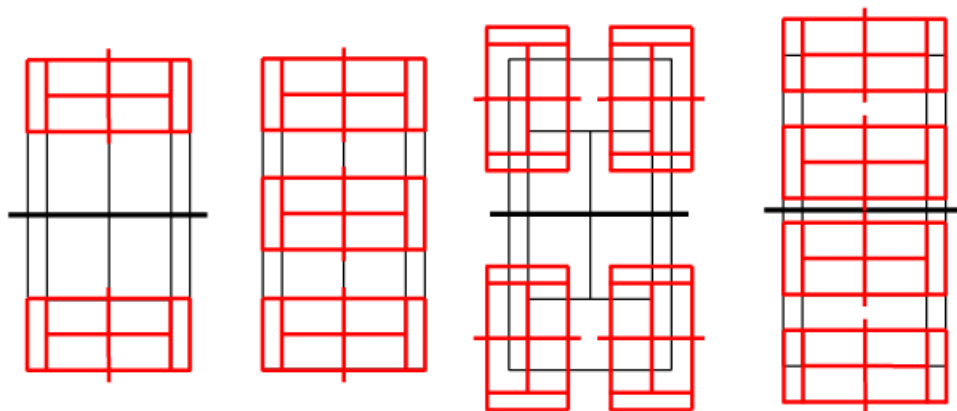
- I. The team with the greatest number of match points.
- II. If match points are equal, the team with the greatest number of rubber points.
- III. If only two teams are level on match points and rubber points: their head-to-head result.
- IV. If more than 2 teams are level, the round robin rule in the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

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")



98&U Age Group Rules

4. Eligibility

Venue Eligibility

41 Entry to the 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 Competition Age Groups are calculated on the last date of the league; therefore, the following age groups should be used based on the league period:

AGE GROUP	League running from September 2026 - December For players born in...	League running from September 2026 — March 2027 OR January 2027 — March 2027 for players born in...
Mixed 9 & Under	2017 or 2018	2018 or 2019

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 FAGE LTA Youth League Winter competition.
- II. Play in a maximum of three 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 September 2026 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. Organising counties may, at their discretion, allow venues from neighbouring counties play in their league. Each league will be divided into divisions of 3-6 teams. Each team will play each other team in their division at least once. Counties may run a central venue event at 9&U.

6. Match Arrangements

6.1 Time & Date

Fixtures shall be played on or before the fixed dates specified. It is both team captains' responsibility to contact each other before the match. Matches scheduled on Saturday's can be played on the immediate day after the match date (next day) if both team captains agree. There will also be flexibility for teams to play one or more matches on the same day at the same venue with agreement of the opposing teams. If opposing teams don't agree the match is to be played on the fixed date specified. On match day the home team captain shall be responsible for welcoming the away team and organising refreshments.

Matches are to start between 10am-2pm unless both teams agree otherwise, or the league organiser instructs differently. 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 none 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.

If a central venue format is being used, the league organiser will be in touch directly with the relevant teams with further information.

6.2 Courts and Equipment

The home venue shall provide 3-4 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/

6.3 Balls

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

6.4 Match Format

A match shall consist of 16 singles and 2 doubles rubbers. Counties using a central venue format are permitted to adjust the match format at their discretion.

6.5 Team Format

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

6.6 Singles Nominations

At least 15 minutes before the start time of each match, team captains must nominate in writing (on a Youth League 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

Round 1	1 v 1	2 v 2	3 v 3	4 v 4
Round 2	1 v 2	2 v 1	3 v 4	4 v 3
Round 3	1 v 3	3 v 1	2 v 4	4 v 2
Round 4	1 v 4	4 v 1	2 v 3	3 v 2
Round 5	Doubles 1	Doubles 2		

Matches should follow one another immediately.

6.9 Rubber Scoring

All matches will consist of 1 Match tie break to 10 (2-clear at 9-9)

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.

