

SAFEGUARDING INFORMATION FOR TEAM CAPTAINS

Everyone who is involved in tennis has a shared responsibility to ensure that all children, young people and adults at risk are safeguarded from abuse and have an enjoyable tennis experience.

Traveling in a team with children (anyone under 18) requires careful consideration to help safeguard children and the adults in contact with them. Planning is therefore required to ensure risks are properly assessed and mitigated against. The LTA Safeguarding Guidelines for league matches is aimed at teams with children traveling for away matches and it provides a 'one stop' shop for organisers and supervisors accompanying the team to meet safeguarding standards.

A supervisor may be a coach, team captain or volunteer over 18. Supervisors should have completed as a minimum the LTA online safeguarding training but the preference will be to have completed a safeguarding course. At a league or county match, the hosting club is responsible for the safeguarding plan and risk assessment of the event they are running. The visiting club/county/school will be responsible for the safeguarding plan and risk assessment around their involvement in said event.

The guidance will assist in considering key issues, including:

- Ratios
- Transportation
- Insurance
- Accommodation
- Medical issues and emergencies
- Photography and social media

To view the LTA Safeguarding Guidelines for league matches, please visit the Captains' Area at www.LTA.org.uk/national-league-winter



NATIONAL LEAGUE CAPTAINS' GUIDE

Winter 2020-21



 @LTACompetitions
#LTANationalleague

www.lta.org.uk/national-league-winter

WELCOME

CONTENTS

Competition Match Dates.....3
 Covid-19 Guidance..... 4
 Match Day.....6
 8&U Age Group Rules.....10
 9&U Age Group Rules..... 12
 10&U Age Group Rules.....14
 12&U – 18&U Age Group Rules.....16
 Problem Solving Issues & Regulations.....18
 Match Scorecards.....21

TEAM CAPTAINS!

Welcome to the LTA National League for the Winter 2020-21 season, and it is great to have you on board! We had a highly successful launch to the winter competition last year, and we are delighted that the LTA National League competition now takes place all year round.

It goes without saying that it has been a difficult summer period for everyone, however, after the summer season was cancelled (due to Covid-19) we are thrilled to be bringing team competition back to venues, teams and players this winter.

We hope you and your team are looking forward to an exciting season, as much as we are. This Captains' guide serves as a helpful resource to ensure that the National League experience for yourself, your players, and all those involved at your tennis venue is a positive one. The opening pages to the guide offer you tools and information, in the form of a match checklist, to successfully organise your team before, during and after a match. The second half of the guide contains the Competition Rules which need to be followed to ensure matches are played consistently and fairly. Please note, some rules may be different for your particular county, however, any changes will be communicated to you from your league organiser. Please share your team's successes and stories on social media, any pictures and videos of your team playing and celebrating would be fantastic, by using #LTANationalleague and @LTACompetitions.

We hope you find the contents of this guide useful and we wish your team a successful 2020-21 season.

LTA Competitions

LTA NATIONAL LEAGUE (WINTER) 2020-2021 - Competition Fixture Dates

The following are the match dates for all age groups within the LTA National League for Winter 2020-21. All dates below are as a guide; please refer to the league fixtures sent from your league organiser.

- Fixed dates are used to allow teams to confirm court & player availability early
- There is flexibility to play matches before a date if both teams agree
- Where fixtures are postponed due to weather on their original scheduled date, they will be replayed on the official rain date, or an agreed date before the rain date

- Not all fixture dates may be necessary due to division sizes
- Fixtures will take place over the weekend dates given below. League Organisers will schedule matches to take place on either the Saturday or Sunday of that weekend – however, as per the rules there is flexibility to play over either date on that particular weekend
- Your county may be running a central venue event for 8&U (Mini Red), 9&U (Mini Orange) and/or 10&U (Mini Green)

