

# Frequently Asked Questions

LTA Youth



## GENERAL FAQs

### Why has the LTA developed a new junior programme?

The junior tennis landscape is confusing, crowded and convoluted both for parents and kids. LTA Youth will streamline the junior pathway and simplify the information for parents.

Insight shows that the younger a child picks up a racket and learns the basic skills of tennis, the more likely they are to play throughout the rest of their lives. By simplifying the journey for juniors, we are hoping to get more rackets in hands and therefore, the more likely we are to find and nurture talent as well as create tennis loyalty in adults.

### Is LTA going to introduce a new website?

The LTA website has been refreshed to provide an easier journey for parents and children looking for kids' tennis. The Tennis for Kids and Mini Tennis campaign websites have been replaced with an LTA Youth course finder. New content will continue to be introduced throughout 2020 and into 2021.

### What is LTA Youth?

A progressive programme of fun, safe and inclusive tennis activity covering schools, clubs and community venues across Britain, that will develop children aged 4-18 as both players and people, whatever their ability or background.



### How do I find out more?

LTA Youth training will include all the information coaches need to know and is delivered in 2 modules, an online and a practical. Coaches will need to complete both in order to deliver LTA Youth programmes and upload content on ClubSpark to appear on the public search finder.

You can find out more about training sessions here: <https://www.lta.org.uk/workforce-venues/coach-teach/coach-development-courses/junior-programme/>

### How many CPD credits will I receive for attending training?

Coaches will receive a total of 5 CPD credits for attending LTA Youth training, 2 for completing the online course and 3 for completing the practical.

### Have any ambassadors been engaged to support the promotion of LTA Youth?

Conversations are happening with a number of Ambassadors. Once confirmed these will be announced via LTA communications channels.

### How has LTA Youth catered for diversity and inclusion?



A number of 'expert' organisations in diversity and inclusion were engaged to provide recommendations on different elements of the programme.

Some of the recommendations that have been included are:

- Subtitles on all videos that can be switched on / off as required
- A diverse representation of players and coaches across learning resources
- Support videos for coaches on key inclusion topics
- Focus on coloured wristbands for participants with learning difficulties – coaches to adapt delivery for anyone with colour blindness and use one wristband only
- Optional LTA Diversity and Inclusion online training
- The programme brand and communications strategy tested with different audiences

In addition to the above there will be more effective data capture and the ability to conduct better analysis into participation trends.

### **Who do we contact if we have any further questions?**

If you have any queries or would like further support with your programme please contact your Workforce Development Partner (WDP). If you don't know who your WDP is then please contact the Participation Support Team at [participationsupport@lta.org.uk](mailto:participationsupport@lta.org.uk).

For any other support with ClubSpark and uploading courses contact the LTA Services team at [info@lta.org.uk](mailto:info@lta.org.uk) or 0208 487 7000.

## MINI TENNIS FAQs

### What will happen to MINI TENNIS?

The LTA Youth framework of blue, red, orange, green and yellow will replace the Mini Tennis framework. One of the objectives of LTA Youth is to provide a pathway for children aged 4 all the way through to 18. As you know Mini Tennis only targets 10 years and under.

### Will LTA continue to promote Mini Tennis as an option?

LTA Youth is the only skill development pathway for juniors that LTA will promote. By the end of 2020, the Mini Tennis campaign website will no longer exist and course upload in ClubSpark will be switched off. Any coaches wishing to continue to deliver the Mini Tennis programme will need to upload this as a bespoke course however these will not be searchable via the LTA Youth search finder.

### What will happen to existing Mini Tennis courses already uploaded into the system?

The timeline below shows the changes to Mini Tennis and TfK and when these changes will be implemented. Coaches are encouraged to upload LTA Youth courses so they are available in April for the public launch.



### What about the older kids 11 years and over?

As mentioned, LTA Youth will encompass up to 18 year olds. A new YELLOW stage is being developed for the 11 – 18 age groups. The yellow stage will be rolled out as a second phase of the programme.

### I / my venue delivers bespoke junior tennis programmes. Will these appear in the LTA Youth search finder?

Bespoke junior tennis programmes will not appear in the LTA search finder. ClubSpark are creating a new search finder for LTA Youth bookings. Coaches can continue to upload Mini Tennis courses onto ClubSpark and promote directly via their website until this is switched off, whereby these will become bespoke courses.



# TENNIS FOR KIDS FAQs

## Will Tennis for Kids continue?

Tennis For Kids has been proven to work really well as an introductory programme in engaging kids and continuing to produce high parent satisfaction levels. The TfK content has been updated to align with LTA Youth standards of delivery principles and new lesson plan videos have been produced and available in the Coach Secure Area.

To bring TfK in line with the LTA Youth brand all assets have also been updated and can be accessed via My Tennis Toolkit.

In 2021 the Tennis for Kids name will be retired and replaced with LTA Youth Start but all other elements of the programme will remain the same.

## If I am already a TfK coach will I need to attend LTA Youth training to deliver TFK?

Although it is recommended that all coaches attend the LTA Youth training, this is not compulsory to deliver TfK. If coaches have already completed the online TFK training, they will be eligible to deliver TfK using the updated content.

