

LTA COMPETITION REGULATIONS  
1 SEPTEMBER 2013

---

# COMPETITION REGULATIONS

# FAIR PLAY

## ENJOY.RESPECT

We are all responsible for making tennis enjoyable, fun and safe. Make sure you're supporting the Fair Play values to enjoy respect.



### ENJOY

Tennis is your sport so enjoy it. Love the game  
Be a good sport when you win, lose and watch matches  
Be a role model, behave as you expect others to  
Create a safe, fun and fair tennis environment

### RESPECT

Tennis is a game for everyone, respect others  
Take responsibility for your actions  
Learn and follow the rules and the Fair Play values  
Call the score and lines loudly and fairly; leave it to the official to resolve problems.



#### INDEX

1.	APPLICATION OF THE LTA COMPETITION REGULATIONS	5.41-5.45	<i>Procedures in case of adverse conditions</i>
		5.46-5.50	<i>Clothing and equipment</i>
2.	LTA OFFICIAL COMPETITIONS: TYPES, GRADES AND AGE GROUPS	5.51-5.52	<i>Tennis balls</i>
		5.53-5.54	<i>Court markings</i>
		5.55-5.56	<i>Matches played without a Chair Umpire</i>
3.	ENTERING AN LTA OFFICIAL COMPETITION	5.57-5.59	<i>Results</i>
		5.60-5.65	<i>Prizes</i>
3.1-3.2	The Organising Committee		
3.3-3.6	Sponsorship and advertising		
3.7-3.9	Entry information		
3.10-3.13	Overlapping competitions		
3.14-3.19	Acceptance of entries		
3.20-3.22	Wild Cards		
3.23-3.24	Refund of entry fees		
3.25-3.28	The draw		
3.29-3.34	Seeding		
3.35-3.37	Byes		
3.38	Unseeded Players		
3.39-3.43	Lucky Losers		
3.44-3.45	Omissions		
4.	WITHDRAWING FROM AN LTA OFFICIAL COMPETITION		
5.	PARTICIPATING IN AN LTA OFFICIAL COMPETITION		
5.1-5.3	Player eligibility		
5.4-5.6	Referee		
5.7-5.9	Chair Umpires		
5.10-5.12	Court Supervisors		
5.13-5.14	Conditions of play		
5.15-5.18	<i>Player attendance</i>		
5.19-5.20	<i>Composition of matches</i>		
5.21-5.23	<i>Scheduling of matches</i>		
5.24-5.31	<i>Warm-up and breaks in play</i>		
5.32-5.40	<i>Medical evaluation and treatment during matches</i>		
6.	RATING AND RANKING		
7.	MINI TENNIS		
7.1-7.2	General		
7.3-7.4	Red Ball tennis		
7.5-7.6	Orange Ball tennis		
7.7-7.8	Green Ball tennis		
8.	COMPLAINTS		
9.	NON-COMPLIANCE		
10.	MISCELLANEOUS		
			Appendix One: Definitions
			Appendix Two: LTA Logo
			Appendix Three: Draw methods and seeding
			Appendix Four: Permitted identifications
			Appendix Five: Rating and Ranking
			Appendix Six: LTA Code of Conduct
			Appendix Seven: Code Violation Points
			Appendix Eight: Competition formats

## 1. APPLICATION OF THE LTA COMPETITION REGULATIONS

- 1.1 These Regulations take effect from 1 September 2011 and may be varied from time to time by the LTA Main Board. Any such variations will be published on the LTA Website at: [www.lta.org.uk/CompetitionRegulations](http://www.lta.org.uk/CompetitionRegulations) and/or notified to (a) competition organisers and officials by email, and (b) players as part of the competition information provided pursuant to paragraph 3.8, below. Save where otherwise stipulated in the variations themselves, the variations will take effect immediately they are so published or notified (whichever is earlier).
- 1.2 With the exception of Designated International Events, these Regulations apply to all tournaments, championships, leagues, cup competitions and other tennis events that are staged or approved by the LTA (LTA Official Competitions) and graded from 1 to 7 (see paragraph 2.2, below). Unless otherwise stated, references to matches, events and competitions are to matches, events and competitions played as part of LTA Official Competitions.
- 1.3 By organising, entering, playing tennis in and/or participating in any way in an LTA Official Competition (including as officials, staff, coaches, representatives, agents, medical staff, relatives and associates of a Player, a Player's entourage and spectators), a person and/or entity agrees to be bound by and to comply with these Regulations.
- 1.4 In addition to these Regulations, the LTA Rules, the LTA's Transgender Policy, the LTA's Child Protection Policy, the LTA's Equality and Diversity Policy and the Rules of Tennis will also apply to all LTA Official Competitions. In the event of conflict between any such rules and these Regulations, these Regulations will prevail. In the case of the Aegon County Cup Competitions, the Aegon British Tour, Aegon Team Tennis, LTA staged Winter Regional Tour, Winter County Tour and Winter National Tour tournaments, certain specific competition

regulations apply and in the event of conflict between those competition regulations and these Regulations, those competition regulations will prevail.

**Explanatory note:** *The regulations for the Aegon County Cup Competitions, the Aegon British Tour and Aegon Team Tennis can be found at [www.lta.org.uk/CompetitionRegulations](http://www.lta.org.uk/CompetitionRegulations)*

- 1.5 These Regulations set out the provisions that apply to (among other things) the organisation, administration and participation in LTA Official Competitions, and they are organised in effectively a chronological order following the lifespan of an LTA Official Competition as follows:
- (a) organising a competition, as set out in section 2, paragraphs 3.1 to 3.8 and Appendix Three;
  - (b) entering a competition, as set out in paragraphs 3.9 to 3.45;
  - (c) Withdrawing from a competition, as set out in section 4;
  - (d) participating in a competition, as set out in section 5 and Appendices Four, Six, Seven and Eight;
  - (e) Rating and Ranking, as set out in section 6 and Appendix Five;
  - (f) Mini Tennis, as set out in section 7;
  - (g) complaints, as set out in section 8; and
  - (h) non-compliance and miscellaneous information (including contact details), as set out in sections 9 and 10.
- 1.6 Capitalised terms used in these Regulations will, unless defined elsewhere in these Regulations, have the meanings given to them in Appendix One.

## 2. LTA OFFICIAL COMPETITIONS: TYPES, GRADES AND AGE GROUPS

- 2.1 LTA Official Competitions vary in size, duration and standard. For example, an LTA Official Competition may consist of a single event (such as 14&U boys singles) or multiple events (such as 12&U, 14&U, 16&U and 18&U boys and girls, singles and doubles). Each event can have pre-qualifying draws, qualifying draws, a main draw and a consolation draw.
- 2.2 As part of the competition application process set out in paragraph 3.2, below, all LTA Official Competitions (and all events within an LTA Official Competition) are graded by the LTA from 1 to 7, according to criteria laid down by the LTA Competitions Team, as follows:

Grades 1 and 2: national level;  
Grade 3: regional level;  
Grade 4: county level; and  
Grades 5, 6 and 7: club level.

The determination of grades by the LTA will be final and binding.

**Explanatory note:** *Further information on grading, including grades for particular competitions, can be found at [www.lta.org.uk/CompetitionRegulations](http://www.lta.org.uk/CompetitionRegulations)*

Where possible, events should be scheduled to run over a maximum number of consecutive days, ideally no more than four for grade 3 events and no more than two for grade 4 events. Specific event dates for every event must be provided when the competition application is submitted. Published event dates cannot be changed once a competition has opened for entry without the consent of the LTA Competitions Team.

- 2.3 Where an event is oversubscribed and thus divided into two separate events (i.e. not where a single event is simply divided into a main draw and a qualifying draw), the Organising Committee must contact the LTA Competitions Team and/or its County Association to obtain prior written approval.

- 2.4 For LTA Official Competitions graded 1 to 5, all Junior age groups (from 8&U to 18&U) are aligned with the Competition Seasons; a Player's competition age group (and his/her eligibility to participate in events restricted to certain age groups) is determined by the Player's age on the last day of the Competition Season in question.

