



SUMMER 2023 – RULES

8 & Under

9 & Under

10 & Under

11 – 18 & Under

Open

Problem Solving Issues & Regulations

Seniors

Padel

All rules are subject to change up until 1st April 2023



8&U Age Group Rules (County Tier)

1. Eligibility

Venue Eligibility

1.1 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

1.2 Event: Mixed 8 & under (born in 2015 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 National League Summer competition.
- II. Play in a maximum of two age groups.

1.7 All players must:

- I. Have an LTA Advantage Membership number which links to the venue they are competing for.
- II. Be a member of the LTA registered venue they are competing for as of 1 April 2023 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. 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 and there is prior consent from the league organiser. 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 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 will be no doubles rubbers at 8&U. 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-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 the 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

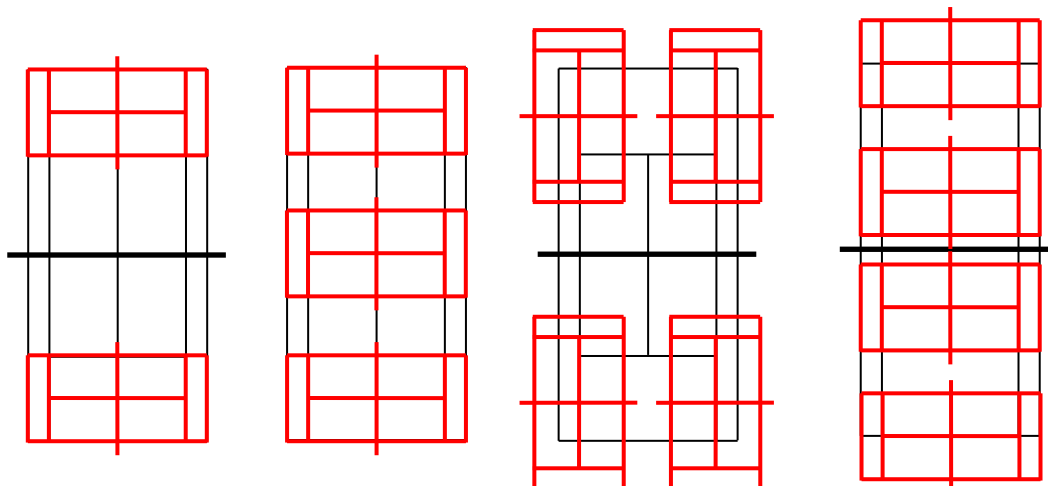
The final standings in each division shall be determined by the following:

- 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/8-9-10competitions/

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



9&U Age Group Rules (County Tier)

4. Eligibility

Venue Eligibility

4.1 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

4.2 Event: Mixed 9 & Under (born in 2014 or 2015). Passport players will be allowed to play up in line with the Player Passport system.

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

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

4.5 Where a venue has two or more teams in the event, a player may 'play up' on a maximum of one occasion without loss of eligibility in their lower team. Once a player has represented a higher team on more than one occasion, from that point onwards they are no longer eligible to represent the lower team. In the case of a venue having two teams in the same division, players will only be able to play for the team they represent in their first match.

Player Eligibility

4.6 A player may only:

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

4.7 All players must:

- I. Have an LTA Advantage Membership number which links to the venue they are competing for.
- II. Be a member of the LTA registered venue they are competing for as of 1 April 2023 and commit to representing that venue.
- III. Be of the correct age (see rule 4.2).

5. Competition Structure

5.1 County Tier

Teams shall be entered in a County Tier league based on their LTA venue registration code. Each league will be divided into divisions of 3-6 teams. Each team will play each other team in their division at least once. Counties may run a central venue event at 9&U.

6. Match Arrangements

6.1 Time & Date

Fixtures shall be played on the fixed dates specified. It is both team captains' responsibility to contact each other before the match. There will be flexibility to play before a fixed date if both teams agree and there is prior consent from the league organiser. 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.

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/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 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.