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

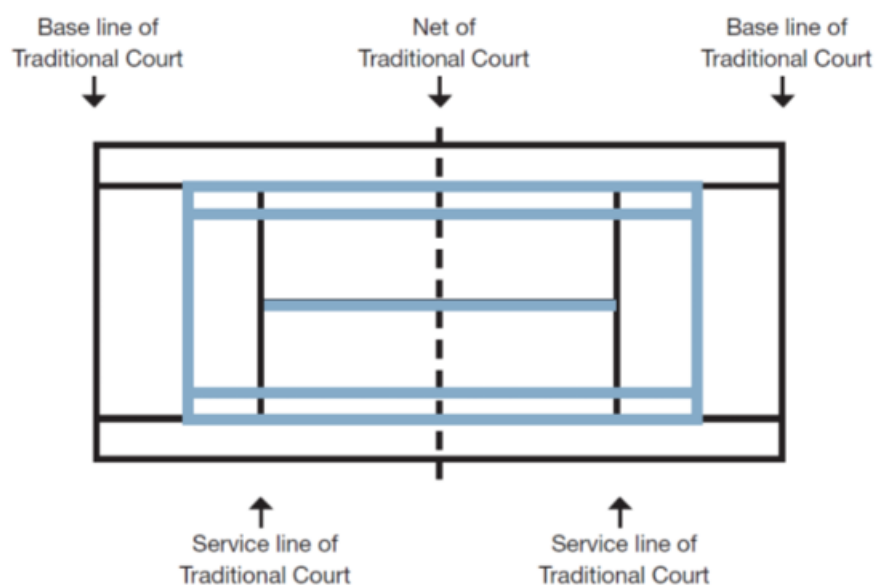
The final standings in each division shall be determined by the following:

- 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/



Ball:	Orange
Court:	Singles court: 18m x 6.5m; Doubles court: 18m x 8.23
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 the FAGE 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 Competition Age Groups are calculated on the last date of the league; therefore, the following age groups should be used based on the league period:

AGE GROUP	League running from September 2026 - December For players born in...	League running from September 2026 — March 2027 OR January 2027 — March 2027 for players born in...
Mixed 10 & Under	2016 or 2017	2017 or 2018

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 FAGE LTA Youth League Winter 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 September 2026 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. Organising counties may, at their discretion, allow venues from neighbouring counties play in their league. Each league will be divided into divisions of 3-6 teams. Each team will play each other team in their division at least once. Counties may run a central venue event at 10&U.

9. Match Arrangements

9.1 Time & Date

Fixtures shall be played on or before the fixed dates specified. It is both team captains' responsibility to contact each other before the fixture. Fixtures scheduled on Saturday's may be played on the immediate day after the match date (next day) if both team captains agree. On match day the home team captain shall be responsible for welcoming the away team and organising refreshments.

Matches are to start between 10am-2pm unless both teams agree otherwise, or the league organiser instructs differently. 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 none 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.

If a central venue format is being used, the league organiser will be in touch directly with the relevant teams with further information.

9.2 Courts

The home team shall provide 2 courts of the same surface. **It is recommended that either 3 or 4 courts are used.** 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 match shall consist of 8 singles and 2 doubles rubber.

9.5 Team Format

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

9.6 Singles Nominations

At least 15 minutes before the start time of each match, team captains must nominate in writing (on a Youth League 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.

9.7 Doubles Pairings

Pair 1: Singles players 1&2.

Pair 2: Singles players 3&4.

9.8 Order of play

	Court 1	Court 2	Court 3	Court 4
Round 1	1 v 1	2 v 2	3 v 3	4 v 4
Round 2	2 v 1	1 v 2	4 v 3	3 v 4
Round 3	Doubles 1	Doubles 2		

There is to be a maximum of 10 minutes rest between rounds.

9.9 Rubber Scoring

Each rubber consists of 1 FAST4 set.