**Explanatory note:** *For example, a Player who will be aged 12 on 31 March 2014 will be in the 12&U competition age group for the winter season running from 1 September 2013 to 31 March 2014; a Player who will turn 13 during that period (i.e. who will be 13 on 31 March 2014) will be in the 14&U competition age group for the winter season running from 1 September 2013 to 31 March 2014. Further information on age groups can be found at [www.lta.org.uk/CompetitionAgeGroups](http://www.lta.org.uk/CompetitionAgeGroups)*

**Explanatory note:** *A player is officially in the 'Open' age group category when no longer eligible to play 18&U competitions.*

- 2.5 Adult age groups are based on calendar years, and a Player's competition age group (and his/her eligibility to participate in events restricted to certain age groups) is determined by the Player's age on the last day of the calendar year in question.

**Explanatory note:** *For example, a Player who will turn 35 on 1 June 2014 will be eligible to participate in all of the 35-and-over age group competitions throughout 2014; a Player who will turn 22 on 1 June 2014 will not be eligible to participate in any of the 21&U age group competitions in 2014.*

## 3. ENTERING AN LTA OFFICIAL COMPETITION

### The Organising Committee

- 3.1 For each LTA Official Competition, the person or entity that is organising the competition must appoint an Organising Committee and designate an entry secretary. For LTA Official Competitions graded 1 to 5, a representative of the relevant County Association, National Association or Island Association must be

invited to sit on the Organising Committee. The LTA has the right to have a representative on the Organising Committee for all LTA Official Competitions.

3.2 The organiser is permitted to compete in his/her competition but is not permitted to conduct the draw. The Organising Committee will be responsible for the organisation and administration of the relevant LTA Official Competition. In particular, the Organising Committee will:

- (a) apply to run the competition by creating it using the LTA online competition creation tool by the date specified by the LTA for approval by the LTA and prior to the competition dates;
- (b) where the LTA requests information on the competition, ensure that the relevant information is provided to the LTA within the prescribed time limit;
- (c) decide on the number and types of events to be included in the competition, the entry fees and any restrictions on entry (including any maximum numbers in any event), and allocate prizes;
- (d) be responsible for providing to the LTA (accurately and in accordance with any deadlines imposed by the LTA) all relevant dates in respect of the competition (including at least the deadlines for entry and Withdrawals, the start date and finish date of the competition and the dates on which particular age group events will take place) in order that the LTA can publish such dates on the LTA Website;

**Explanatory note:** *In order to attract and retain the strongest Players, Organising Committees should schedule age group events around national, regional and local events. Particular attention should be paid to grade 1 and 2 events (for example, the Aegon Clay Court Championships and the Aegon British Junior National Championships). This may mean scheduling age group finals on different days in order to accommodate Players wishing to compete elsewhere in the*

*same week. Organising Committees have no obligation to hold all finals on the last day of a competition.*

- (e) subject to paragraphs 5.4 and 5.5, below, appoint a Referee (and, if appropriate, assistant Referee(s)) for the competition and delegate the powers and responsibilities set out in paragraph 5.6, below, to the Referee. The Organising Committee will support the Referee in, but not interfere with, the proper execution of his/her duties;
- (f) decide upon matters arising out of the day-to-day running of the competition save for those matters to be decided by the Referee pursuant to paragraph 5.6, below, and/or decide on any matter at the request of the Referee;
- (g) without prejudice to the ability of the LTA to deal with the matter under the LTA's Disciplinary and Dispute Resolution Procedures, have the power to suspend the Referee for incompetence, breach of these Regulations or conduct unbecoming of an official. All such decisions must be reported to the LTA's Officiating Development Manager at [officiatingsupport@lta.org.uk](mailto:officiatingsupport@lta.org.uk) within 24 hours after the date on which the suspension is imposed. The decision of the Organising Committee in such matters will be final for the purposes of the competition, but the Referee may appeal the decision to the LTA within seven days of the date on which such suspension was notified to the Referee and the matter will be dealt with in accordance with the LTA's Disciplinary and Dispute Resolution Procedures;
- (h) ensure that suitable facilities are available at the competition site and/or at additional locations for the completion of the scheduled events, assuming reasonable weather conditions;
- (i) ensure that suitable ancillary facilities, such as toilets, are available at the competition site and any additional locations;
- (j) ensure that all LTA officials and members of the LTA Council are granted free admission

to the competition and to a seat in a stand (if available) upon production of a current official pass;

- (k) be responsible for health and safety and child welfare/protection at the competition and for the keeping of good order on the competition site;
- (l) ensure that the competition has appropriate insurance, including in respect of public liability;

**Explanatory note:** *LTA registered 'places to play' receive automatic liability insurance cover (subject always to the terms and conditions of the policies) through the LTA's registration package, with the following limits: £10 million employers' liability, £5 million public and products liability, £5 million directors and officers, and £5 million professional indemnity. Cover also applies where registered 'places to play' use other venues, including park and school courts, during a competition. For further information see [www.lta.org.uk](http://www.lta.org.uk) or contact the LTA's brokers, Perkins Slade Limited, on 0121 698 8050 or [tennis@perkins-slade.com](mailto:tennis@perkins-slade.com)*

- (m) prepare an entry form for the competition, if required;
- (n) accept entries in accordance with paragraphs 3.14 to 3.19, below;
- (o) have the right and obligation to use the designation 'LTA Approved Competition' and the LTA Logo on all competition literature, including entry forms, competition websites, results sheets, press and marketing material, signage and stationery. Accordingly, the LTA grants to the Organising Committee a non-exclusive, royalty-free licence to use the LTA Logo solely in connection with the relevant LTA Official Competition, provided always that such use is at all times in accordance with any directions of the LTA and any LTA branding guidelines as notified to the Organising Committee from time to time. Any other use of the LTA Logo is expressly prohibited without the prior written consent of the LTA;

(p) ensure that paragraph 5.1, below, is enforced so that all Players participating in the competition are eligible to do so;

(q) pursuant to paragraph 5.51, below, select the brand of tennis ball to be used, the number of balls per match and the frequency of ball changes, and ensure an adequate supply of balls is provided;

(r) have the authority to order a Player, coach, representative, agent, relative or other associate of a Player to move away from the side of a court and/or leave the competition site;

(s) ensure that TTP, Results Manager, LP or an Excel spreadsheet is used to accurately submit results, Code Violations and Withdrawals (and failures to appear) to the LTA within 72 hours of completion of the competition in accordance with paragraphs 5.57 and 5.58, below;

(t) ensure that the competition complies with all applicable data protection laws and regulations including, without limitation, the Data Protection Act 1998; and

(u) be bound by these Regulations and the LTA Rules, including the LTA's Disciplinary and Dispute Resolution Procedures.

#### Sponsorship and advertising

3.3 The LTA is the sole and exclusive owner of any and all rights of a commercial nature connected with LTA Official Competitions, including, without limitation, broadcasting rights, new media rights, interactive games rights, sponsorship rights, merchandising rights, licensing rights, advertising rights, ticketing rights and hospitality rights. The LTA may exploit such commercial rights (or any part thereof) in any way that it may choose and any proceeds received by the LTA as a result will belong to the LTA.

3.4 The LTA recognises the need for competitions to raise their own revenues for their long term sustainability. The LTA therefore grants

to the Organising Committee of each LTA Official Competition the right to exploit the commercial rights relating to the competition (**Local Rights**), save that:

- (a) where any of the LTA's commercial partners have naming rights to the competition in question, the Organising Committee will be entitled to exploit the Local Rights only if it has obtained the prior written consent of the LTA;
- (b) the Organising Committee may not grant any rights to a person or entity (i) whose principal business includes betting or gaming, or the sale of tobacco products, alcohol products or pornographic material, or (ii) that promotes disparaging views or behaviour relating to an individual or group's colour, race, nationality, ethnic or national origins, sex, sexual orientation, religion, age or disability; and
- (c) no advertising or other marketing material is permitted on the court, net, strap, band, net posts or singles sticks except as provided in the Rules of Tennis.

3.5 Organising Committees of LTA Official Competitions must co-operate fully with the LTA and any third parties in relation to the exercise of any commercial rights relating to the competition.

3.6 Organising Committees of LTA Official Competitions must notify the LTA of all existing and prospective sponsorship arrangements (or other similar arrangements of a commercial nature) when creating the competition using the online Competition Creation tool pursuant to paragraph 3.2(a), above, or as soon as such arrangements are agreed, whichever is the earlier.

