



LTA Winter Regional Tour

Player Information Pack

2023 Winter (1 September 2023 – 31 March 2024)

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INTRODUCTION

This document is intended to provide players with important information relating to the LTA Winter Regional Tour circuit. The document is valid for competitions taking place during the 2023 Winter season, from 1 September 2023 – 31 March 2024.

The LTA reserve the right to make changes to the information published in this guide at any time. Please ensure you have accessed the latest version using the link on the LTA website - [LTA Winter Regional Tour](#).

The LTA Winter Regional Tour provides Grade 3 competition for players in the 9U – 18U age groups, with events taking place at weekends between September and March. Where possible we endeavour to run Winter Regional Tour events on indoor courts. However, on some occasions this is not possible. Please check the factsheet carefully before entering the competition if you wish to check whether the event is taking place indoors or outdoors.

This guide should be used in conjunction with:

1. The LTA Competition Regulations - [LTA Competition Regulations](#)
2. Information on the LTA Staged Overlapping Competition Regulations - [LTA Staged Overlapping Competition Regulations](#)
3. Winter Regional Tour calendars available on the LTA website - [LTA Winter Regional Tour](#)

STRUCTURE AND FORMAT

LTA Winter Regional Tour competitions take place at weekends during the September – March period. Each age group will have three rotations of Winter Regional Tour events during this period. The structure and format for each age group is as follows (the LTA reserve the right to amend the structure and format for any event at short notice if required).

18U (ROTATIONS 1 AND 2 – OCTOBER 2023 AND JANUARY 2024)

For the first two rotations of the 2023 Winter WRT circuit we will be piloting a one-day format for the 18U events.

Events will be played using FAST4 scoring and a 16-player compass draw format, so all players will play 4 matches and the event will be completed in one day. We hope that this will support older junior players to compete as they only have to commit one day to take part, leaving them time for socialising with friends, studying, working a weekend job etc. We will be reviewing this change so if you have any feedback please contact regionaltour@lta.org.uk

	Draw Type	Draw Size	Wild Card (WC)	Scoring
18U Rotations 1 & 2 (14/15 October 2023 and 6/7 January 2024)	Compass	16	Maximum of 2 WCs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> FAST 4 format - First to 4 games - Tie-break at 3-games all (first to 7 points; two points clear at 6 points all) - Match tie- break if the score reaches 1 set all (to 10 points, 2 clear at 9 points all) - No advantage scoring - Normal service let rule
	<p>The event consists of 1 main draw played on 1 day. It is a compass draw which means ALL players are required to play 4 matches regardless of losing any match.</p> <p>Day 1: MD R16, QF, F, SF & 3rd/4th play-offs; C QF, SF, F, & 3rd/4th play-off</p> <p>All matches are compulsory; Matches on left of the draw are the built-in consolation matches.</p>			

18U (ROTATION 3 – MARCH 2024) AND 16U AGE GROUPS

	Draw Type	Draw Size	Wild Card (WC)	Scoring
18U (Rotation 3 – 16/17 March 2024) and all 16U events	Elimination*	16	Maximum of 2 WCs	Two tie-break sets & a deciding match tie-break if the score reaches one set all
	<p>The event consists of 1 main draw with first round consolation; played over 2 days, with 8 players required on Day 2;</p> <p>Day 1: MD R1 & MD QF; C QF Day 2*: MD SF, MD F & MD 3rd/4th play-off; C SF, C F & C 3rd/4th play-off;</p> <p>*Only 4 players from the Main Draw event & 4 from the Consolation event are required on Day 2 Consolation event is compulsory for all first round losers Play-off matches on Day 2 are compulsory for all players</p>			

14U, 12U AND 11U AGE GROUPS

	Draw Type	Draw Size	Wild Card (WC)	Scoring
14U, 12U and 11U	Compass Draw	16	Maximum of 2 WCs	Two tie-break sets & a deciding match tie-break if the score reaches one set all
	<p>The event consists of 1 main draw played over 2 days. It is a compass draw which means ALL players are required for both days (regardless of losing any match).</p> <p>Day 1: MD R1, MD QF; C QF Day 2: MD SF, MD F & MD 3rd/4th play-off; C SF, C F & all other play-offs</p> <p>All matches are compulsory; matches to the left of the draw are the built-in consolation matches.</p>			