- First to 4 games
- Tie-break at 3-3 (to 7 points, 2 clear at 6-6)
- No advantage scoring

9.10 Match Scoring

A team is awarded 2 points for each rubber won.

9.11 Match Result

The team with the most rubber points shall 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:

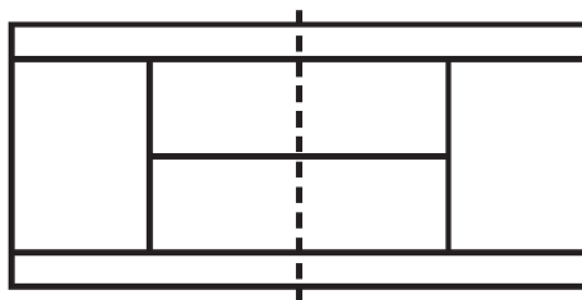
- I. The team with the greatest number of match points.
- II. If match points are equal, the team with the greatest number of rubber points.
- III. If only two teams are level on match points and rubber points: their head-to-head result.
- IV. If more than 2 teams are level, the round robin rule in the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

Green

Equipment & court lay-out.

For more information, please visit 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")



11&U — 18&U Age Group Rules

10. Eligibility

Venue Eligibility

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

Team Eligibility

10.2 Competition Age Groups are calculated on the last date of the league; therefore, the following age groups should be used based on the league period:

AGE GROUP	League running from September 2026 - December For players born in...	League running from September 2026 — March 2027 OR January 2027 — March 2027 for players born in...
11 & Under	2015 - 2016	2016 - 2017
12 & Under	2014 - 2015	2015 - 2016
14 & Under	2012 - 2015	2013 - 2016
16 & Under	2010 - 2015	2011 - 2016
18 & Under	2008 - 2015	2009 - 2016

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 players ITF World Tennis Number at the start of the season, and if applicable, the 'B' team should be stronger than the 'C' team based on their 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 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

10.6 A player may only:

- I. Represent one venue in the 8&U-18&U age groups in the FAGE LTA Youth League Winter competition.
- II. Play in a maximum of two age groups.

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 September 2026 and commit to representing that venue.
- IV. Be of the correct age (see rule 10.2)

11. Competition Structure

11.1. County Tier

Teams shall be entered in a County Tier league based on their venue registration code. Organising counties may, at their discretion, allow venues from neighbouring counties play in their league. Each

league will be divided into divisions of 3-6 teams. Each team will play each other team in their division at least once.

12. Match Arrangements

12.1 Time & Date

Fixtures shall be played on or before the fixed dates specified. It is both team captains' responsibility to contact each other before the match. Fixtures scheduled on Saturday's may be played on the immediate day after the match date (next day) if both team captains agree. On match day the home team captain shall be responsible for welcoming away teams and organising refreshments.

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. 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 none 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.

12.2 Courts

The home team shall provide 2, 3 or 4 courts of the same surface, depending on 2 or 4 player format being used. 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 World Tennis (previously ITF) approved balls for each singles rubber.

12.4 Match Format

Boys' matches shall consist of 4 singles and 2 doubles rubber.

Girls' matches shall consist of 2 singles and 1 doubles rubber.

12.5 Team Format

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

A girls' team shall consist of two to four players. Two players shall play one singles rubber each and a 3rd/4th player may be selected for the doubles rubber only.

12.6 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 in order of merit in accordance with the 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 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.

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	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	14.0-14.9	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 (for boys' only)

In the boys' a 5/6th player can substitute directly for any of the two singles players. In the girls' a 3rd/4th player can substitute directly for any of the two singles players. The nominated doubles substitutions must be on site at the agreed start time of the fixture.

12.8 Order of Play

BOYS

	On 2 Courts	On 3 Courts	On 4 Courts
Round 1	2 Singles	2 Singles + 1 Doubles	4 Singles
Round 2	2 Doubles	2 Singles + 1 Doubles	2 Doubles
Round 3	2 Singles		

GIRLS

	On 2 Courts
Round 1	2 Singles
Round 2	1 Doubles

There is to be a maximum of 20 minutes rest between rounds.