#### Entry information

3.7 Where an entry form is issued by the Organising Committee, the entry form must include certain entry information, i.e. a section containing relevant competition information (to be retained by the Player) and a section for Player information (to be completed by the Player and returned to the

entry secretary of the competition).

3.8 Unless otherwise communicated by the LTA, the following competition information must be made available to all Players in the competition, either in the entry form (including online entry) or in a fact sheet (template available at <http://www.lta.org.uk/volunteers-officials/Organiser-Officials-Resources/>) that is specified to all Players to be available on request, before any entries are accepted:

- (a) notification that all Players playing in the competition must:
  - (i) hold British Tennis Membership; and
  - (ii) with the exception of competitions carrying World Ranking points, ITF Senior ranking points, ITF Junior ranking points or Tennis Europe ranking points, have a current Rating (see paragraph 6.1);
- (b) the name, dates and address of the venue for the competition;
- (c) the competition and event grades;
- (d) the telephone number of the competition venue and/or the competition Referee;
- (e) the names of the members of the Organising Committee, the competition Referee and, where applicable, the assistant competition Referee(s);
- (f) a list of all the events to be held (including those that may have a qualifying draw, structured playback or a play-off for places) and, for consolation draws, whether entry is compulsory;
- (g) any minimum and/or maximum numbers of Players who may play in an event at the competition;
- (h) the basis for selection where there is a maximum number of Players who may play in an event and the event is oversubscribed with entries (see paragraph 3.16) and whether any wild cards may be issued;

- (i) any maximum number of competition events that a Player is permitted to enter, and any restrictions on combinations of such events;

**Explanatory note:** *Unless otherwise agreed by the Organising Committee and/or the Referee, a Player may enter a maximum of two singles events and one doubles event in an LTA Official Competition.*

- (j) details of acceptable clothing and footwear (see paragraphs 5.46 to 5.50);
- (k) the anticipated days and times of play (including any times before which the Organising Committee can say that Players in certain events will not be required to attend the competition venue);
- (l) the composition of matches, including number of sets and scoring methods;
- (m) the brand of tennis ball to be used (see paragraph 5.51);
- (n) the number and type of courts to be used, whether floodlights may be used and details of any additional or alternative venues;
- (o) the prizes to be awarded (see paragraphs 5.60 to 5.65);
- (p) the name and address of the entry secretary (to whom entries are to be sent) and the closing date and time for their receipt (including for events where entries will be accepted during the competition, for example, consolation events or doubles events). Certain mandatory timescales apply to all LTA approved Junior and combined competitions Grade 2 to Grade 5 (for full details see 'Planning Your Competition – Mandatory Timescales' at [www.lta.org.uk/volunteers-officials/Organiser-Officials-Resources/](http://www.lta.org.uk/volunteers-officials/Organiser-Officials-Resources/));
- (q) the entry fees and notification that entries submitted without the correct fees may not be accepted;
- (r) any other conditions of entry;

- (s) notification that the Organising Committee has the right to refuse any entry provided such refusal is based on reasonable grounds and is otherwise lawful (see paragraph 3.15);

- (t) the deadline for Withdrawals, which will ordinarily be on the date of the draw but must in any event be after the closing deadline and before the draw itself;

- (u) details of the complaints procedure (see paragraph 8.1);

**Explanatory note:** *Information on the LTA's complaints procedure can be found at [www.lta.org.uk/Footer/about-us/Policies-and-rules/Making-a-Complaint/Complaint/Feedback-Comments-Complaints-and-Suggestions/](http://www.lta.org.uk/Footer/about-us/Policies-and-rules/Making-a-Complaint/Complaint/Feedback-Comments-Complaints-and-Suggestions/)*

- (v) confirmation that the competition is staged or approved by the LTA and will be conducted in accordance with these Regulations (including the LTA Code of Conduct), the Rules of Tennis and the LTA Rules (including the LTA's Disciplinary and Dispute Resolution Procedures, Tennis Anti-Doping Programme and Regulations concerning Match Fixing, Financial Speculation and Betting), all of which will bind the Players and any others who participate in any way in the competition; and
- (w) notification of any variations made to these Regulations pursuant to paragraph 1.1, above, as required by the LTA.

3.9 Unless otherwise communicated by the LTA, to enter an LTA Official Competition a Player must submit to the entry secretary of the competition a signed or electronically validated entry form containing the following information, along with the appropriate entry fee, by the specified closing deadline:

- (a) his/her British Tennis Membership number;

**Explanatory note:** *A Player can sign up for British Tennis Membership by telephone (020 8487 7000) or online ([www.lta.org.uk/Members/Join/](http://www.lta.org.uk/Members/Join/))*

- (b) except when using online entry, his/her Rating and Ranking as at the date of entering the competition;
- (c) an undertaking confirming that the Player has read, and agrees to be bound by and to comply with, the conditions of entry (including the application of these Regulations, the LTA Code of Conduct, the Rules of Tennis and the LTA Rules, including the LTA's Disciplinary and Dispute Resolution Procedures, Tennis Anti-Doping Programme and Regulations concerning Match Fixing, Financial Speculation and Betting), and:
  - (i) consents to emergency medical treatment as may be recommended by appropriately qualified medical personnel including, without limitation, St John's Ambulance;
  - (ii) consents to being involved in any publicity connected with the competition, including media interviews, photographs and TV footage (such consent to include the use of such materials by the LTA to promote the LTA and the sport of tennis), unless the entry secretary or Referee is informed otherwise in writing before the commencement of the competition;
  - (iii) consents to the LTA and/or the competition organiser using the details provided on the entry form to communicate information to the Player about the competition and future competitions and/or events that may be of interest to the Player;
  - (iv) is responsible and accountable for the conduct of his/her coaches, representatives, agents, medical staff, relatives, associates, entourage and/or spectators, and undertakes to ensure that each such person is made aware of and agrees to be bound by and to comply with these Regulations.
  - (v) consents to filming by the LTA Performance Team for the purposes of player development unless the entry secretary or Referee is informed otherwise in writing before the commencement of the competition; and

- (vi) information relating whether the Player has any medical condition which the Referee should be aware of.

In respect of any Player who has yet to reach the age of 18 at the time of signing or electronically validating the undertaking, the undertaking must also be signed or electronically validated by a person with legal responsibility for the Player and his/her emergency contact details must be provided.

**Explanatory note:** For doubles events, each Player in a doubles pair must submit an entry form in accordance with this paragraph 3.9.

#### Overlapping competitions

##### 3.10

- (a) Subject to the exception below and to paragraphs 3.11 to 3.13, below, a Player may enter and play in events (including qualifying draws) in different competitions where the dates for those events (as published on the relevant competition information page(s) on the LTA Website) overlap.
 

**Explanatory note:** For example, if a 16&U event in competition A runs from Sunday to Wednesday and a 14&U event in competition B runs from Wednesday to Saturday in the same week, the dates for those events overlap; the dates will also overlap where the event in competition A finishes on the Wednesday morning and the event in competition B does not start until the Wednesday afternoon.

*For the avoidance of doubt, at each LTA Official Competition the Referee is responsible for the scheduling of matches and is under no obligation to accommodate scheduling requests from Players to enable them to play in overlapping events (see paragraph 5.6(e), below). Accordingly, while entering overlapping events is permitted, Players should be aware of the risks if matches are scheduled at times that, for example, make Withdrawal inevitable.*

- (b) 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.

**Explanatory note:** If a 12U Grade 3 Winter Regional Tour weekend competition is taking place on a Saturday and Sunday a player may not enter another 12U Grade 3 Winter Regional Tour competition taking place that weekend. However, this player may enter a 14U Grade 3 Winter Regional Tour competition and/or a grade 4 Winter County Tour competition taking place on the same weekend. Following publication of acceptances the player would have to withdraw from all but one of the competitions entered before the respective withdrawal deadlines in order to avoid penalty.