8&U	9&U	10&U	11U	12U	14U	16U	18U
19/20 Sep	12/13 Sep	26/27 Sep	19/20 Sep	12/13 Sep	19/20 Sep	12/13 Sep	19/20 Sep
10/11 Oct	3/4 Oct	10/11 Oct	3/4 Oct	26/27 Oct	10/11 Oct	3/4 Oct	10/11 Oct
14/15 Nov	7/8 Nov	31 Oct / 1 Nov	7/8 Nov	14/15 Nov	7/8 Nov	14/15 Nov	7/8 Nov
28/29 Nov	5/6 Dec	28/29 Nov	5/6 Dec	28/29 Nov	5/6 Dec	28/29 Nov	5/6 Dec
23/24 Jan	30/31 Jan	23/24 Jan	30/31 Jan	23/24 Jan	30/31 Jan	23/24 Jan	30/31 Jan
27/28 Feb	6/7 Mar	27/28 Feb	6/7 Mar	27/28 Feb	6/7 Mar	27/28 Feb	6/7 Mar
20/21 Mar	20/21 Mar	20/21 Mar	20/21 Mar	20/21 Mar	20/21 Mar	20/21 Mar	20/21 Mar

COVID-19 GUIDANCE for Venues, Team Captains & Players

Information correct as of 8th September 2020

The following pages aim to provide the relevant Covid-19 guidance for those venues, team captains and players involved in the LTA National League competition.

Owing to the COVID-19 restrictions imposed by HM Government we will be adhering to guidance put in place by the LTA to ensure the safety and wellbeing whilst competing. Undertaking any activity, including tennis, has the potential for increased risk of transmission of COVID-19, you are advised to read Government guidance on staying safe outside your home.

VENUES

- All venues must ensure they have read and adhere to the LTA Guidance for Tennis Venues. This page is updated regularly so please ensure this is checked regularly.
- All those attending a venue must ensure they strictly observe and respect all rules and signage at any particular venue.

PRE-ATTENDANCE SYMPTOM CHECK

It is the responsibility for anyone attending a National League fixture in any capacity that they should undergo a pre-attendance self-assessment for any COVID-19 symptoms using the information on the NHS website before leaving home. No-one should leave home to participate in tennis if they, or someone they live with, has symptoms of COVID-19, currently recognised as any of the following:

- A high temperature
- A new, continuous cough
- A loss of, or change to, their sense of smell or taste

Government guidelines in relation to local lockdowns and returning to the UK from overseas must be followed.

QUARANTINE/SELF ISOLATING/HEALTH

It is each player/team captain's responsibility to adhere to current government guidelines regarding both international and domestic travel.

- Countries and territories with no self-isolation requirement on arrival in England can be found on www.gov.uk
- The latest advice on local restrictions and areas with an outbreak of Coronavirus can be found on www.gov.uk
This information can change on a regular basis so please ensure you refer to it.
- If any players are traveling back from any of the countries on the current quarantine list, they are not permitted to participate in a National League fixture if this falls within the two week isolation period.
- Similar to the above if someone is self-isolating they cannot break that period and play in the event if it falls within the tournament period.

TRAVEL ARRANGEMENTS

- Walking and cycling to fixtures is encouraged. Where this is not possible, use public transport or drive.
- Players are encouraged to arrive as close as possible to when they need to be at the venue.

Car sharing - You should try not to share a vehicle with those outside your household or support bubble. If you need to do this, try to:

- share the transport with the same people each time
- keep to small groups of people at any one time
- open windows for ventilation
- travel side by side or behind other people, rather than facing them, where seating arrangements allow
- face away from each other
- consider seating arrangements to maximise distance between people in the vehicle
- clean your car between journeys using standard cleaning products - make sure you clean door handles and other areas that people may touch
- ask the driver and passengers to wear a face covering.

EQUIPMENT

- Please follow public health guidelines for hygiene.
- Please bring your own hand sanitiser to clean your hands at regular intervals especially before and after a match.
- Please try not to bring any equipment, baggage or clothing that is not essential.
- Players must bring their own tennis balls for practice.
- Players are advised to bring and use their own equipment - where any equipment is shared it should be subject to thorough cleaning measures between use.
- Any equipment used (e.g. mini tennis nets, orange lines, scoreboards) should be cleaned and wiped down afterwards.
- New or fresh tennis balls are not needed for each match, but extra care must be taken to ensure the players do not touch their faces during play, and anyone involved in the match should all clean their hands before the match and immediately after finishing (use alcohol gel if required).