However, coaches who last attended TfK training in 2018 or new coaches will need to complete the online TfK training to upload courses.

## Will there be any changes to the Tennis for Kids pack?

The TfK pack will still contain a racket and ball set and t-shirt. However from April there will no longer be the option to personalise the shirt. Added to the pack will be a pair of wristbands which kids can take to use on their course as part of the new Tennis for Kids content and a safeguarding Augmented Reality card. The price remains at £29.99 (incl p&p).

# LTA YOUTH FAQs

## Which coaches can attend LTA Youth training?

Any coach level 1 – 5 is welcome to attend the training. We would like as many coaches to understand the programme and its benefits as possible.

## Who can deliver LTA Youth?

Level 2 Accredited and Accredited+ coaches will be able to deliver the programme.  
Level 1 Accredited coaches will be able to assist.

Coaches should ensure they are adhering to the insurance guidelines which can be found [here](#) and referring to the [FAQs](#) for further information.

## Will all coaches need to attend training to deliver LTA Youth?

Coaches will only be able to deliver the programme if they complete the online and attend practical training.

## What if I can't attend any of the current training dates?

There are lots of training opportunities throughout the year and more dates will continue to be added if there is a need. Coaches will be informed via the monthly coach newsletter and we recommend you also keep checking the course information page for any future training dates that are released.

## Will there be online training available like with TfK?

After Covid-19, the training format was changed into blended learning to include both online and practical. There will also be additional online modules released. Some of these will be necessary to complete prior to delivering components of LTA Youth, for example MatchPlay competitions.

## Will coaches have to pay for the training?

Coach training in 2020 will be free. In the future there may be a cost introduced for further LTA Youth training.

Coaches may need to buy equipment in addition to the starter kit provided, or produce additional marketing collateral to promote and deliver the programme. Promotional templates will be made available via the 'My Tennis Toolkit' website.

## What is the communication going out to parents and when?

The parent communications strategy has been developed with input from an external marketing and communications agency. To keep up to date on developments, you will need to ensure you are opted in to receive the coach newsletter. There will be a parent portal developed with information about the programme on the LTA website.

## Which venues can deliver LTA Youth?

LTA Youth can be delivered at LTA registered venues. Coaches will need to attend the training in order to deliver at any LTA registered venue. If a venue does not exist on ClubSpark, coaches will need to get in touch with LTA Services team.



### Are there any cost recommendations for LTA Youth?

Tennis for Kids will continue as £29.99.

LTA are not setting cost recommendations for other programmes. However to ensure your courses are accessible to families in your local area, it is advised to cost programmes at affordable rates for your area.

### Will there be limits on course booker/ attendee numbers imposed by the LTA?

There won't be any booking limit on ClubSpark for LTA Youth. Coaches are responsible for ensuring sessions are safe, the recommended [ratios](#) are followed and child safe guidelines are implemented.

## COACH SUPPORT

### Will coaches receive kit to start them off with delivering LTA Youth?

Coaches who attend LTA Youth training will be able to access a free starter pack through an online ordering shop. The starter kit will include:

- Coaching top
- Wristbands
- Throw down spots
- Small inflatable balls and pump
- Mesh bag

If coaches need to purchase additional kit, they will be able to do this via the [Zsig online store](#).

### What support is provided to coaches to deliver LTA Youth?

Online video lesson plans are available to access in the Coach Secure Area (CSA). Written lesson plans will be available to download in the CSA. There will also be supporting resources such as a competency framework and tutorial videos on key topic areas.

### Will coaches receive marketing assets to help with promotion of the programme?

My Tennis Toolkit will have marketing collateral available to help coaches promote the programme, including social media assets and venue promotion collateral.

### What will the LTA marketing strategy look like?

As well as the LTA Youth launch across all communications channels, LTA has commissioned Beano for Brands, a respected and highly successful kids marketing agency to develop a targeted marketing plan for each audience group.

# SCHOOLS

## What is the schools strand of LTA Youth?

We've worked with teachers to develop & test a sector leading schools programme, which we aim to reach 2,500 schools. It goes beyond delivering tennis. It uses our sport to develop character & life-skills, and other subject areas. Coaches will have full access and you can use the programme as yours to strengthen your offer

The programme is made up of 5 strands:

- PE lesson plans
- Teacher training
- Personal development
- Competition
- Cross curricular

## What about secondary schools?

The primary schools programme launched in February 2020 but was then placed on hold with COVID-19. Both the primary and secondary programme will be launched again in February 2021.

## What support is the LTA providing for coaches?

We know it's getting harder to develop strong relationships with schools and we'll help coaches understand why. Some of the reasoning is beyond our control, but some of it is in our strategy to do things differently or better.

We'll be providing tools such as an initial pitch to a school, an endorsement letter from LTA and a fully packaged sales presentation to use with new schools. Later in 2020 we'll also be developing online coach CPD to help coaches understand this area better.

Finally, we're pleased to be introducing a new £250 voucher for schools, to spend on 10 hours with a local LTA Accredited Coach or equipment. There will be a separate and more detailed guidance document specifically around the vouchers released shortly.