- 3.11 Notwithstanding section 4, below (which will apply in any event), and subject to paragraph 3.13, below, and to any written dispensation granted in advance by the LTA's Officiating Development Manager (which will be granted only in exceptional circumstances), if a Player, in order to play in an overlapping event:

- (a) Withdraws from an event after having started a match in that event;
- (b) fails to appear at an event ready and prepared to play without having Withdrawn;
- (c) retires during an event; and/or
- (d) gives a walkover during an event;

he/she will lose all Ranking points obtained from all of the overlapping events and may incur further disciplinary action in accordance with paragraph 9.1, below.

**Explanatory note:** In order to illustrate the application of this provision, a number of examples are set out below.

*If an event starts on a Sunday and the Withdrawal deadline is 9am on the preceding Wednesday, a Player who Withdraws (in order*

*to play in an overlapping event) at 12 noon on the Wednesday will incur two Withdrawal Points (pursuant to paragraph 4.1(a), below). If that Player were instead to Withdraw (in order to play in an overlapping event) after having started a match in the event (for example, on the Sunday afternoon), he/she will incur three Withdrawal Points (pursuant to paragraph 4.1(a), below) and will lose all Ranking points from the two events and may incur further disciplinary action in accordance with paragraph 9.1, below.*

*If an event in competition A runs from Sunday to Wednesday and an event in competition B runs from Tuesday to Saturday in the same week, a Player who Withdraws from competition A (in order to play in competition B) after having started a match in competition A will incur three Withdrawal Points (pursuant to paragraph 4.1(a), below) and will lose all Ranking points from the two events and may incur further disciplinary action in accordance with paragraph 9.1, below. In contrast, if that Player were instead to Withdraw from competition B (in order to continue playing in competition A) before having started a match in competition B, he/she will not lose Ranking points or incur further disciplinary action in accordance with paragraph 9.1, below.*

*A Player who Withdraws from a compulsory consolation draw (in order to play in an overlapping event) after having started a match in the event (which, in this context, means having started a match in the main draw that preceded the consolation draw) will incur three Withdrawal Points (pursuant to paragraph 4.1(a), below) and will lose all Ranking points from the two events and may incur further disciplinary action in accordance with paragraph 9.1, below.*

*A Player who fails to appear at an event without having Withdrawn will incur five Withdrawal Points (pursuant to paragraph 4.1(b) below), but if that Player were to have failed to appear at the event after starting a match in that competition without having Withdrawn in order to play in an overlapping event, he/she will incur five Withdrawal Points*

and will lose all Ranking points from the two events and may incur further disciplinary action in accordance with paragraph 9.1, below.

3.12 Where a Player Withdraws from an event after having started a match, fails to appear at an event ready and prepared to play without having Withdrawn, retires during an event, and/or gives a walkover during an event, and the Player has entered and/or played in (or goes on to enter and/or play in) an overlapping event, there will be a rebuttable presumption that the Player Withdrew/failed to appear/retired/gave a walkover in order to play in the overlapping event.

**Explanatory note:** In such circumstances, the LTA will deduct Ranking points pursuant to paragraph 3.11, above, unless the Player is able to demonstrate to the LTA that his/her Withdrawal/failure to appear/retirement/walkover was not in order to play in an overlapping event.

### 3.13 Exceptions:

- (a) Where a Player is in the qualifying draw of a pro event (Aegon GB Pro-Series, ITF Pro-Circuit, ATP/WTA Tour) he/she may enter and play in an Aegon British Tour event in the same week provided that he/she has lost in the qualifying draw of the pro event before playing in the Aegon British Tour event. If the Player qualifies for the main draw of the pro event, he/she must Withdraw from the Aegon British Tour event, which Withdrawal will not incur Withdrawal Points or result in the loss of Ranking points or further disciplinary action pursuant to paragraph 3.11, above.
- (b) If a Player is required to represent his/her country, county, area, club, school or university during a competition, the Player may do so provided that he/she obtains the written approval of the competition Referee. Where such permission is granted, the Player will not incur Withdrawal Points or lose Ranking points or incur further disciplinary action pursuant to paragraph 3.11, above. Where such permission is not granted, a Player

may appeal to the LTA at [officiatingsupport@lta.org.uk](mailto:officiatingsupport@lta.org.uk)

### Acceptance of entries

3.14 Subject to paragraph 3.15, below, entries submitted in accordance with paragraph 3.9, above, will be accepted by the Organising Committee in order, using all available information at the closing deadline, based on the following: World Rankings, ITF Senior rankings, ITF Junior rankings, Tennis Europe rankings, Ratings, Rankings and (for Mini Tennis only) Recent Form. Acceptances for Mini Tennis Red competitions are drawn by lot for players of the same rating.

**Explanatory note:** The order in which entries are accepted will differ according to, among other things, the grade and age group of the competition. For example, for Yellow Ball competitions graded 3 to 5, entries will be accepted according to Rating then Ranking. Further information on acceptance can be found at [www.lta.org.uk/CompetitionRegulations](http://www.lta.org.uk/CompetitionRegulations) The LTA may, at its discretion, opt to change the order of criteria for acceptance at any time by publicising such change.

3.15 The Organising Committee has the right to refuse any entry provided such refusal is based on reasonable grounds and is otherwise lawful.

3.16 Where there is a maximum number of Players who may play in an event and the event is oversubscribed, subject to compliance with the basis for selection that was set out by the Organising Committee pursuant to paragraph 3.8(h), above, the surplus entries may be placed onto a reserve list or, where notified in the competition information pursuant to paragraph 3.8, above, into a qualifying draw, in the same order as set out pursuant to paragraph 3.14, above.

3.17 Entries that are not signed or electronically validated, that do not contain the required details and/or that are not accompanied by the appropriate entry fee may not be accepted.

3.18 Save for entries from Players who would, pursuant to paragraph 3.31, below, be seeded (which cannot be accepted as late entries), entries received after the closing deadline may be accepted at the discretion of the Organising Committee. Such entries that are accepted before the draw has been made will go into the draw in the usual way; such entries that are accepted after the draw has been made (whether they were received before or after the draw was made) may be included in the draw at the discretion of the competition organiser or will otherwise join the bottom of the reserve list.

**Explanatory note:** A Player accepted as a late entrant who subsequently moves into a seeded position will be included in the draw.

3.19 If an event in a competition graded 1 to 5 has fewer than five entries as at the closing deadline (and no Ranking points are therefore available pursuant to paragraph 6.3, below), the entry secretary or the Referee must notify the relevant Players and inform them of their right to Withdraw pursuant to paragraph 4.19, below. For the avoidance of doubt, where such notification is not provided the application of paragraph 6.3 is unaffected i.e. it will remain the case that no Ranking points will be available for the event.

### Wild Cards

3.20 Subject to paragraph 3.21, below, the Organising Committee may, at its discretion, award places in a draw for Wild Card entries prior to the draw (if no such places are awarded, such places will be allocated to Players on the reserve list).

**Explanatory note:** Further information on Wild Cards, including the LTA's Wild Card Allocation Policy for LTA staged events, can be found at [www.lta.org.uk/players-parents/Competition/Resources---wild-card-information/](http://www.lta.org.uk/players-parents/Competition/Resources---wild-card-information/)

3.21 Except where otherwise provided in writing by the LTA, Wild Cards may be awarded for an event up to a maximum of one place in eight

(for example, up to four Wild Cards in a draw of 32).

3.22 Wild Card entries may be seeded.

### Refund of entry fees

3.23 Subject to paragraph 3.24, below, a Player's entry fee will not be refunded unless:

- (a) the Player is not accepted for the event that he/she applied to enter, or is accepted as a reserve and is not called upon to play;
- (b) the Player Withdraws from the event before the Withdrawal deadline or otherwise in compliance with the relevant provision of the competition conditions;
- (c) the Player Withdraws on reasonable grounds, as determined by the Organising Committee (which determination will be final and binding on all parties and no one will have the right to appeal against or otherwise challenge it); or
- (d) the event is cancelled for any reason before the Player has started a match in the event and the player has not withdrawn prior to the decision to cancel the event;

in which case the Player's entry fee will be refunded in full.

3.24 A Player's entry fee will not be refunded if the Player has started a match in the event. Requests for refunds of entry fees by a Player must be made within 30 days of the conclusion of the competition.

### The draw

3.25 The order in which Players will play one another in each LTA Official Competition will be determined by a draw. The draw (including when TTP is used) will be conducted by the competition Referee (or, in exceptional circumstances and with the approval of the Organising Committee, by the Referee's designee).