10U AGE GROUP

	Draw Type	Draw Size	Qualifiers Wild Card (WC)	Scoring
10U Age Group	Compass Draw	8	Maximum of 1 WC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • FAST 4 format - First to 4 games - Tie-break at 3-games all (first to 7 points; two points clear at 6 points all) - Match tie- break if the score reaches 1 set all (to 10 points, 2 clear at 9 points all) - No advantage scoring - Normal service let rule
	<p>The event consists of 1 main draw played on 1 day. It is a compass draw which means ALL players are required to play 3 matches regardless of losing any match.</p> <p>Day 1: MD QF, F, SF & 3rd/4th play-offs; C SF, F, & 3rd/4th play-off</p> <p>All matches are compulsory; Matches on left of the draw are the built-in consolation matches.</p>			

9U AGE GROUP

	Draw Type	Draw Size	Wild Card (WC)	Scoring
9U Age Group	Round Robin to Compass Draw play offs	16	Maximum of 2 WCs	Best of 3 tie-breaks to 7, winning by 2 clear points
	<p>A tournament played over 1 day. The draw starts with 4 round robin groups going into 2 compass draws of 8 players. All matches are compulsory</p> <p>Stage 1: RR – top 2 players in each group qualify for MD; Stage 2: 8 player MD compass draw (Matches on left of the draw are the built-in consolation matches) ;and 8 player extra ratings matches compass draw</p>			

Alternative draw formats may be used where the number of participants is less than the stated draw size.

HOW TO ENTER

All entries for WRT events must be made online via the [LTA Competitions Portal](#). Tournaments can be found by entering the relevant tournament code (available in the online [Winter Regional Tour calendars](#)).

- Payment will be taken at time of online entry via Stripe:
Indoor events
9U-10U: £25.00
11U-14U: £32.00
16U-18U (2 day events): £28.00
18U (1 day events): £25.00

Outdoor events
9U-10U: £20.00
16U-18U (2 day events): £24.00
18U (1 day events): £20.00
- Ensure you complete the check-out process on your payment transaction. **If you are experiencing issues with the entry / payment please contact the Tournament Organiser (listed as the Tournament 'Contact' on the LTA Competitions Portal) BEFORE the closing deadline.**
NOTE: Players who have not paid online and who have not made contact with the Organiser regarding any online entry issues they may be experiencing, before the closing deadline, cannot be accepted on to the entry list.
- Once entered you must check your name appears on the entry list for that tournament. It is your responsibility to ensure your name is on the entrant list before the closing deadline.
- If you experience any problems with online entry, or your name does not appear on the entrants list, you must **contact the Tournament Organiser before the entry closing deadline** (the time of voicemails/emails will be taken into consideration if they are before the entry deadline).
- Once entered you should receive one email acknowledging receipt of entry and a second email confirming that payment has been taken. **This is not an acceptance notification.** If you do not receive this email you must contact the Tournament Organiser straight away, and **before** the entry closing deadline. Please keep both automated email acknowledgements of entry & payment after successfully submitting an online entry.
- The following rule is in [the LTA Competition Regulations](#) 3.10b and applies to LTA Staged Winter Competitions, including the Winter Regional Tour; it restricts the number of competitions a player can enter:

'In relation to LTA Staged Winter Competitions (i.e. National Tour, weekend Winter Regional Tour, and weekend Winter County Tour tournaments) a Player can enter only one competition at each grade in the same age group taking place on the same weekend.'

Further information on this rule is available [online](#), please ensure you have read this information before entering Winter Regional Tour competitions.

If a player is found to have contravened the overlapping competitions regulation and competed in more than one event in breach of regulation 3.10 then he/she will lose all ranking points obtained from the relevant competitions.

- Please remember to keep your contact details up to date in your LTA Members area. These will be used to communicate with you by the Organiser & the Referee.

