

LTA Youth Schools - Year 7&8 and Year 9&10 Competition Rules 2025

1. Eligibility

School Eligibility

- 1.1 Entry to the LTA Youth Schools Year 7&8 & Year 9&10 ("the Competition") is open only to LTA Registered Schools in England, Scotland, Wales, Channel Islands and Isle of Man.

Team Eligibility

- 1.2 Events:
Year 7&8 Boys, Year 7&8 Girls, Year 9&10 Boys and Year 9&10 Girls.
A school may enter more than one team in an event.
- 1.3 Where a school has two or more teams in an event, the 'A' team should be the strongest team based on the players World Tennis Number, and if applicable, the 'B' team should be stronger than the 'C' team etc.
- 1.4 Where a school has two or more teams in an event, a player may 'play up' on a maximum of one occasion without loss of eligibility in their lower team. Once a player has represented a higher team on more than one occasion, from that point onwards, they are no longer eligible to represent the lower team.
- 1.5 A World Tennis Number (WTN) cap applies in the Division 2 event only as outlined below:
Year 7&8 Division 2 – In each fixture a team may use only one player with a higher singles WTN than 25.0 as of 1 March 2025
Year 9&10 Division 2 - In each fixture a team may use only one player with a higher singles WTN than 25.0 as of 1 March 2025

Player Eligibility

- 1.6 A player must be a registered member of the school on 17 March 2025. With the exception, where players move schools between local league and the knockout stages, they may continue to represent their original school. If they wish to represent their new school, they may only do so if they have not represented any other school in the previous term in either age group or division. A Year 6 pupil from the summer term 2025 is eligible to compete from September 2025 (as a Year 7 pupil) in the knockout stage, regional finals and national finals.
- 1.7 Year 7&8 Boys & Year 7&8 Girls - A player must be in Years 7-8 or born between 1 September 2011 and 31 August 2013.
Year 9&10 Boys & Year 9&10 Girls - A player must be in Years 7-10 or born between 1 September 2009 and 31 August 2013.
- 1.8 A player may only represent one school in the competition.
- 1.9 A player may compete in both events in the competition if eligible as per the rules above. However, if the school progresses through to the Regional and/or National Finals the player may only represent the school in one event from this point onwards.

2. Competition Structure

2.1 League Stage

Local leagues (comprising of two divisions; division 1 and division 2) are coordinated by a league organiser who has the discretion in conjunction with the national organisers to organise local leagues in the most appropriate way for their area.

2.2 Division 1 Knockout Stage

The top team from each division 1 will progress to the knockout stage. This is co-ordinated by the national organisers and draws are based on geography and travel distance.

2.3 Division 1 Regional Finals

The 16 winning teams in each event from the knockout stage will compete in one of four regional finals. Prior to the regional finals, teams shall nominate a minimum of 4 players and a maximum of 6 players for the finals. Only 5 players can be used by a team per fixture. The national organisers shall seed 2 teams in each draw based on the singles World Tennis Number of the top 4 nominated players. The team captain will be allowed on court during rubbers and will be subject to the 'on court team captains' Code of Conduct. Doubles nominations will be required at the same time as singles nominations.

2.4 National Finals

The winning teams in each event from the 4 regional finals will compete in the national finals. Prior to the national finals, teams shall nominate a minimum of 4 and maximum of 6 players for the finals. Only 5 players can be used by a team per fixture. Doubles nominations will be required at the same time as singles nominations. The national organisers shall seed 2 teams in the draw based on the nominated players' World Tennis Number. The team captain will be allowed on court and will be subject to the 'on court team captains' Code of Conduct. The order of play for matches at the National Finals will be singles 4, singles 3, singles 2 and singles 1 followed by doubles 2 then doubles 1.

3. Match Arrangements

3.1 Dates

Matches shall be played on the dates specified by the league organiser. However, there will be flexibility to play before the date if both teams agree and there is prior consent from the league organiser. It is both team captain's responsibility to make contact with the opposing captain before the match date. Each team must have an adult captain present at each match. For Division 1 only, all League Stages must be completed by the end of the summer term, any matches not played by this point will be null and void for the purposes of the final league table.

3.2 Balls

The home team shall supply 3 LTA approved balls for each rubber.

3.3 Match Format

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

3.4 Team Format

A team shall consist of 4 or 5 players for each fixture. Four players shall play one singles rubber each. A 5th player may be selected for one doubles rubber only at the discretion of the team captain.