6.8 Pair 2: Singles players 3&4.
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
Singles & Doubles

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

6.10 Match Scoring
A team is awarded 2 points for each rubber won.

6.11 Match Result
The team with the most rubber points shall win the match. If teams are level on rubbers the match shall result in a draw.
A team will receive 2 match points on the league table for a match win and 1 match point for a draw.

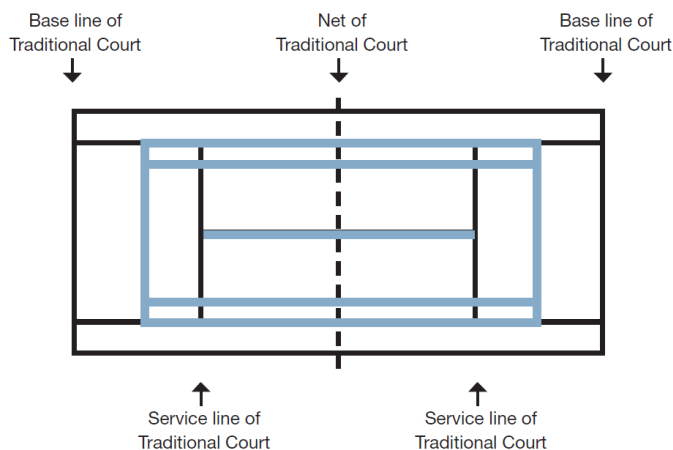
Both captains must complete and sign the National League scorecards and retain their copy. The winning captain (or home captain if a draw) must then submit the result online within 48 hours. The result may be added by the losing team captain if agreed on match day. Any teams found guilty of submitting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

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 8.23m
Net Height:	80cm (at middle of net)
Recommended Racket Size:	58cm - 63cm (23" - 25")



10&U Age Group Rules (County Tier)

7. Eligibility

Venue Eligibility

7.1 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

7.2 Event: Mixed 10 & Under (born in 2013 or 2014). Passport players will be allowed to play up in line with the Player Passport system.

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

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

7.5 Where a venue has two or more teams in the event, a player may 'play up' on a maximum of one occasion without loss of eligibility in their lower team. Once a player has represented a higher team on more than one occasion, from that point onwards they are no longer eligible to represent the lower team. In the case of a venue having two teams in the same division, players will only be able to play for the team they represent in their first match.

Player Eligibility

7.6 A player may only:

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

7.7 All players must:

- I. Have an LTA Advantage Membership number which links to the LTA registered venue they are competing for.
- II. Be a member of the venue they are competing for as of 1 April 2023 and commit to representing that venue.
- III. Be of the correct age (see rule 7.2).

8. Competition Structure

8.1 County Tier

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

9. Match Arrangements

9.1 Time & Date

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 and there is prior consent from the league organiser. Fixtures scheduled on Saturday's may be played on the immediate day after the match date (next day) if both team captains agree.

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 present at each match. The home team captain shall be responsible for welcoming the away team and organising refreshments.

9.2 Courts

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

9.3 Balls

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

9.4 Match Format

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

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 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.

9.7 Doubles Pairings

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

9.8 Order of Play

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

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) • No advantage scoring 	Match tie-break (to 10 points, 2 clear at 9-9)

9.10 Match Scoring

A team is awarded 2 points for each rubber won.

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

Tie-Break Shootout (1 pair):

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

Player 2: One of the players from the 3rd/4th singles rubbers.

9.11 Match Result

The team with the most rubber points shall win the match, in the event of a tie, the winner of the tie-break shoot-out will win the match.

A team will receive 2 match points on the league table for a match win.