MAINTAINING SOCIAL DISTANCING

- Social distancing should be observed by all those attending the competition.
- Players should not to congregate on/around the court before & after play.
- There should be no skin to skin contact for players. Racket taps are allowed but shaking hands or elbow alternatives are not permitted.
- Presentations can take place but Medals/Trophies should remain in boxes/packaging or players can take them out the boxes and be collected from the table (not passed). This should only be held outside.

DOUBLES PROTOCOL

- Other than during the playing of a point distance between partner's and opponents to be maintained.
- Player's to avoid talking into a tennis ball, and when communicating with partner maintain distance.
- Avoid fist pumps and other physical contact with partner.
- Maintain distance from partner and opponents when changing ends.
- No shaking of hands at the end of a match. Racket taps allowed.

SUPERVISION & SPECTATING

- Where possible, players should be restricted to one non-participant and, where possible, dependents should not be brought along.
- Supporters, parents, and other spectators should remain socially distanced whilst attending events.
- Spectator groups must be restricted to discrete six person gathering limits and spread out, in line with government guidance.

RAIN DELAYS

- In the event of rain, attendees should use an umbrella or if they drove, return to their own vehicle, to maintain social distancing if there is insufficient outdoor cover from the rain to maintain social distancing.
- Players and spectators should not gather indoors to shelter if it does rain.
- In the event of an extended delay, team captains are encouraged to make an early decision with regards to canceling the league match to avoid attendees waiting around for a prolonged period.

DURING THE COMPETITION

- If a player develops coronavirus symptoms at any time during the fixture (even if not whilst at the venue) they must stop competing and withdraw immediately. They should then contact the NHS.
- Public Health England will contact the venue if anybody that attended the competition later tests positive for COVID-19 under the Track and Trace system.
- Changing rooms are not to be used during fixtures; therefore, players should arrive on site ready for play. Toilets will be accessible, however, all those involved in the competition must observe the relevant signage at the particular venue.

FOOD AND BEVERAGE

- Players should bring their own drinks / snacks to matches.
- Some venues may have a bar / restaurant, and all guidelines at the venue must be followed.

Current guidance states that you should NOT:

- socialise indoors in groups of more than two households (anyone in your support bubble counts as one household) - this includes when dining out or going to the pub.
- socialise outdoors in a group of more than six people from different households; gatherings larger than six should only take place if everyone is from exclusively from two households or support bubbles.

NHS TEST & TRACE

- To support NHS Test and Trace, team captains should keep a temporary record of all players for 21 days, in a way that is manageable, and assist NHS Test and Trace with requests for that data if needed.
- All match times & fixtures, player details and results should be fully inputted and kept up to date via www.competitions.lta.org.uk

Full guidance is available online for venues, coaches, players, officials and competition organisers: www.lta.org.uk/coronavirus

MATCH DAY

All you need to know

SCORECARDS

Each team captain must complete a scorecard on match day.

- **8&U and 9&U** – If you're playing in an 8&U or 9&U league that is following a home and away fixture format (i.e. not at a central venue), you will need to print scorecards from www.LTA.org.uk/national-league-winter
- **10&U to 18&U** – Scorecards for 2 singles, 1 doubles events are included in this Captains' Guide. If you require further scorecards, please visit www.lta.org.uk/national-league-winter

VENUE COMMITMENT AWARD

Each league organiser will nominate 1 or more venues at the end of the season who clearly demonstrate high standards of commitment and communication. These venues will be recognised on the LTA website with the opportunity to receive further reward and recognition. The criteria and further information can be seen in the Captains' Area at www.LTA.org.uk/national-league-winter

Thank you for your support as a team captain. Team captains have an important role before, during and after match day. We expect the following values from each team captain:

Communication
Commitment
Respect

POINTS OF CONTACT

The following are the main points of contact for each team captain:

Internal

- **Club Coaches / Club Manager** – Important for confirming players and court bookings for home matches
- **Parents / Players** – To confirm player availability and selection

External

- **Opposing Team Captains** – This person is your only point of contact before match day and on match day
- **League Organiser** – Your league organiser is the person to contact with any query not answered in this guide.