3.26 For events in competitions graded 1 to 5, the draw will be conducted using one of the methods set out in Appendix Three as determined by the Organising Committee and/ or the Referee.

3.27 Prior to making the draw, the Referee (or his/ her designee pursuant to paragraph 3.25, above) must obtain details of the Wild Cards from the Organising Committee and consult with the Organising Committee to determine the final entry list, the seedings and any other relevant information.

3.28 For competitions using TTP, the Organising Committee must arrange for the appropriate information from the TTP file (including the dates and start times of first matches) to be published through <http://lta.tournamentsoftware.com/> as soon as reasonably practicable.

**Seeding**

3.29 Save as expressly agreed in writing by the LTA Competitions Team, all seeding in LTA Official Competitions will be carried out in accordance with paragraphs 3.30 to 3.34, below.

3.30 The Organising Committee will determine whether or not an event in an LTA Official Competition is to be seeded. Where such an event is to be seeded, the selection of seeds will be conducted by the Organising Committee or its designee (which may be a sub-committee appointed to conduct such selection or the Referee).

3.31 The selection of seeds will be carried out according to merit, using the most recent information, in order based on the following: World Rankings, ITF Senior rankings, ITF Junior rankings, Tennis Europe rankings, Ratings, Rankings and (for Mini Tennis only) Recent Form.

**Explanatory note:** The order in which seeds are selected will differ according to, among other things, the grade and age group of the competition. For example, for Yellow Ball competitions graded 3 to 5, seeding

will be carried out according to Rating then Ranking. “Most recent” will usually mean the information as at the withdrawal deadline. Further information on seeding can be found at [www.lta.org.uk/CompetitionRegulations](http://www.lta.org.uk/CompetitionRegulations)

3.32 Where a traditional draw, a qualifying draw or a progressive draw is used, the seeds will be placed in accordance with Appendix Three.

3.33 The decisions of the Organising Committee (or its designee) on seeding will be final and binding on all parties (including all relevant Players) and no one will have the right to appeal against or otherwise challenge such decisions.

3.34 The maximum number of seeds in an event will be as follows:

Draw size	Max number of seeds
0-3	0
4-8	2
9-16	4
17-32	8
33-64	16
65-128	32

**Byes**

3.35 A Bye is where a Player advances automatically to the next round of the draw without being drawn to play a match.

3.36 If Byes are required in a traditional draw, the number of Byes is calculated by subtracting the number of entries from the draw size.

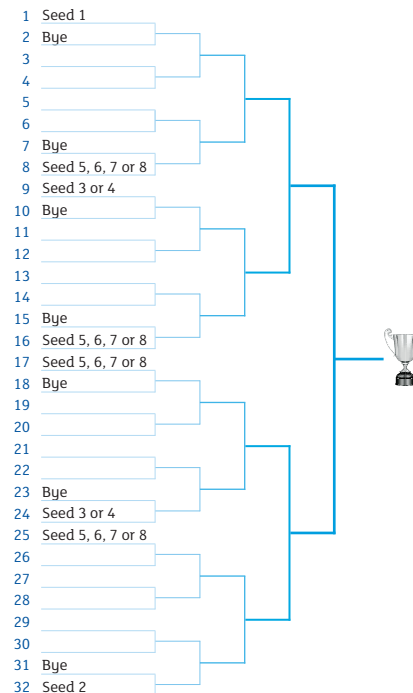
3.37 Byes will be allotted to the seeded Players in the order of seeding. Any remaining Byes will be allotted evenly throughout the draw.

**Unseeded Players**

3.38 Once the seeds and Byes have been placed in the draw, the remaining entries (including qualifiers and Wild Cards) will be drawn by lot for the remaining positions, from top

to bottom, save that, where reasonably practicable, Players from the same county and/ or club may be separated in the first round.

**Example of placing seeds and byes**



**Lucky Losers**

3.39 Subject to paragraphs 3.41 and 3.42, below, Lucky Losers are Players who have lost in the final round of a qualifying draw.

3.40 If Lucky Losers are required to participate in the main draw of an event, they will be drawn randomly in descending order of Ratings divisions i.e. all Players in division 5 will be drawn randomly, then all Players in division 6, and so on (see Appendix Five).

3.41 If additional Lucky Losers are required to participate in the main draw of an event, they will be drawn from the Players who lost in the previous round(s) of the qualifying draw in

the same manner as set out in paragraph 3.40, above.

3.42 A Player who Withdraws during a qualifying draw may not be a Lucky Loser in the main draw.

3.43 A Player who retires from a match in a qualifying draw due to sickness or injury may be selected as a Lucky Loser if he/she has sufficiently recovered.

**Onsite Alternates**

Players who have not entered who appear at the tournament site to sign-in with the Referee on the first day of the competition to fill any vacancies in the draw are referred to as onsite alternates. Sign-in for onsite alternates closes half an hour before the published time for the start of play and onsite alternates may only be accepted if they would not be seeded. Entered players and reserves have priority for acceptance over onsite alternates and, in the event of more than one onsite alternate, they will be grouped together in divisions and drawn by lot to determine acceptance.

**Omissions**

3.44 If, before any match is started in an event, it is discovered that a valid entry has been omitted from the draw due to an administrative error:

- (a) if the omitted Player would otherwise have been seeded, the position of the seeds will be changed, with the omitted Player taking the relevant place in the seeding list and the lowest seed becoming an unseeded entry; where the event is oversubscribed, the new unseeded entry will take the place of the Player last accepted pursuant to paragraph 3.14, above, and where reasonably practicable a preliminary round may be played between the Players that were last and second-to-last accepted, with the winner proceeding to the draw and receiving Ranking points according to the round reached, including first round (if not reasonably practicable, the new unseeded entry will simply take the place of the Player last accepted pursuant to paragraph 3.14, above); and



- (b) if the omitted Player would otherwise have been unseeded;
- (i) if Byes exist in the first round against unseeded Players, the omitted Player will replace one of those Byes, to be decided by lot;
- (ii) if only seeded Players are receiving Byes in the first round, the omitted Player will replace the Bye against the lowest seed; and
- (iii) if no Byes exist in the first round and there have been no Withdrawals up to the time of discovery of the omission, where reasonably practicable a preliminary round may be played between the omitted Player and the Player last accepted pursuant to paragraph 3.14, above, with the winner proceeding to the draw and receiving Ranking points according to the round reached, including first round (if not reasonably practicable, the omitted Player will simply take the place of the Player last accepted pursuant to paragraph 3.14, above).

3.45 Except as set out in paragraph 4.17, below, no modification may be made to a draw (including the inclusion of omitted Players) once any match in the draw has started.

3.46 Errors on a published acceptance list which are discovered before the draw has been made must be corrected and the acceptance list must be re-published.

#### 4. WITHDRAWING FROM AN LTA OFFICIAL COMPETITION

4.1 Except in relation to Red Ball tennis (in which Withdrawal Points will not be incurred) and subject to paragraphs 3.13 and 4.19, in respect of an LTA Official Competition, a Player (including a Player who is on the reserve list for an event) who:

- (a) Withdraws from the competition after the Withdrawal deadline specified in the competition information pursuant to paragraph 3.8, above (which includes Withdrawing during the competition); or
- (b) fails to appear at the competition venue

ready and prepared to play in his/her relevant matches without having Withdrawn (for the avoidance of doubt, in respect of a Player on the reserve list this will only apply where that Player has been called upon to play);

will incur the following automatic Withdrawal Points:

Conduct	Withdrawal Points
Withdrawal in the period between the Withdrawal deadline and 8:00pm on the day before the start of the event.	2
Withdrawal in the period between 8.00pm on the day before the start of the event and the end of the event.	3
Failing to appear at the competition for each match without having Withdrawn.	5

**Explanatory note:** Pursuant to paragraphs 4.2(e) and 5.16, below, if a Player is not ready to play within 15 minutes after his/her match has been called, that Player may be deemed to have failed to appear by the Referee and, if so, will incur five Withdrawal Points. In practice, it is anticipated that Referees will be pragmatic and, before deeming that a Player has failed to appear, will consider all relevant factors including, for example, whether the Player has made any attempt to notify the Referee that he/she will be arriving late and of the time when he/she is likely to be ready to play; whether the Player's match can be easily rescheduled without disruption to the competition; whether the Referee is satisfied that the Player has done all he/she reasonably can to be ready to play on time; whether the Player's notification should in fact be treated as a Withdrawal.