Both captains must complete and sign the 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

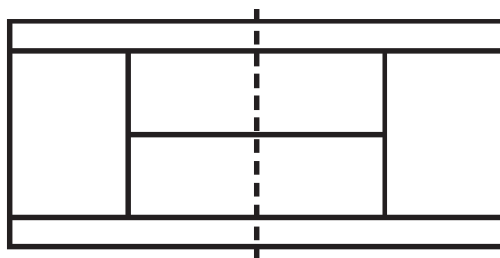
The final standings in each division shall be determined by the following:

- 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 (County Tier & Premier Tier)

10. Eligibility

Venue Eligibility

10.1 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

10.2 Events:

Girls/Boys 11 & Under (born in 2012 or 2013)
Girls/Boys 12 & Under (born in 2011 - 2012)
Girls/Boys 14 & Under (born in 2009 - 2012)

Girls/Boys 16 & Under (born in 2007 - 2012)
Girls/Boys 18 & Under (born in 2005 - 2012)

10 & Under players can play in the 11 & Under competition if born in 2012. 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 singles ITF World Tennis Number, and if applicable, the 'B' team should be stronger than the 'C' team based on singles ITF World Tennis Number etc.

10.5 Where the venue has two or more teams in an event, a player may 'play up' on a maximum of one occasion without loss of eligibility in their lower team. Once a player has represented a higher team (e.g., 'A' team in Premier 14&U) on more than one occasion, from that point onwards they are no longer eligible to represent the lower team (e.g. 'B' team in County Tier 14&U).

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

Player Eligibility

10.6 A player may only:

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

10.7 All players must:

- I. Have an LTA Advantage Membership number which links to the venue they are competing for.
- II. Have an ITF World Tennis Number.
- III. Be a member of the LTA registered venue they are competing for as of 1 April 2023 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. Each league will be divided into divisions of 3-6 teams. Each team will play each other team in their division once.

11.2 Premier 12&U-18&U

The Premier 12&U-18&U is open to 12&U, 14&U and 18&U age groups only. The top 6-8 teams in 4 set regions (determined by LTA venue registration codes and the competition structure) may be accepted in each age group event. Acceptance will be based on the combined rankings of 6 players, as at the closing date (31st January 2023). Teams are required to nominate 6 players at the time of entry in line with rule 10.6 and 10.7. Further players can represent the team during the season in line with rule 10.5, 10.6 and 10.7. A team who withdraws from the league stage, may be penalised for the following years acceptance into the competition.

11.3 Premier 12&U-18&U Finals

The winning team from each regions Tier 1 division will qualify to the finals. The Referee shall seed 2 teams in the draw. Players must have played in one league stage fixture for the qualifying team to be eligible to compete in the Finals and may only play in one age group at the Finals. Teams may nominate one player who has not played a league stage fixture, provided she or he is ranked no better than the lowest ranked nominated player who has played in at least one league stage fixture. Qualifying teams who have played two or less fixtures in the league season may nominate one player of any standard who has not played in the league stage. Team captains will be allowed on court during the Finals and will be subject to the LTA Code of Conduct.

12. Match Arrangements

12.1 Time & Date

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

Fixtures are to start between 10am-4pm unless both teams agree otherwise. Where one way travel distance exceeds 120 miles from club to club (based on Google Maps), start time must be between 11am and 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 non compliance from either team. Each team must have an adult captain (age 18+) present at each fixture. The home team captain shall be responsible for welcoming the away team and organising refreshments.

In exceptional cases, fixtures may be rescheduled at a later date where 2 or more nominated players in the same team are involved in National Camps, International Representation or other National/International competitions taking place in Great Britain (e.g., County Cup, Junior Internationals) on the same date. This must be approved by the league organiser (in writing) a minimum of 14 days in advance of the original match date.

- 12.2 Courts
The home team shall provide 2, 3 or 4 courts of the same surface. Where more than one court surface is used, the away team shall have the choice of court allocation.
- 12.3 Balls
The home team shall supply a minimum of 3 new ITF approved balls for each singles rubber.
- 12.4 Match Format
A match shall consist of 4 singles & 2 doubles rubbers. County Tier Division 2 onwards may apply a 2 singles & 1 doubles rubber format.
- 12.5 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. Where the format is 2 singles, 1 doubles rubber, a team shall consist of two or three players. Two players will play one singles rubber each and the 3rd player may be selected for the doubles rubber only.

12.6 Singles Nominations

I. County Tier

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 the singles ITF World Tennis Number. If players have the same ITF World Tennis Number, the captain can decide the team order which may change from fixture to fixture. Where players have the same ITF World Tennis Number (or no ITF World Tennis Number) 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.