TEAM CAPTAIN CHECKLIST

- File all emails from your League Organiser somewhere safe and easy for you to access throughout the season
- Look at the Fixture List from your League Organiser and book the courts for your home fixtures
- Get in touch with your opposition (by email/text/whatsapp) and confirm your fixtures – this must be done 14 days before the fixture date!
- Having problems getting in touch with your opposition? Contact your league organiser as soon as you're concerned who can help you
- Don't forget that as the home team, you will need to provide post-match hospitality, look on the next page - look on the next page for guidance on what to provide

TIPS FOR SOLVING COURT ISSUES

- Look to play the fixture on 2 or 3 courts instead of 4
- Stagger the start times of all fixtures at your club to allow for adequate court space
- Look to play at another local venue or switch the home/away with your opposition.

TIPS FOR SOLVING PLAYER AVAILABILITY ISSUES

- Consider selecting eligible players who were not originally part of your squad list
- Consider bringing in eligible players from younger age groups
- Consider playing the match with fewer than 4 players. Teams can still win with 3 players

Please contact your opposing captain before match day if you intend to do this.

HOW TO ENTER A RESULTS VIDEO

- A 'How to Enter Results Video' is available for Team Captains to view in the Captain's Area at: www.LTA.org.uk/national-league-winter
- We strongly recommend viewing this video if you are entering results for the first time or experience any problems. This video includes tips such as how to add players who are not on your team list.

UNKNOWN PLAYERS / ADDING PLAYERS TO YOUR VENUE

- All players must be linked to the venue they are competing for through the LTA database to be eligible. If a player is not linked they will not appear for online results entry.
- To check or update this, players need to log in to their LTA Members' area of the LTA website and update their 'Venues' within the 'Membership' tab. Alternatively players can call the LTA Services team on 0208 487 7000.
- If a player cannot be found, the team captain must use the 'Add Comment' function to note the name and LTA number of the unknown player.



MATCH DAY SITUATIONS

There are occasions where issues arise on court regarding line calls, scoring or player disagreements. We would like to remind all players, parents and captains of the LTA Fair Play values.

The policy for all fixtures is for the issue to be resolved directly between the players involved in the rubber. If the situation cannot be resolved between the players, the team captains only can get involved to help resolve the issue. In no situation should a spectator (player/parent/coach/club member) who is not playing in the rubber concerned be involved with any disagreement on court. Those individuals must communicate through their team captain only.

COACHING

Only team captains are allowed to communicate with players during matches. This must only be to communicate to players to resolve score disputes, line call disagreements or for general fixture logistics. In no situation should coaching take place between the player(s) and anybody off court, including the team captain. Parents and captains' are permitted to encourage their players but must not provide any form of instruction.

REPORTING ISSUES

If you wish to report an issue from your fixture, please contact your league organiser within 48 hours of the fixture explaining the situation.

MATCHES PLAYED WITHOUT A CHAIR UMPIRE

National League matches will be played without a Chair Umpire. All players should be aware of the following basic principles when playing a match in these circumstances:

- Each Player (or doubles team) is responsible for all calls on his/her own side of the net
- All "out" and "fault" calls should be made promptly after the ball has bounced and loudly enough for the opponent(s) to hear
- If in doubt, the Player must give the benefit of the doubt to the opponent(s)
- If a Player incorrectly calls a ball "out" and then realises that the ball was good, the point should be replayed unless it was a point winning shot or unless that Player made an incorrect "out" call earlier in the match. In these circumstances, the Player who called "out" loses the point
- The server should call the score before each first serve, loudly enough for the opponent(s) to hear

If a player is unhappy with any actions or decisions, the player should speak to their team captain, who can then watch the match or speak to the opposing team captain.

In 8&U and 9&U fixtures scorers may be used. The role of the scorer is to call the score and check players are in the correct position to start points. The scorer must not be the family member of any player involved in the rubber.