4.2 For the avoidance of doubt:

- (a) if a Player Withdraws from or fails to appear at a competition in which he/she had entered more than one event, he/she will incur only one set of Withdrawal Points pursuant to paragraph 4.1, above. Withdrawal points are

applicable in compulsory consolation events and also if players have opted-in to play the consolation event;

- (b) where a doubles pair Withdraws from or fails to appear at a competition, both Players in the doubles pair will incur Withdrawal Points pursuant to paragraph 4.1, above, unless it is made clear to the Organising Committee and/or the Referee at the time of the Withdrawal or the failure to appear that the Withdrawal/failure to appear is solely due to only one of the Players (in which case only that Player will incur Withdrawal Points);
- (c) a Player who retires during a match (after the first serve of the first point has been struck) due to sickness or injury or who is ruled by the Referee to be unable to compete due to serious sickness or injury pursuant to paragraph 5.40, below, will not incur Withdrawal Points (and will also not incur Withdrawal Points if, as a result of that retirement or ruling, he/she is unable to participate further in the event or in other events in the same competition);

**Explanatory note:** A Player who retires during a match against another Player with a lower Rating will, however, incur a qualifying loss for Ratings purposes pursuant to paragraph 1.8(c) of Appendix Five.

**Explanatory note:** A Player who receives a retirement during a match against another Player with the same or higher rating will receive a qualifying win in the rating run.

- (d) a Player who Withdraws from a competition as a result of being suspended (i.e. where a Player was accepted for a competition and subsequently suspended for a period covering the competition) will not incur Withdrawal Points for that Withdrawal;
- (e) a Player on the reserve list may decline to play if called upon in the 24 hours prior to the start of the relevant event and will not incur Withdrawal Points for doing so; and
- (f) the Referee will submit details of Withdrawals

and failures to appear to the LTA pursuant to paragraphs 5.57 and 5.58 and, subject to paragraphs 4.7 and 4.8, below, it will be for the Referee and/or the Organising Committee to determine whether and when a Player has Withdrawn and whether a Player has failed to appear.

- 4.3 Where a Player incurs Withdrawal Points, the LTA will notify the Player by email as soon as reasonably practicable, and the Withdrawal Points will be shown in the Player's profile in the members' area of the LTA Website.
- 4.4 A Player may only challenge the imposition of Withdrawal Points:
  - (a) where such imposition was a result of the Player having been wrongly identified as the offending Player ('mistaken identity'); and/or
  - (b) where the Player can show exceptional circumstances.
- 4.5 If a Player wishes to challenge the imposition of Withdrawal Points pursuant to paragraph 4.4, above, the Player must provide written notice of the challenge, with details of the evidence that will be provided in support of the challenge, to the LTA Disciplinary Officer within 72 hours of receipt of the notification of the Withdrawal Points pursuant to paragraph 4.3, above (see paragraph 10.6, below, for contact details). For the avoidance of doubt, unless the Player notifies the LTA Disciplinary Officer (and provides details of the relevant evidence) pursuant to this paragraph, the Player will not be entitled to challenge the imposition of Withdrawal Points during the course of any subsequent disciplinary proceedings.
- 4.6 Upon receipt of any such notification, the LTA Disciplinary Officer will obtain comments thereon of any person(s) that the LTA Disciplinary Officer deems appropriate. Copies of such comments will be sent to the Player.
- 4.7 The LTA Disciplinary Officer may at his/her discretion investigate any challenge to the imposition of Withdrawal Points and, where

he/she (a) is satisfied that the challenge should be upheld, and (b) considers it appropriate to deal with the matter without the need for it to be determined by the Disciplinary Panel pursuant to paragraph 4.8, below, may adjust the Player's Withdrawal Points record accordingly. However, the LTA Disciplinary Officer will only investigate such challenges in very exceptional cases; in the vast majority of cases the notification of Withdrawal Points and, where applicable, notification of the Player's challenge and any comments thereon will be kept on file by the LTA Disciplinary Officer and considered pursuant to paragraph 4.8, below.

4.8 Subject to paragraph 4.12, below, when a Player accumulates ten Withdrawal Points within any rolling 12-month period:

(a) where the Player has not challenged the imposition of any of those Withdrawal Points pursuant to paragraph 4.5, above, the Player will receive an automatic suspension of:

(i) three weeks, for a first application of this paragraph; or

(ii) four weeks, for the second application of this paragraph in relation to the same 12-month period;

(iii) five weeks, for the third application of this paragraph in relation to the same 12-month period; and

(iv) six weeks, for subsequent applications of this paragraph in relation to the same 12-month period

and the LTA will notify the Player accordingly; and

(b) where the Player has challenged any of those Withdrawal Points pursuant to paragraph 4.5, above, the LTA Disciplinary Officer will refer the matter to the Disciplinary Panel for consideration pursuant to paragraph 4 (or its successor) of the LTA's Disciplinary and Dispute Resolution Procedures. If the challenge(s) are not upheld, the Disciplinary

Panel will impose the suspensions set out in paragraph 4.8(a)(i) and (ii), above. If the challenge(s) are upheld, the Player's Withdrawal Points record will be adjusted accordingly.

**Explanatory note:** For example, if a Player has accumulated nine (unchallenged) Withdrawal Points between 1 January 2013 and 30 September 2013, and then incurs a further three (unchallenged) Withdrawal Points on 1 October 2013, making 12 Withdrawal Points in total, he/she will receive an automatic suspension of three weeks pursuant to paragraph 4.8(a)(i), above (for the accumulation of ten Withdrawal Points within a 12-month period). He/she will effectively begin another 12-month period on 1 October 2013 and will be treated as having incurred two Withdrawal Points on that day (i.e. the two points that did not count towards the ten for the purposes of paragraph 4.8(a)(i)). And if he/she incurs a further eight (unchallenged) Withdrawal Points before 31 December 2013 (making a total of 20 Withdrawal Points in the original 12-month period, 1 January – 31 December 2013), he/she will receive a further automatic suspension of four weeks pursuant to paragraph 4.8(a)(ii), above.

4.9 In determining when the period of suspension will commence, the LTA or Disciplinary Panel (as the case may be) will take into consideration all playing consequences of the suspension and will exclude any periods of inactivity for the Player and any periods in which the Player is not fit, available and expected to play so as to ensure that the suspension is effective and meaningful. However, in order to avoid disruption to other competitions, any suspension imposed will not ordinarily commence before the third Monday following the accrual of the tenth Withdrawal Point or the determination of the Disciplinary Panel (as the case may be). If the suspension date starts during a competition, a Player is not permitted to play in that competition, even if part of the competition takes place outside of the suspension dates.

4.10 The decision of the Disciplinary Panel on any

challenge pursuant to paragraph 4.8, above, may be appealed by the Player and/or by the LTA Disciplinary Officer in accordance with paragraphs 5 and 10 (or their successors) of the LTA's Disciplinary and Dispute Resolution Procedures. For the avoidance of doubt, there is no right of appeal in relation to the determination as to when the period of suspension will commence.

4.11 The LTA may publish the decisions of the Disciplinary Panel and Appeals Committee made pursuant to paragraphs 4.8 and 4.10, above (or a summary thereof), and details of suspensions imposed pursuant to paragraphs 4.8 and 4.10, above (including details of the Withdrawal Points received).

4.12 In any case where a Player incurs Withdrawal Points pursuant to paragraph 4.1, above, the LTA may elect not to count such Withdrawal Points for the purpose of the aggregation pursuant to paragraph 4.8, above, but instead to deal with the matter under the LTA's Disciplinary and Dispute Resolution Procedures.

**Explanatory note:** It is anticipated that this discretion is more likely to be exercised for particularly serious incidents or for repeated incidents of a similar nature.