UNDERSUBSCRIBED TOURNAMENTS

If the entry list is under-subscribed at the closing deadline, options will be considered by the LTA Competitions Team on how best to increase entry numbers as we endeavour to make sure all competitions go ahead. On rare occasions a competition may be cancelled due to low entry numbers, however this is always a last resort.

LATE ENTRIES

With one exception, late entries may be accepted to the entry list if the tournament is not full or there is space available on the reserve list.

Exception: If, at the time of entry, a player requests to be a late entry and he/she would be seeded, that player cannot be accepted.

If at the time a player requests to be a late entry and that player would not be a seed, his/her entry can be accepted and placed as follows if the draw has not been made yet:

- a) If the tournament is not full the player can be accepted directly
- b) If there is a reserve list, this player will be placed at the bottom and will be accepted into the tournament when the player reaches the top of the reserve list and a space becomes available regardless of if the player would be a seed or not

Please see below in 'Reserves' the process to be used if a reserve that would now be seeded is moved into the tournament AFTER the draw has been made.

Payment for late entries: The player will be sent a request for payment which must be paid before they are included in the event. Late entries will be considered on a first-paid basis.

ACCEPTANCE CRITERIA

9U – 10U AGE GROUPS

1. Wild cards - 1 wild card for every 8 places of the draw size
2. Recent Form (a player's best three tournament performances at that ball colour within the last 6 months)
3. By lot if more than one player has the same recent form

11U-18U AGE GROUPS

1. Wild cards - 1 wild card for every 8 places of the draw size
2. LTA Ranking
3. By lot if more than one player has the same ranking

WILD CARDS

Wild cards can be awarded in all Winter Regional Tour age groups.

Wild cards are awarded on an entirely discretionary basis and we shall not enter into any correspondence as to why a particular player was (or was not) issued a wild card

- To be eligible for a wild card in the LTA staged WRT tournament, a player must have entered the tournament by the closing deadline. **All entered players will be considered for a wild card and applications for wild cards are not required by players for 9U – 12U events.**
- Wild cards may be awarded up to **one place in eight** of the draw size in accordance with the [LTA's acceptance & seeding criteria](#).
- Wild cards are awarded by the LTA Performance Team.
- Any wild card spaces not used will be released and the next eligible player(s) on the reserve list will move up accordingly.
- Please note that wild cards for 14U – 18U events will only be issued in exceptional circumstances (e.g. due to long term injury or illness).
- Wildcard requests can only be made for 14U, 16U and 18U events and only requests received by the competition organiser (The "Contact") listed on the LTA Competitions Portal, prior to the competition closing deadline will be considered.

WHEN ARE ACCEPTANCES PUBLISHED?

Acceptances will be published online, on the [LTA Competitions Portal](#), within 72 hours of the closing deadline and will indicate a player's status – either accepted or reserve status. An email will be sent to players once the acceptance/reserve list has been published. **It is the player's responsibility to check his/her status for each event entered, regardless of whether an email is received.**

MANAGEMENT OF THE RESERVE LIST

Reserves are important to any tournament and may be called upon to play if other players withdraw.

- Before the withdrawal deadline it is the responsibility of players on the reserve list to check the website and track their status, as reserves will not be contacted if they are accepted for the competition from the reserve list.
- After the withdrawal deadline a reserve will be contacted if a space becomes available. **However, it is still the responsibility of each player to check the website entry list up to 24 hours before the start of the event, to see if they have been accepted into the competition from the reserve list.**
- Any player on the reserve list can withdraw from a competition penalty free (subject to an admin fee) up to the point where they are accepted into the competition.
- A reserve may decline an offer to play without incurring a penalty if the player is contacted during the 24 hours immediately before the event date.

- If a reserve that would now be a seed is moved into the main draw after the draw is made the following process will take place:
 - **Before 8pm the day before the tournament:** In the situation of the reserve being seeded, the seeding will be adjusted according to Competition Regulations. **This may involve time changes & changes of opponent for players, so a player may be required to report earlier than previously notified. We will contact the player by phone to let them know of this change. If no one is available a message will be left and an email sent**
 - **After 8pm the day before the tournament:** In the situation of the reserve being seeded, the reserve will move into the vacant position. It is possible that this position may be against a seed

WHAT IF A PLAYER NEEDS TO WITHDRAW?