SCORE DISPUTES

Scoring disputes are either a genuine mix up or a deliberate act. In both situations, team captains from both teams should use the same procedure:

1. Establish what each player thinks the score is. If the dispute is:
 - a. over the score in a game, work through the game, point by point
 - b. over the score in a set, go through the set game by game
2. Establish which point(s) or game(s) the players cannot agree on. These point(s) or game(s) should be disregarded and the score adjusted to include the points or games they agree on
3. Play resumes according to the new agreed score
4. Following all disputes remind the players that the server should call the score clearly before every point
5. For the purposes of the above, it is important both team captain's have a presence courtside during matches



8&U Age Group Rules

1. Eligibility

Venue Eligibility

- 1.1 Entry to the LTA National 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: Mixed 8 & under

League running from Sep-Dec 2020, for players born in: 2012 or later

League running from Sep-Mar 2020, for players born in: 2013 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, 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 National League Winter competition.
- II. Play in a maximum of two age groups.

1.7 All players must:

- I. Have an LTA 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 2020, 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 and the league organiser. 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 none 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/mini-tennis-competitions

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 National

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 mini-red courts)

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

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 National 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

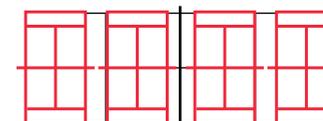
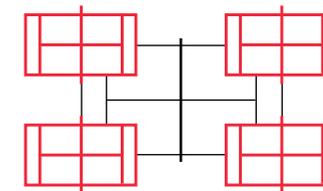
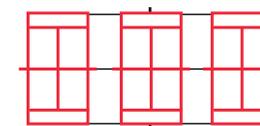
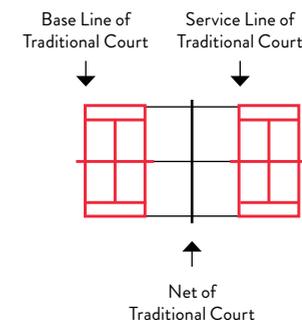
For more information please visit www.lta.org.uk/mini-tennis-competitions

Ball: Red (sponge indoor, felt outdoor)

Court: 11m x 5.5m (okay 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 the LTA National 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: Mixed 9 & under

League running from Sep-Dec 2020, for players born in: 2011 or 2012

League running from Sep-Mar 2020, for players born in: 2012 or 2013

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, 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 LTA National League Winter competition.
 - II. Play in a maximum of two age groups.
- 4.7 All players must:
- I. Have an LTA 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 2020, 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 and the league organiser. 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 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/miniteniscompetitions

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 8 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 National 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

	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.

6.9 Rubber Scoring

	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)

Orange

Equipment & Court Lay-Out

For more information please visit www.lta.org.uk/miniteniscompetitions

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")

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.

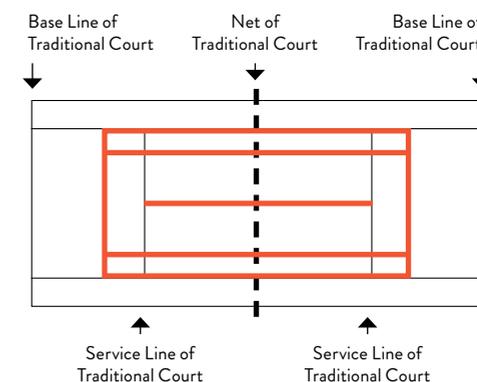
A team will receive 2 match points on the league table for a match win and 1 match point for a draw.

Both captains must complete and sign the National 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.



10&U Age Group Rules

7. Eligibility

Venue Eligibility

- 7.1 Entry to the LTA National 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: Mixed 10 & under

League running from Sep-Dec 2020, for players born in: 2010 or 2011

League running from Sep-Mar 2020, for players born in: 2011 or 2012

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, 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:
- Represent one venue in the National League Winter competition.
 - Play in a maximum of two age groups.
- 7.7 All players must:
- Have an LTA Membership number which links to the LTA registered venue they are competing for.
 - Be a member of the venue they are competing for as of 1 September 2020, and commit to representing that venue.
 - 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. 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 2 singles and 1 doubles rubbers. Counties using a central venue format are permitted to adjust the match format at their discretion.

9.5 Team Format

A team shall consist of 2 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 National 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: Singles players 1&2.