4.13 A Player who Withdraws from an event at any stage, or who fails to appear at the competition venue ready and prepared to play in his/her relevant matches without having Withdrawn, is ineligible to participate in a consolation draw relating to that event (the Referee may at his/her discretion, in exceptional circumstances, allow a Player to play in a consolation draw in the event). A Player who retires during a match due to sickness or injury or who is ruled by the Referee to be unable to compete due to serious sickness or injury pursuant to paragraph 5.40, below, may participate in other events in the competition (including a consolation draw relating to that event) provided he/she is sufficiently recovered.

4.14 If two or more of the top four seeded Players

Withdraw after the draw has been made but before any match in the event has started, the Organising Committee may decide to conduct a new draw pursuant to paragraph 3.25, above.

4.15 If one or more seeded Players Withdraw before any match in the event has started, if reasonably practicable (a) the selection of seeds may be revised (as set out in the table, below), (b) the seeded positions that are vacated will be filled by previously unseeded Players, selected in the same order as set out pursuant to paragraph 3.31, above, and (c) the unseeded positions that are then vacated will be filled by Players on the reserve list or, if after the start of the qualifying draw, by Lucky Losers.

Seed Withdrawing	Replacement seed
1	2
2	3
3-4	5
5-8	9
9-16	17
17-32	33

4.16 If a Wild Card entry Withdraws from a competition, the Organising Committee may allocate the place to another Wild Card entry if the draw has not been made. Once the draw has been made the space in the draw created by the Wild Card Withdrawal may only be filled by a Lucky Loser where a qualifying event has been played, pursuant to paragraph 4.17, below, or the next person on the Reserve list if there is no qualifying event.

4.17 A Player who Withdraws from an event before he/she has started a match may be replaced by a Player on the reserve list or by a Lucky Loser from a qualifying draw, provided that such replacement Player would not have been seeded; a Player of seeding standard may not replace a Withdrawing Player. A Player who has started a match in an event may not be replaced. For the avoidance of doubt, when replacing a Player there is no obligation

to separate Players from the same county and/or club (even where such separation has been applied to the original draw pursuant to paragraph 3.38, above).

4.18 If one member of a doubles pair Withdraws before the draw has been made, the remaining Player from the Withdrawn pair may find a replacement partner, but the pair so formed will be treated as a new entry. If one member of a doubles pair Withdraws after the draw has been made, the whole pair will be replaced by the next pair on the reserve list.

4.19 If an event in a competition graded 1 to 5 has fewer than five entries as at the closing deadline (and no Ranking points are therefore available pursuant to paragraph 6.3, below), all Players have the right to Withdraw from the event up until 8:00pm on the day before the start of the competition (and such Withdrawal will not incur Withdrawal Points).

4.20 In a draw of only five Players, if a Player Withdraws after the draw has been made, although that Player will not participate in the competition, he/she must not be removed from the draw in TTP unless replaced. Ranking points will be awarded.

## 5. PARTICIPATING IN AN LTA OFFICIAL COMPETITION

### Player eligibility

5.1 In order for a Player to be eligible to participate in an LTA Official Competition (whether in a singles or a doubles event), the following criteria must be satisfied:

- (a) the Player must hold British Tennis Membership;

**Explanatory note:** A Player can sign up for British Tennis Membership by telephone (020 8487 7000) or online ([www.lta.org.uk/Members/Join/](http://www.lta.org.uk/Members/Join/))

- (b) with the exception of competitions carrying World Ranking points, ITF Senior ranking points, ITF Junior ranking points or Tennis

Europe ranking points, the Player must have a current Rating;

- (c) the Player must be in the correct competition age group, as specified in the competition information pursuant to paragraph 3.8, above; and
- (d) the Player's entry must have been properly completed and accepted pursuant to paragraphs 3.14 to 3.19, above.

**Explanatory note:** The regulations on national and area eligibility are set out in the LTA Rules.

5.2 The LTA, any County Association and/or the Organising Committee have the right at any point to demand assistance, further information and/or documents relating to the eligibility of any Players. All persons (including Players) and entities must comply promptly with all such demands.

5.3 Any breach of paragraph 5.1, above (i.e. any Player participating in an LTA Official Competition without having met the criteria set out in paragraph 5.1, above), will be referred to the Organising Committee and the LTA Disciplinary Officer. The Organising Committee will have the power to disqualify the ineligible Player from the competition; the LTA will have the power to amend the results of any matches played by the ineligible Player in the competition and/or to take any action it considers appropriate pursuant to the LTA's Disciplinary and Dispute Resolution Procedures.

### Referee

5.4 For each LTA Official Competition graded 1 to 7, the person appointed as Referee by the Organising Committee pursuant to paragraph 3.2(e), above, must:

- (a) be an LTA Licensed Official with a Referee grade; or
- (b) for grade 6 and 7 competitions only, be an LTA licensed or registered coach, or have

completed a competition organiser course or the LTA's Basic Referee Course.

For the avoidance of doubt, where a person appointed as Referee does not meet the criteria set out in this paragraph 5.4, while that will constitute a failure to comply with this paragraph 5.4 (and paragraph 3.2(e), above) by the relevant Organising Committee, the person appointed will nevertheless be treated as a Referee for the purposes of these Regulations, and the failure to comply with this paragraph 5.4 (and paragraph 3.2(e), above) will not affect the powers granted to him/her pursuant to these Regulations (including, without limitation, the power to impose Code Violations and defaults pursuant to Appendix Six, below).

**Explanatory note:** Further information on becoming a Referee can be found at [www.lta.org.uk/volunteers-officials/Becoming-a-Referee/](http://www.lta.org.uk/volunteers-officials/Becoming-a-Referee/)

5.5 Where reasonably practicable, a person must not accept an appointment as Referee at any competition in which he/she has a relationship with one (or more) of the Players in the competition that might be considered to give rise to a conflict of interests (for example, a family relationship). Where it is not reasonably practicable to avoid accepting such an appointment, another official will be appointed by the Organising Committee to deal with any issues involving the Player(s) in question. For the avoidance of doubt, where a person appointed as Referee accepts that appointment (or deals with any issues, as the case may be) in circumstances that would constitute a failure to comply with this paragraph 5.5 (and paragraph 3.2(e), above), the person appointed will nevertheless be treated as a Referee (with all relevant powers) for the purposes of these Regulations, and the failure to comply with this paragraph 5.5 (and paragraph 3.2(e), above) will not affect the powers granted to him/her pursuant to these Regulations (including, without limitation, the power to impose Code Violations and defaults pursuant to Appendix Six, below). The Referee may not compete in any event of the

competition in which they are the Referee. Assistant Referees and Court Supervisors may compete in such events but must not officiate or oversee any part of the event in which they are competing.

5.6 In respect of each LTA Official Competition, the Referee will:

- (a) be the final on-site authority for the interpretation of the Rules of Tennis and these Regulations (including the LTA Code of Conduct);
- (b) rule on matters in relation to the interpretation of the Rules of Tennis, at the request of a Chair Umpire or on appeal by a Player from the decision of a Chair Umpire or Court Supervisor (the Referee's decision on matters relating to the interpretation of the Rules of Tennis will be final and binding on all parties and no one will have the right to appeal against or otherwise challenge that decision);
- (c) subject to paragraph 5.12, below, resolve any disputes between Players in matches played without a Chair Umpire;
- (d) be present (or, where not reasonably practicable, ensure an appropriately qualified designee is present) at the competition site at all times during the playing of matches in the competition;
- (e) be responsible for the scheduling of matches in the competition;
- (f) ensure that Players are notified of the conditions of play prior to the commencement of the competition (see paragraphs 5.13 to 5.64, below);
- (g) designate an area in a highly visible part of the competition venue for an official notice board;
- (h) as early as reasonably practicable, plan and publish on the official notice board (and, where reasonably practicable, online) an order of play for each day of the competition (once published, the order of play may only be changed at the discretion of the Referee);