## Which coaches will be able to deliver LTA Youth within schools through the voucher scheme?

Coaches who have attended LTA Youth training will be searchable as a coach to deliver in a school. Coaches must have attended LTA Youth training to deliver the programme in schools.

## How can coaches access all the new schools resources?

Coaches will be able to access all the new schools resources via the Coach Secure Area. There will be a separate teacher facing website created with relevant information for schools: [www.lta.org.uk/schools](http://www.lta.org.uk/schools).

## Can you tell me more about the new Primary School Teacher Training course?

Based on brand new, innovative content, a 2 hour Primary School Teacher Training Course has been developed by teachers for teachers, to help deliver high quality PE lessons with

confidence. The course demonstrates how tennis can be delivered to whole classes in a small space and adapted for all learners. Activities focus on both improving pupils' physical and character skills.

Every teacher attending the course receives a free pack of resources including:

- An activity book (ideas for Warm Ups, Body & Ball, Racket & Ball and games exercises)
- Pupil achievement certificates
- Stickers

Teachers attending the course (limited to one per school) will receive a £250 voucher to spend on 10 hours free coaching with a local LTA Accredited Coach.

This course is aimed at both qualified and trainee primary school teachers, as well as teaching assistants who are involved in delivering or supporting physical education in a primary school environment.

Courses must be delivered by an LTA trained and approved tutor and details of courses can be found on 'Find a course'

## COMPETITIONS

### Which competitions are part of the LTA Youth Programme?

LTA Youth competitions will launch in Autumn 2020 and will include Team Challenge plus new products, LTA Youth Box Leagues, Matchplay and Local Tour (previously County Tour Grade 5). In 2021 LTA Youth Schools Team Tennis will go live.

LTA Youth module 1 online training takes you through LTA Youth competitions and there will be additional standalone training for some of the individual products before you can deliver them.

### What about the other LTA Competitions?

Competitions such as LTA National League, LTA County Cup and others will remain as LTA branded competitions if they cover both Juniors and Adults.

### What support is the LTA providing for organisers?

The LTA competitions team will continue to provide resources such as Medals & Certificates plus organisers guidance for all LTA Youth Competitions.

## MINI TENNIS CHANGES

### What changes are being made?

- Removal of Mini Tennis orange and green ratings to ensure the focus is on having fun and learning to play at this age rather than chasing wins.
- Introduction of an improved participation based competition reward scheme for young players to help recognise their progress
- Players will receive a digital certificate when they have played in 10 recorded matches in a specific ball colour (Red, Orange or Green)
- Players will receive a t-shirt when they have played in 20 recorded matches (a further 10 matches) in a specific ball colour (Red, Orange or Green)
- Players will receive a hoodie when they have played a in 40 recorded matches (a further 20 matches) in a specific ball colour (Red, Orange or Green)

### Why are these changes being made?

Changes to Mini Tennis came into effect from 1 April 2020.

These improvements have been made following a review into Mini Tennis competition, which involved listening to feedback from players, parents, officials and coaches.

The outcome of the review pointed towards the need to focus on more local, team based and fun competition opportunities. There was also a clear need to reduce some of the unnecessary pressure experienced in mini tennis competitions and provide players with an improved incentive to get on court to play matches.

### If a child is already playing orange or green ball, what is going to happen with the wins/matches they've already accumulated?

These matches won't be lost – on 1 April 2020 they will start on the number of matches they've

already played since 1 January 2019 and will be able to see how many more they need to play.

### **Won't taking away orange & green ratings stop players from wanting to compete and enter tournaments?**

Based on feedback, our aim for 9U and 10U competitions is for players to have a great competition experience, have some fun and learn to compete. We hope this will ensure they will be playing tennis in many years to come. By rewarding players with a digital certificate once they have played 10 matches, a t-shirt by post when they have played 20 matches and a hoodie when they have played 40 matches in a specific ball colour we will be encouraging players to participate in competitions and reinforcing the emphasis on playing, not winning.

### **How soon will players receive their reward after playing their 20th or 40th match?**

Organisers are required to submit the results to the LTA within 72 hours of a tournament finishing. Once the results have been received and uploaded players should receive their t-shirt/hoodie within 2-3 weeks.

### **With no Mini Tennis Ratings how will the acceptances be made?**

Red: Very few competitions at 8U are oversubscribed, however in exceptional cases where they are, acceptance will be drawn by lot i.e. randomly. The organiser will still have the ability to issue wild cards for 1 in every 4 places. At Grade 5 acceptances are done on a first come, first served basis.

Orange & Green: An improved Recent Form measure will be used in 9U & 10U competitions which are Grade 1 to 4. If players have the same recent form score, acceptance will be drawn by lot i.e. randomly. The organiser will still have the ability to issue wild cards for 1 in every 4 places. Grade 5 9U competitions will continue to use first come, first served as the method for acceptance.

### **With no Mini Tennis Ratings how will seeding/separation be done?**

Red: Organisers will be provided with the number of matches each player has played to ensure the groups are fairly separated.

Orange & Green: Organisers will be provided with the recent form of each player and the number of matches played to help with seeding/separating draws and this will be used to support level based play.