9.8 Order of Play

	On 2 Courts	On 1 Court
Round 1	Singles 1&2	Singles 2
Round 2	Doubles	Singles 1
Round 3		Doubles

There is to be a maximum of 30 minutes rest between rounds.

9.9 Rubber Scoring

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

Green

Equipment & Court Lay-Out

For more information please visit www.lta.org.uk/miniteniscompetitions

Ball:

Green

Court:

Singles & Doubles are both played on the full regulation singles court

Net Height:

91.4cm (3ft - as per regulation court)

Recommended Racket Size:

63cm - 66cm (25" - 26")

9.10 Match Scoring

A team is awarded 2 points for each rubber won.

9.11 Match Result

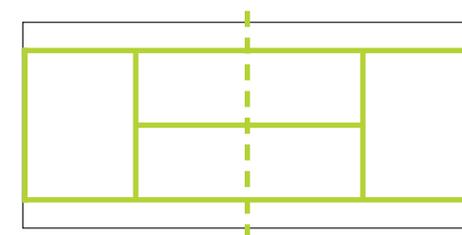
The team with the most rubber points shall win the match. A team will receive 2 match points on the league table for a match win.

Both captains must complete and sign the 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.

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.



11&U-18&U Age Group Rules

10. Eligibility

Venue Eligibility

10.1 Entry to the LTA National 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 Grp:	League running from Sep -Dec 2020, for players born in:	League running from Sep -Mar 2020, for players born in:
11&U	2009 or 2010	2010 or 2011
12&U	2008 or 2009	2009 or 2010
14&U	2006 or 2009	2007 or 2010
16&U	2004 or 2009	2005 or 2010
18&U	2002 or 2009	2003 or 2010

Player passports may be issued at the discretion of the LTA Performance Team, which will supersede these regulations.

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 ratings, and if applicable, the 'B' team should be stronger than the 'C' team based on ratings 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, 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 LTA National League Winter competition
- II. Play in a maximum of two age groups

10.7 All players must:

- I. Have an LTA Membership number which links to the venue they are competing for.
- II. Have an LTA Rating.
- III. Be a member of the LTA registered venue they are competing for as of 1 September 2020, 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.

11.2 At such a time that the ITF World Tennis Number is introduced, the ITF World Tennis Number (as set out in Appendix 5 Section 3 of the LTA Competition Regulations) will replace the LTA Rating and be referred to as a rating for the purposes of these regulations.

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-2pm 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 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

A match shall consist of 2 singles and 1 doubles rubbers. Counties may run a different match format at their discretion.

12.5 Team Format

A team shall consist of two to three players. Two players shall play one singles rubber each and the 3rd 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 National League scorecard) their singles players in order of merit in accordance with current LTA ratings. In the 11&U event, green players will be able to play above 9.2 rated players but may also be able to play below them. 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. If players have the same rating, the captain can decide the team order which may change from fixture to fixture. Any player(s) playing doubles only must be nominated at the same time.

12.7 Doubles Pairings

Pair: Singles players 1&2.

A 3rd 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

	On 2 Courts	On 1 Court
Round 1	Singles 1&2	Singles 2
Round 2	Doubles	Singles 1
Round 3		Doubles

There is to be a maximum of 30 minutes rest between rounds.

12.9 Rubber Scoring

	Sets 1 & 2	Set 3 (if necessary)
11&U	FAST4	Match tie-break
-	• First to 4 games	(to 10 points,
18&U	• Tie-break at 3-3	2 clear at 9-9)
	(to 7 points, 2 clear at 6-6)	
	• No advantage scoring	

12.10 Match Scoring

A team is awarded 2 points for each rubber won.

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 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.



PROBLEM SOLVING ISSUES & REGULATIONS (All age groups)

16. Problem Solving Issues

16.1 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.

16.2 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.

16.3 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.

16.4 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 most 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.

16.5 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.

16.6 Playing out of order / Ineligible Player(s)

If players play out of order then the singles rubbers involving those players shall be forfeited by a score of 0-4, 0-4.

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 by a score of 0-4, 0-4. 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.



17. Regulations

17.1 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.

17.2 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.

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

17.4 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.

17.5 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.