II. Premier 12&U-18&U

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 rankings. If players have the same ranking, 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 1: Singles players 1&2.
Pair 2: Singles players 3&4.

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

12.8 Order of Play

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

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 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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&U – 18&U	Tie-break at 6-6	Match tie-break (to 10 points, 2 clear at 9-9)

12.10 Match Scoring

A team is awarded 2 points for each rubber won.

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

Tie-Break Shootout (1 pair):

Player 1: One of the original players from either the 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, in the event of a tie, the winner of the tie-break shoot-out will win the match. A team will receive 2 match points on the league table for a match win.

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

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 (County, Regional & National Tier)

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, Women's & Mixed Open.

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

13.4 Where a venue has two or more teams in the National and/or Regional Tier the top 4 rated players based on singles ITF World Tennis Number, may only play for team 'A'. Any other nominated players in the venue may play up or down in line with rule 13.5.

13.5 Where a venue has two or more teams in the Competition (County, Regional or National Tiers) a player may 'play up' on a maximum of one occasion without loss of eligibility for their lower team. Once a player has represented a higher team on more than one occasion, from that point onwards they are no longer eligible to represent the lower team. In the case of a venue having two teams in the same division, players will only be able to play for the team they represent in their first match.

Player Eligibility

13.6 A player may only:

- I. Represent one venue in the Open (adult) age group in the National League Summer competition.
- II. Play in a maximum of two age groups (including Open).

13.7 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 venue they are competing for as of 1 April 2023 and commit to representing that venue.
- IV. Be born on or before 31 December 2009.

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

A venue with a team in the National or Regional Tier may nominate up to 12 players rated 3.2 or better no later than 23.59 on 1 March 2022. No player nominations will be accepted after 23.59 on 1 March 2022. Any venue failing to nominate by this deadline will not be allowed to field in their team(s) any player rated 3.2 or better. Venues with no players rated 3.2 or better do not need to nominate. Players rated 4.1 or worse as of 1 March 2022 may play in any fixture and do not need to be nominated. For each additional team in the National/Regional Tier, up to a further 9 players rated 3.2 or better may be nominated by the venue. This rule is regardless of any changes to the nominations order based on the implementation of the ITF World Tennis Number.

Of the nominated players a venue may include up to 2 players that have an ATP/WTA singles world ranking of 750 or better as of 1 March 2023 who have not played in at least 2 National League fixtures for the venue in the 2021 or 2022 seasons. This rule applies to men and women separately.

Any player not on the final published nomination list (that should be, based on the criteria above), for that venue, will not be eligible to represent the venue for the 2023 season. It is the team captain's responsibility to check their final nomination list once published on the LTA website. Any players nominated for a team, that subsequently withdrawals, will not be eligible to represent another team.

13.9 County Tier Play-offs

Players must have represented their venue in at least 1 division match prior to the Playoffs or have a rating of 4.1 or worse as of 1 March 2022.

Where two teams compete in a division match and a player is given a walkover, the rubber will count towards a player's eligibility.

National Tier - Pre-Play Off, Play-offs & Finals

Players must have represented their venue in at least 2 group matches prior to the Play-offs/Finals or have an LTA rating of 4.1 or worse as of 1 March 2022. Each team is permitted to have 1 player who has only competed in one group match, who will be eligible for the play-offs and finals. Where less than 7 fixtures are played, for each fixture not played, teams are permitted to nominate 1 additional player who has represented the team in only one group match.

An entire team walkover does not count for player eligibility. All completed rubbers against a team which is subsequently withdrawn will stand for the purposes of player qualification to the Playoffs and/or Finals.

14. Competition Structure

14.1 County Tier

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

County Tier Play-off (Men & Women's Only)

The winning team from each County Division 1 shall qualify to the County Play-offs for promotion to the Regional Tier.

14.2 Regional Tier

Comprises of 8 groups each consisting of up to 8 teams based on specific Counties which will remain fixed year on year. Each team will play each other team in their group once. The winning team in each group shall be promoted to its respective National Tier group.