12.9 Rubber Scoring

	Sets 1 & 2	Set 3 (if necessary)
11&U – 18&U	Fast 4 - First to 4 games - Tie-break at 3-3 (to 7 points, 2 clear at 6-6) - No advantage scoring	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.

In the boys event 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 1st/2nd singles rubbers or number 1 doubles pair.

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

12.11 Match Result

The team with the most rubber points shall 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.

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 Events: Men's and Women's.

13.3 A venue may enter as many teams as it wishes in the competition. This rule applies to men and women separately.

13.4 Where a venue has two or more teams in the Competition 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

14.1 A player may only:

I. Represent one venue in the Open (adult) age group in the National League Winter competition but may represent another venue for a junior age group.

II. Play in a maximum of three age groups (including Open).

14.2 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 September 2026 and commit to representing that venue.

IV. Be born on or before 31 December 2013.

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

15. Competition Structure

15.1 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.

15.2 Open Promotion/Relegation

Refer to the online document 'Open (adult) Promotion/Relegation 2026 at www.lta.org.uk/compete/adult/national-league for full details.

16. Match Arrangements

16.1 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 and there is prior consent from the league organiser. 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. **It is Best Practice for all teams to set their home start times at the beginning of the season and update the website.**

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 none compliance from either team.

16.2 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.

16.3 Balls

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

16.4 Match Format

A match shall consist of 4 singles and 2 doubles rubbers.

16.5 Team Format

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.

16.6 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 in order of their ITF World Tennis Number singles band i.e., 20.0-20.9 is band 20.

An ATP/WTB 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. Within their relevant ITF WTN band.

At the same time, captains shall provide the name of any other player(s) who may be selected for the doubles only.

	Band		Band		Band		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	14.0-14.9	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

16.7 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/WTB 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.

16.8 Order of Play

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

**Where playing on 3 courts, both teams may agree to play 2 singles and 1 doubles to allow the match to be completed in 2 rounds. The away team in this will be able to select the doubles pairings.*

16.9 Rubber Scoring

Each match will consist of 2 tie break sets with a tie break to 7 played at 6-6 (2-clear). If the match reaches 1-set all a match tie break to 10 (2-clear) shall be played to decide the match.

16.10 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.

If a team is reduced to 3 players, that team must concede the doubles tie-break.

If 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.*

16.11 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 14.2.

16.12 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)

17. Problem Solving Issues

17.1 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 4-0, 4-0). No substitutions or alteration to the nominations or playing order may be made. The player concerned shall be permitted to play a doubles rubber 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.

17.2 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 doubles rubber. The complete team shall be deemed to have won the forfeited rubbers by a score of 4-0 4-0. 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.

17.3 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.

17.4 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. 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 half the rubber points and 1 match point each. Matches that are rained off on the agreed rain date will be halved with both teams receiving half the 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 4-2, 2-4. Should each team have won an equal number of rubbers then each team shall receive 3 rubber points and 1 match point.

17.5 Team Withdrawal

In the event of a team being unable to fulfil a fixture, on the first occurrence, their opponents shall record six rubbers and two match points.

Should the offence be repeated by the same team 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 4-0, 4-0 and will receive 6 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.

17.6 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.

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 3 points each then both teams will be awarded a half win (1 match point each). For 8&U/9&U/10&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.

18. Regulations

18.1 All matches in the Competition shall be conducted in accordance with the World Tennis (formerly ITF) Rules of Tennis, the Rules and Regulations of the LTA, the LTA Competition Regulations, the LTA Code of Conduct and the Youth League Competition Regulations (in the event of any inconsistency, the Youth 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.

18.2 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.

18.3 Any complaint/dispute shall be made in writing on email to the League Organiser (copying in <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.

18.4 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.

18.5 Where an 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.