RATINGS & RANKINGS

All matches in the National League count for ratings & rankings.

LTA Ranking points are awarded at Grade 1-5. The following shows the grading of each event for National League 2020-21:

8&U – 18&U

Grade 4 8&U – 18&U Division 1

Grade 5 8&U – 18&U Division 2 onwards

HOW MANY RANKING POINTS WILL I GET FOR WINNING A RUBBER?

Each age group has its own ranking points table for both individual and team competition.

The Team Competition Ranking Points Tables are available online at: www.LTA.org.uk/Rankings.

Please note, ranking points for National League competitions will be accumulated match on match, and a single total awarded to players after the event. Exceptions; where competitions have 2 or more stages, ranking points will be accumulated per stage.

WHEN WILL I SEE MY RANKING POINTS?

A player's accumulated ranking points total will be updated throughout the season. This is dependent on team captains' correctly inputting the rubber results on time. Ranking points will be awarded to players after the end of the competition.

2X SINGLES, 1X DOUBLES Match Scorecard 2020/21



Date: _____ Gender: _____ County: _____ Division/Group: _____

Home Team: _____ Away Team: _____

Singles Nominations

Full Player Name	Rating	Full Player Name	Rating	Score E.g. 6-4-4-6-1-0 (7)	Winner
S1					
S2					

Third Player in Team (optional)

3 _____ Doubles Only Player

Doubles Nominations

D1 _____

Home Captain

Print: _____

Sign: _____

Away Captain

Print: _____

Sign: _____

Winning
Team
Result
6-0 or 4-2

Winning captain to input the result online within 48 hours of the match (Captain to retain scorecard).

2X SINGLES, 1X DOUBLES Match Scorecard 2020/21



Date: _____ Gender: _____ County: _____ Division/Group: _____

Home Team: _____ Away Team: _____

Singles Nominations

Full Player Name	Rating	Full Player Name	Rating	Score E.g. 6-4-4-6-1-0 (7)	Winner
S1					
S2					

Third Player in Team (optional)

3 _____ Doubles Only Player

Doubles Nominations

D1 _____

Home Captain

Print: _____

Sign: _____

Away Captain

Print: _____

Sign: _____

Winning
Team
Result
6-0 or 4-2

Winning captain to input the result online within 48 hours of the match (Captain to retain scorecard).

2X SINGLES, 1X DOUBLES
Match Scorecard 2020/21



Date: _____ Gender: _____ County: _____ Division/Group: _____

Home Team: _____ Away Team: _____

Singles Nominations

Full Player Name		Rating	Full Player Name		Rating	Score	Winner
						E.g. 6-4-4-61-0 (7)	
S1							
S2							

Third Player in Team (optional)

3			Doubles Only Player	
---	--	--	---------------------	--

Doubles Nominations

D1				
----	--	--	--	--

Home Captain	Away Captain	Winning Team Result 6-0 or 4-2
Print: _____	Print: _____	
Sign: _____	Sign: _____	

Winning captain to input the result online within 48 hours of the match (Captain to retain scorecard).

2X SINGLES, 1X DOUBLES
Match Scorecard 2020/21



Date: _____ Gender: _____ County: _____ Division/Group: _____

Home Team: _____ Away Team: _____

Singles Nominations

Full Player Name		Rating	Full Player Name		Rating	Score	Winner
						E.g. 6-4-4-61-0 (7)	
S1							
S2							

Third Player in Team (optional)

3			Doubles Only Player	
---	--	--	---------------------	--

Doubles Nominations

D1				
----	--	--	--	--

Home Captain	Away Captain	Winning Team Result 6-0 or 4-2
Print: _____	Print: _____	
Sign: _____	Sign: _____	

Winning captain to input the result online within 48 hours of the match (Captain to retain scorecard).



NATIONAL LEAGUE SUMMER & WINTER

*An all year round
Team Competition!*

National League (formerly Team Tennis) is a team event open to players of all ages and abilities from LTA Registered Venues.

Look out for leagues taking place in your county throughout the Summer and now also taking place throughout the Winter months.

@LTACompetitions - #LTANationalleague

www.lta.org.uk/national-league