14.3 National Tier

Comprises of 4 groups each consisting of up to 8 teams based on specific regions (and therefore Counties) which will remain fixed year on year. Each team will play each other team in their group once. The winner of National Tier South East, South West, Midlands and North divisions will automatically qualify to the Finals.

Teams earning prize money in the National Tier must submit a prize money form to nationalleague@LTA.org.uk no later than 30 September 2023.

National Tier Play-offs

Teams finishing in the following positions will compete in the National Open Playoffs.

WOMEN'S NATIONAL OPEN PLAYOFFS 2023	
2nd Place Midlands	3rd Place South West
2nd Place North	2nd Place South East
1st Place Scotland or 3 rd place North	3rd Place South East
2nd Place South West	4th Place South East

MEN'S NATIONAL OPEN PLAYOFFS 2023	
2nd Place Midlands	2nd Place South West
3rd Place Midlands or 3 rd place North	2nd Place South East
2nd Place North	3rd Place South East
1st Place Scotland	4th Place South East

A pre-playoff fixture will take place on Saturday 1 July where the 3rd placed team in the Midlands will play at home to 3rd place in the North group (home and away advantage will be alternated each year) in the Mens and the 1st placed Scotland team will play at home to 3rd place in the North group in the Womens. The winner of this fixture will compete in the National Open Playoffs. The draw for the National Open playoffs will take place on or before Tuesday 4 July 2023. Four teams will be seeded based on the top 4 eligible players. Details of this process will be sent to the relevant teams at the time of the draw. Home/Away scheduling will be drawn by lot. **Matches will take place at 12pm on Saturday 16 July 2022.**

National Tier Finals

The top men's and women's teams in each of the 4 National Tier divisions are joined by the 4 winning play-off teams. Prior to the Finals, teams shall nominate 4 to 8 players. The Referee shall seed 4 teams in the draw, further information on this process will be communicated to teams prior to the draw taking place. The top 4 players who are playing on Friday must be nominated by 6.00pm on the Thursday before the Finals to determine seeding for the event. Any team not adhering to this rule will be subject to a fine decided by the Competition Team which is likely to be the removal of all prize money for that team. Team captains and/or nominated players will be allowed on court and will be subject to the Code of Conduct.

14.4 Open Promotion/Relegation

Refer to the online document 'Open (adult) Promotion/Relegation 2023' at www.LTA.org.uk/national-league-summer for full details.

15. Match Arrangements

15.1 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. National/Regional Tier fixtures to start at 12pm unless both teams agree otherwise. The home team must confirm start time with the away team a minimum of 14 days before the match date. By the Tuesday, the week prior to the fixture, the away team must also confirm their team's attendance. 3 rubber points may be deducted from the home teams accumulated league total at the discretion of the league organiser for none compliance from either team. Venues with two or more National/Regional Tier teams at home are permitted to stagger start times at the home team's discretion (e.g., 11am and 1pm).

15.2 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.

15.3 Balls

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

15.4 Match Format

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

15.5 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. In the mixed event, teams will consist of two men and two women.

15.6 Singles Nominations

At least 15 minutes before the start time of each match the team captains shall nominate in writing (on a National League scorecard) their singles players in order of their current singles ITF World Tennis Number. An ATP/WTA singles world ranking must take precedence over a player's ITF World Tennis Number. At the same time, captains shall provide the name of any other player(s) who may be selected for the doubles only. If players have the same ITF World Tennis Number, the captain can decide the team order which may change from match to match.

15.7 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 (or current ATP/WTA ranking)

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

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

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

15.8 Order of Play

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

15.9 Rubber Scoring

County Tier

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

Regional/National Tier

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

15.10 Match Scoring

A team is awarded 2 points for each rubber won.

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

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

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

Tie-break 3 (Doubles): A pairing comprising any two of the other players who have played in the match.

Both singles tie-breaks must take place at the same time.