- The withdrawal deadline for each tournament can be found in the age group calendars or by referring to the tournament details in Competition Search, by putting in the relevant tournament code.
- If the competitor is withdrawing before the withdrawal deadline, he/she must withdraw online and the entry fee will be refunded automatically (less an administration charge).
- Any player on the reserve list can withdraw from a competition penalty free (subject to an admin fee) up to the point where they are accepted into the competition.
- Players who are experiencing problems withdrawing online, prior to the withdrawal deadline, should contact the Tournament Organiser (the "Contact") immediately, to update the Organiser of the problem. If the Organiser is contacted after the withdrawal deadline with a request to withdraw due to problems before the withdrawal deadline, the withdrawal will be treated as a late withdrawal (if the player has been accepted for the competition) and the entry fee will be retained and withdrawal points incurred.

If voicemails are left for the Organiser, or an email is sent then they must be followed up to make sure the communication has been received by the Organiser.

- If a competitor who has been accepted for the competition withdraws after the withdrawal deadline he/she will incur withdrawal points and the entry fee will be retained.
An exception applies if a player is contacted less than 24 hours before the published start time of an event and declines an invitation to play, in which case no penalty will be incurred and the entry fee will be refunded (less an administration fee).
- If the competitor is withdrawing after the withdrawal deadline, please contact the Tournament Referee by phone as soon as possible. The Referee contact details can be found on the website on the relevant tournament page. If voicemails are left for the Referee, or an email is sent then they must be followed up to make sure the communication has been received by the / Referee.

If voicemails are left for the Organiser/Referee, or an email is sent then they must be followed up to make sure the communication has been received by the Tournament Organiser / Referee.

- See information on withdrawing from an LTA Official Competition in the [LTA Competition Regulations](#).

WHEN AND HOW IS THE DRAW MADE?

The draw will be published no later than 10:00pm on the Wednesday before the event.

- Tennis Tournament Planner (TTP) software is used to make the draw. The software makes the draw in a similar manner for professional tournaments i.e. seeded players are placed on their designated line on the draw (as per LTA Competition Regulations), whilst the unseeded players are randomly assigned to the remaining places in the draw. Where possible, players from the same county will be separated in the initial stage of the draw.
- Before the draw is made, the ranking / recent form for each player is updated to ensure the draw is made using current information - i.e. ranking / & recent form is updated from that of the closing deadline.
- Seeding for the 11U – 18U WRT events will follow the acceptance criteria and will use current LTA rankings as of the day the draw is made. Where this is equal the players will be drawn by lot, i.e. randomly.
- Seeding for 9U & 10U mini events will follow the acceptance criteria and will use a player's LTA recent form as of the day the draw is made; where this is equal the players will be drawn by lot, i.e. randomly.
- Although the ranking / recent form information is updated for all players, before the draw is made, the reserve list order will not change as a result of this update
- First match start times will be emailed to all players who are in the draw, but it is the responsibility of the player to check the website for match times

9U AND 10U LINKED COMPETITIONS

To support younger players with the opportunity to progress on the competition pathway and access higher graded competitions the 9U and 10U Winter Regional Tour competitions are linked to LTA National Tour competitions.

This means that the winner of each 9U and 10U Winter Regional Tour competition will be offered a wild card into the upcoming National Tour competition. If the winner of the Winter Regional Tour competition has already been directly accepted for the National Tour event then the wild card will pass to the runner-up of the Winter Regional Tour competition.

After a 9U or 10U Winter Regional Tour competition has been completed the details of the winner (and subsequently the runner-up if required) will be passed to the LTA Performance Team who will make contact with the player about the National Tour event.

Information about the linked National Tour competitions can be found on the Winter Regional Tour calendars available on the [LTA website](#).

PRIZES

The Winner and Runner-Up of each event will receive a Winter Regional Tour medal.