3.5 Singles Nominations

At least 15 minutes before the start time of each fixture, team captains must nominate in writing, on a scorecard, their singles players in order of their ITF World Tennis Number singles band i.e., 20.0-20.9 is band 20. If two or more players are within the same ITF World Tennis Number band (or no ITF World Tennis Number), the team captain can decide the team playing order which may change from fixture to fixture. Where

players are in the same ITF World Tennis Number Band (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. At the same time, captains shall provide the name of any other player(s) who may be selected for the doubles only. Please see below the ITF World Tennis Number (singles) bands:

ITF World Tennis Number (singles)	Band	ITF World Tennis Number (singles)	Band	ITF World Tennis Number (singles)	Band	ITF World Tennis Number (singles)	Band
1.0-1.9	1	11.0-11.9	11	21.0-21.9	21	31.0-31.9	31
2.0-2.9	2	12.0-12.9	12	22.0-22.9	22	32.0-32.9	32
3.0-3.9	3	13.0-13.9	13	23.0-23.9	23	33.0-33.9	33
4.0-4.9	4	14.0-14.9	14	24.0-24.9	24	34.0-34.9	34
5.0-5.9	5	15.0-15.9	15	25.0-25.9	25	35.0-35.9	35
6.0-6.9	6	16.0-16.9	16	26.0-26.9	26	36.0-36.9	36
7.0-7.9	7	17.0-17.9	17	27.0-27.9	27	37.0-37.9	37
8.0-8.9	8	18.0-18.9	18	28.0-28.9	28	38.0-38.9	38
9.0-9.9	9	19.0-19.9	19	29.0-29.9	29	39.0-39.9	39
10.0-10.9	10	20.0-20.9	20	30.0-30.9	30	40.0-40.9	40

3.6 Doubles Nominations
 Doubles Pair 1: Singles 1 & 2 Doubles Pair 2: Singles 3 & 4

A 5th player can substitute directly for any of the four singles players. E.g. if player number 5 (doubles only player) substitutes for singles player 2, then player number 5 will play in the number 1 doubles pair. Doubles nominations may be submitted after the completion of all singles rubbers.

3.7 Order of Play

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

3.8 Rubber Scoring

Singles & Doubles	Each rubber is one set with a tiebreak at 6-6
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In division 2 each rubber may be 1 x short set (to 4 games) with a tie-break (to 7 points, with 2 clear) if 3-3 is reached. A short set may also be used at Division 1 Regional Finals at the discretion of the on-site Referee.

3.9 Match Scoring

A team is awarded 2 points for each rubber won. At 6 rubber points each, a doubles tiebreak shoot-out (to 10 points, with 2 clear) shall be played. 1 bonus point will be awarded to the winning team in a tiebreak shoot-out, i.e. 7-6.

Tie-Break Shootout Format (1 pair):

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

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

3.10 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 scorecards. The winning team captain must submit the result within 48 hours.

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 standings.

4. Problem Solving Issues

4.1 Late Arrival

If a team arrives more than 30 minutes after the agreed start time, the opponents can claim the two doubles rubbers by a score of 6-0. If a team has not arrived 1 hour after the agreed start time, the opponents will be awarded the entire match by a score of 12-0.

4.2 Incomplete Teams

If a school is unable to field a complete team for the match, then they shall first forfeit the lowest singles rubber and the second doubles rubber, followed by the next lowest rubber and so on. The opposing team shall be deemed to have won forfeited rubbers by a score of 6-0.

4.3 Player Retirement

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

- 4.4 **Completion of Matches (due to inclement weather)**
If a match cannot be started due to rain or rain stops play, then the match may be rearranged on or before the rain date at the original venue as set by the league organiser.
- If a match is rained off on two occasions the match is halved with each team receiving 1 match point and 6 rubber points. In knockout round fixtures, the organiser will draw by lot to determine the winner.
- If play is suspended after a match has started, then the match shall resume at the point of suspension. All points played shall stand. If a player is unavailable when a match resumes, the suspended rubber and all subsequent rubbers for that player are awarded to the opponent(s).
- 4.5 **Team Withdrawal**
Teams receiving an entire team walkover will win all rubbers 6-0 and will receive maximum rubber points and a match win. The league organiser has the power to withdraw a team from the league where matches have not been played by the set date.
- 4.6 **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.
- 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 and where doubles pairings are not in line with Rule 3.6 that school shall forfeit both doubles rubbers.

5. Regulations

- 5.1 All matches in the Competition shall be conducted in accordance with the ITF Rules of Tennis, the Rules and Regulations of the LTA regulations, the LTA Competition Regulations, the LTA Code of Conduct, and the competition regulations (in the event of any inconsistency, the competition rules 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.
- 5.2 The day-to-day organisation of the Competition shall be carried out by 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.
- 5.3 Any complaint/dispute shall be made in writing on email to schoolscompetition@LTA.org.uk by the team captain within 48 hours of the cause of the complaint/dispute arising. Nevertheless, the CT shall have the power to consider any matter coming to their attention subsequently.
- 5.4 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.

To feedback on these rules please email schoolscompetition@lta.org.uk