15.11 Match Result

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

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

15.12 Division Standings

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

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

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

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 6-0, 6-0). No substitutions or alteration to the nominations or playing order may be made. The player concerned shall be permitted to play a doubles rubber (and tie-break shoot-out) provided he/she is ready to play when the doubles rubber is due on court. If he/she is not ready when the doubles rubber is due on court the team will be deemed 'incomplete' and Rules 16.2 and 16.6 will apply.

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

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

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

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/tie-break shoot-out.

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. New nominations may be submitted and the match can be restarted. At the discretion of the league organiser, the home venue of a fixture may be reversed in the case of inclement weather and/or courts being unfit for play.

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

Where one or more rubbers have been completed, then the winner of the match shall be the team winning the 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 6-4, 4-6. Should each team have won an equal number of rubbers then each team shall receive 6 rubber points and 1 match point.

In any National Tier match, where fixtures are suspended, due to inclement weather, and after play has started the 'on call' referee must be contacted by both team captains, in advance of any players/teams leaving site and before the match has been postponed

16.5 Team Withdrawal

County Tier -

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

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

Premier & National/Regional Tier -

A team giving a walkover shall take no further part in the competition. All results against this team will be declared null and void for the purposes of determining the final placing in its group. However, the League Organiser shall have the power to consider a team's position regarding a team walkover with extenuating circumstances, in which case the team receiving the walkover will win all rubbers 6-0, 6-0, and will receive 12 rubber points and a match win.

In the National Tier (Open age group) a team withdrawing at the Finals may forfeit prize money and be relegated.

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.

If an ineligible player competes then the singles rubber involving the player concerned, and all singles rubbers lower in the team order shall be forfeited. Any completed matches may stand for the purposes of ITF World Tennis Number and the match score must remain in place, however, the overall team score for that particular match will be awarded to the opposing team.. In addition, that team shall have 3 rubber points deducted from their match score for each ineligible player.

If both teams field a player out of order or an ineligible player, then each team shall be deemed to have lost the singles rubber in a similar manner. Likewise, if a team fields an ineligible player as a doubles only player they shall forfeit that rubber. Where doubles pairings are not in line with Rule 6.7/9.7/12.7/15.7 that team shall forfeit both doubles rubbers.

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

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

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.

Senior Age Groups Rules

18. Eligibility

Venue Eligibility

- 18.1 Entry to LTA National League – Senior's ('the Competition') is open only to LTA registered venues, defined as Associates in Rule 28 of the LTA.
- 18.2 A venue that does not have its own courts and clubhouse may enter teams only if they have entered the competition in previous years and subject to the following conditions:
- I. They are a LTA registered venue.
 - II. Each year, a nomadic club must nominate in writing to the Tournament Referee, the players it wishes to use in all teams in the events for that year before the date of their first match. A maximum of 6 players shall be nominated for each of the Men's and Women's teams and a maximum of 3 Men and 3 Women for a Mixed event. A player may only be nominated with his/her prior consent and must have been a member on 1 October in the year preceding the competition.
 - III. A player representing a venue must be able to prove bona fide membership of that venue.
 - IV. Any team not playing their home fixtures at the venue they entered with may be penalised by playing all matches away the following season.

Player Eligibility

- 18.3 A player may represent
- I. Different venues in different events but may not play for different clubs in the same age group.
 - II. A player must have played at least one match in that event prior to playing in the final. Should this not be possible a player of a lesser ranking to all other players who have played in the team may be substituted and with agreement from the Referee. No player may play in more than 3 events in the finals.
- 18.4 All players must
- I. Have a LTA Advantage membership number which links them to the venue they are competing for and present the number at each match
 - II. Have an ITF World Tennis Number.
 - III. Be a member of the venue they are competing for as of 1 April 2023 and commit to representing that venue.
 - IV. The age which players shall achieve at any date in 2023 is the qualifying age for each event
- 18.5 Events and age categories are (A player must be aged 35+ or over):
- I. Men's – 35, 45, 50, 55, 60, 65, 70, 75
 - II. Women's – 35, 40, 50, 60, 65, 70
 - III. Mixed – Junior (M45/W40), Senior (M55 / W50), Super Senior (M65 / W60) & Medley (M45 / W40)

19. Match Arrangements

- 19.1 Time and Dates
The dates by which matches are to be played must be strictly observed throughout the competition. Within 10 days of receiving the draw the home team must make contact with the away team and offer 3 possible dates. Should the final play by date be offered there must be indoor courts available. The away team must accept one of the dates within 7 days. The 3 dates must include dates over at least two different weekends and there must be 8 clear days between the 1st and 3rd dates.

For successive rounds home advantage will be determined by the event organiser by reference to the venues of the previous matches played in the competition.

Dates should not be offered during the following periods unless agreed by both captains:

- I. World Championships, Super Seniors, Senior's and Young Seniors
- II. National Seniors Championships - Clay and Grass courts
- III. European Inter Club Championships

Start Time

The latest start time for matches will be 1.00pm unless agreed otherwise by both captains.

It is not in the spirit of the tournament to concede walkovers. All matches should be played regardless of team strength or distance to be travelled. Any team unable to play on the pre-arranged finals day must concede at the semi- final stage.

The Home team will be responsible for organising refreshments (Covid-19 restrictions depending).

- 19.2 Court Surfaces
The home team shall provide 2 or 3 courts of the same surface.
- 19.3 Balls
The home team shall supply a minimum of 3 new ITF approved balls per court
- 19.4 Match Format
Apart from the Over 35 Events, where there will be 2 singles and 3 doubles, a match will consist of 4 doubles rubbers. For the Over 35 singles matches, players must play in ITF World Tennis Number order
- 19.5 Team Format
A team shall consist of 4 players with the exception of events over the age of 65 where the maximum will be 5 players.

19.6 Order of Play

Doubles only events

Round 1	Doubles 1 v 1	Doubles 2 v 2
Round 2	Doubles 1 v 2	Doubles 2 v 1

Medley event

Round 1	Men's Doubles	Women's Doubles
Round 2	Mixed Doubles 1	Mixed Doubles 2

Over 35 events

Round 1	Singles 1 v 1	Singles 2 v 2	Doubles 2 v 2
Round 2	Doubles 2 v 1	Doubles 1 v 2	

19.7 Match Scoring

Each rubber will consist of the best of 3 sets with a tie-break at 6-6 in the first two sets. The 3rd set will consist of a Match Tie-break to 10 points (sudden death at 9-9)

19.8 Match Result

Each match shall be decided on the combined results of the singles (where appropriate) and doubles.

- I. If rubbers tied the number of sets will decide
- II. If sets are tied the number of games will decide
- III. If games are tied the combined results of the first two rubbers will decide first rubbers, then sets then games
- IV. If a tie still prevails then the result of the leading rubber i.e., 1st Pair v 1st Pair will decide the match.

Results should be entered online by the winning team within 48 hours. Event organisers should also be informed.

20. Problem Solving Issues

20.1 Late Arrival

If a team arrives on court more than half an hour after the agreed starting time of a scheduled rubber, then the first set of that rubber with a score of 6-0 will be awarded to the other team. If the team arrives on court more than an hour after the agreed starting time of a scheduled rubber then that rubber will be awarded to the other team with a score of 6-0,6-0

20.2 Inclement Weather

If inclement weather prevents the first round from being completed, then the match will be replayed at the venue selected by the away team provided that the original away team had travelled to the fixture. If not, the match will be replayed at the original venue by the scheduled end of the round, or by permission of the Event Organiser.

If the first round of a match has been fully completed and inclement weather prevents the whole match from being completed then the result will be obtained on the first round, first on rubbers, then sets, then games as before.

20.2 The Tournament Referee's decision is final. Any matters not covered in these Rules shall be resolved at the discretion of the Tournament Referee.

Padel Rules

21. Eligibility

Venue Eligibility

21.1 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

21.2 Events: Men's & Women's

21.3 A venue may enter as many teams as it wishes, however, the LTA have the right to limit the number of teams a venue enters based on the location of regional draws if required. Should a venue register more than 2 teams, some of the teams may be required to travel to different areas for the Regional Playoffs. A maximum of 2-3 teams from the same venue would be recommended.

21.4 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, they are no longer eligible to represent the lower team i.e., a player may not play down. 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

21.5 A player may only represent one venue in the National League competition.

21.6 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 venue they are competing for as of 1 May 2023 and commit to representing that venue.

21.7 Venues may be required to pre nominate their players at the point of entry which will be used for the purposes of team acceptance. Final player nominations must be submitted at the relevant time requested by the organisers.

21.8 A player may not compete for the same venue in both the Division 1 and Division 2 National Finals in the same year.

22. Competition Structure

22.1 Division 1

Comprises of the top ranked teams. The number of teams will depend on the entries received. As a guide around eight teams will be accepted into this division.

Teams will play directly to the National Finals or may need to compete in a Playoff match (dependent on entries received)

The teams qualified to the National Finals in the previous season are directly invited to participate in Division 1 the following year. Other entries may be accepted into Division 1 and will depend on player nominations received at the point of entry

22.2 Division 2

Comprises of the Regional Playoffs and National Finals

The rest of the teams which haven't been allocated into Division 1 are directly allocated into Division 2. Teams will be allocated into regional groups trying to minimize the travelling hours for the play-off phase

The Regional Playoffs will take place at the various locations nationwide to be determined. Venues to be confirmed after the closing date. The winner of each regional group will progress to a final play-off match or directly through to the National Finals (to be confirmed by the league organiser)

Should the winner of the regional group refuse the invitation to the National Finals, the invitation will pass on to the next qualified within its regional group

The format of the Regional Playoff will depend on the number of teams in the regional group, which is to be confirmed once all registrations are received and accepted

The National Finals will invite between 4 and 8 teams, depending on the number of teams in the Regional groups, and the format of the finals will depend on the number of teams qualifying through

22.3 Promotion/Relegation

The bottom two teams from Division 1 will be relegated to Division 2 for the following year. The first two teams (Winner and Runner-up) of Division 2 will be promoted to compete in Division 1 the following year. Relegation process for Division 2 is yet to be determined upon possible creation of Division 3. This is subject to change and will be confirmed each year.

23. Match Arrangements

23.1 Time & Date

Fixtures are to be played on the fixed weekends and dates specified. For the Division 2 regional play offs, the LTA will appoint a host venue for a particular group. They will be responsible for welcoming the away teams and submitting final standings to the LTA. The LTA will cover the costs of the court hire and provide balls where required.

23.2 Court Surfaces
The host 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.

23.3 Balls
The LTA will supply a minimum of 3 new ITF approved balls for each rubber

23.4 Match Format
A match shall consist of 2 doubles rubbers

23.5 Team Format
A team shall consist of four to five players. Four players shall play the two doubles rubbers.

23.6 Nominations
At least 30 minutes before the start time of each encounter the team captains shall nominate in writing (on a National League scorecard) their players in order of merit.

23.7 Order of Play

		On 1 Court	On 2 Courts
Round 1		Pair 2 v Pair 2	Pair 2 v Pair 2 & Pair 1 v Pair 1
Round 2		Pair 1 v Pair 1	

23.8 Rubber Scoring

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

Golden-point rule will be applicable in every game within the match (except the tie-break)

Golden Point Ruling

A maximum of 7-points will be played in every game (except the tie-break)

Once finished the 6th point within a game, if score is 40-40, the golden point will be played

The team receiving the service chooses the serving side

The game will finish after the golden point is played, the winner of the golden point takes the game

Refer to FIP Rules for further details

23.9 Match Scoring

A team is awarded 2 points for each rubber won.

At 2 points each a tie-break shoot-out shall be played. A tie-break shoot-out will be a match tie-break to 10 points (2 clear points) to decide the overall winner of the fixture. No substitutions or changes are permitted to the players who originally competed in the match, e.g., a 5th player may not be brought in purely for the tie-break shoot-out. Players are to be nominated as follows:

Tie-break (Doubles): A pairing comprising of one player from pair 1 and one player from pair 2.

23.10 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. Any teams found guilty of submitting false results shall be subject to rule 17.2.

23.11 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.