- (i) designate a clock, in a fixed and visible location, to be the official clock for the competition;
  - (j) designate a means by which matches will be called, in accordance with the order of play;
  - (k) ensure that all courts are properly equipped and conform to the specifications set out in the Rules of Tennis and these Regulations;
  - (l) approve the assignment of on-court officials and Court Supervisors and remove, rotate or replace any on-court officials or Court Supervisors where the Referee decides it is necessary to improve the officiating of a match;
  - (m) ensure that on-court officials and ball boys/girls are competent and familiar with the relevant rules and procedures;
  - (n) conduct (or designate the conduct of) the draw in accordance with paragraph 3.25, above;
  - (o) decide whether a court is fit for play, whether a match should be moved to another court and whether or not to postpone a match to another day due to adverse conditions (including, but not limited to, bad weather or venue conditions or for health and safety reasons) pursuant to paragraphs 5.42 to 5.44, below;
  - (p) rule on the acceptability of a Player's clothing and/or equipment pursuant to paragraphs 5.46 to 5.50 and Appendix Four, below;
  - (q) have the authority to grant a Player leave of absence pursuant to paragraph 5.18(b), below;
  - (r) have the authority to order a Player, coach, representative, agent, relative or other associate of a Player to move away from the side of a court and/or leave the competition site;
  - (s) use his/her best endeavours to complete the competition within the scheduled time, including, where necessary, making any changes to the order of play or conditions of play, subject always to the health and safety of the relevant Players and others;
  - (t) use TTP, Results Manager, LP or an Excel spreadsheet to accurately submit results, Code Violations and Withdrawals (and failures to appear) to the LTA within 72 hours of completion of the competition in accordance with paragraphs 5.57 and 5.58, below;
  - (u) be responsible for any investigations and reports in relation to Code Violations, Withdrawals, failures to appear, disciplinary matters and complaints, as required by the LTA;
  - (v) submit such reports (and within the specified timescales) as may be required by the Organising Committee and/or the LTA;
  - (w) not take part as a Player in the competition;
  - (x) ensure that all matches are played fairly and that the competition is conducted in accordance with the Rules of Tennis and these Regulations;
  - (y) in relation to matters for which there is no provision in these Regulations or any other relevant rules or regulations, have a general discretionary power to take such action as he/she considers appropriate; and
  - (z) be bound by these Regulations, the Code of Ethics and Conduct for Licensed Officials and the LTA Rules, including the LTA's Disciplinary and Dispute Resolution Procedures.
- Chair Umpires**
- 5.7 A Chair Umpire may be appointed, at the discretion of the Organising Committee, for one or more matches in an LTA Official Competition.
- 5.8 Persons appointed as Chair Umpires pursuant to paragraph 5.7, above, should, where reasonably practicable be LTA Licensed Officials. For the avoidance of doubt, where a person appointed as Chair Umpire does not meet that criterion, while that will constitute a failure to comply with this paragraph 5.8 by the relevant Organising Committee, the person appointed will nevertheless be

- treated as a Chair Umpire for the purposes of these Regulations, and the failure to comply with this paragraph 5.8 will not affect the powers granted to him/her pursuant to these Regulations (including, without limitation, the power to impose Code Violations pursuant to Appendix Six, below).
- Explanatory note:** Further information on becoming a tennis umpire (including a Chair Umpire) can be found at [www.lta.org.uk/volunteers-officials/Becoming-an-Umpire/](http://www.lta.org.uk/volunteers-officials/Becoming-an-Umpire/)
- 5.9 The Chair Umpire will:
- (a) be the final on-court authority for all questions of fact arising during a match, including making any line or net calls where no line and/or net umpire is assigned (the Chair Umpire's decision on questions of fact will be final and binding on all parties and no one will have the right to appeal against or otherwise challenge that decision);
  - (b) make the first determination on all questions of interpretation of the Rules of Tennis arising during a match, subject to the right of the Chair Umpire to refer the matter to the Referee and the right of a Player to appeal the Chair Umpire's determination to the Referee in accordance with paragraph 5.6, above;
  - (c) delegate duties to line and net umpires (where assigned) and remove, rotate or replace any line and/or net umpires where the Chair Umpire decides it is necessary to improve the officiating of a match. A Chair Umpire may overrule a line and/or net umpire's decision only where the Chair Umpire is certain that a clear mistake has been made and the overruling is done promptly. Where a line and/or net umpire cannot make a decision, the Chair Umpire will make the relevant decision. Where the Chair Umpire cannot make a decision, the point will be replayed;
  - (d) be responsible for all ball mark inspections on clay courts;
  - (e) ensure that the net is at the correct height throughout the match;
  - (f) be responsible for the timing of the warm-up and breaks in play (see paragraphs 5.24 to 5.31, below);
  - (g) announce the score after each point in accordance with LTA procedures;
  - (h) mark an official scorecard during the match in accordance with LTA procedures, and sign and return it to the Referee at the end of the match, along with a report of any Code Violations issued pursuant to the LTA Code of Conduct;
  - (i) use his/her best endeavours to control the spectators and, where the spectators are impeding the progress of the match, address them respectfully and request their cooperation;
  - (j) ensure the appropriate number of tennis balls are provided for the match, including replacement balls (see paragraph 5.51, below);
  - (k) be responsible for ball changes and for determining whether a ball is fit for play (the Chair Umpire will replace any lost balls or balls unfit for play as soon as reasonably practicable);
  - (l) not officiate in any match in which he/she has a relationship with one (or more) of the Players that might be considered to give rise to a conflict of interests (for example, a family relationship);
  - (m) ensure that the match is played fairly and in accordance with the Rules of Tennis and these Regulations; and
  - (n) be bound by these Regulations, the Code of Ethics and Conduct for Licensed Officials and the LTA Rules, including the LTA's Disciplinary and Dispute Resolution Procedures.
- Court Supervisors**
- 5.10 For matches or groups of matches in LTA Official Competitions, Court Supervisors may be appointed by the Organising Committee.

**Explanatory note:** Where a competition is being run on six or more courts with no Chair Umpires, the appointment of Court Supervisors is recommended.

5.11 Persons appointed as Court Supervisors pursuant to paragraph 5.10, above, should, where reasonably practicable, be LTA Licensed Officials or have attended a Court Supervisor course.

**Explanatory note:** Further information on becoming a Referee can be found at [www.lta.org.uk/volunteers-officials/Becoming-a-Referee/](http://www.lta.org.uk/volunteers-officials/Becoming-a-Referee/)

5.12 Court Supervisors will:

- (a) supervise courts as assigned by the Referee, and keep the Referee informed of progress on those courts, of any need for the Referee's presence court-side and of any other problems;
- (b) use their best endeavours to control the spectators and, where the spectators are impeding the progress of the match, address them respectfully and request their cooperation;
- (c) resolve any disputes between Players in matches played without a Chair Umpire, subject to the right of the Court Supervisor to refer such disputes to the Referee;
- (d) ensure that the Rules of Tennis and these Regulations (including the LTA Code of Conduct) are observed, and take action in accordance with the LTA Code of Conduct; and
- (e) be bound by these Regulations, the Code of Ethics and Conduct for Licensed Officials and the LTA Rules, including the LTA's Disciplinary and Dispute Resolution Procedures.

#### Conditions of play

5.13 The provisions in paragraphs 5.14 to 5.64 set out the rules that apply to each Player's participation in matches in LTA Official Competitions.

- 5.14 Subject to paragraph 7 of the LTA Code of Conduct, in respect of all LTA Official Competitions:
- (a) each Player must, during all matches and at all times while within the competition site and any official competition residence, comply with the LTA Code of Conduct; and
  - (b) all other persons participating in any way in an LTA Official Competitions (including officials, staff, coaches, representatives, agents, medical staff, relatives and associates of a Player, a Player's entourage and spectators) must, during all matches and at all times while within the competition site and any official competition residence, comply with the LTA Code of Conduct.

#### Player attendance

- 5.15 Each Player must sign the competition attendance sheet (or, where there is no attendance sheet, inform the Referee of his/her arrival) on each day of the competition and will be deemed to be absent unless and until this is done.
- 5.16 Each Player is responsible for ascertaining when he/she is scheduled to play. A Player must present him/herself for play when his/her match is called pursuant to paragraph 5.6(j), above. If a Player is not ready to play within 15 minutes after his/her match has been called, that Player may be deemed to have failed to appear by the Referee (and will incur Withdrawal Points in accordance with paragraph 4.1, above).
- 5.17 If a Player is going to be late for a scheduled match, he/she must telephone the Referee, explain the reason for the lateness and provide an estimated time of arrival. The Referee may, in his/her absolute discretion, delay the start of the match accordingly (in which case the Referee must inform the opposition).
- 5.18 Once a Player has signed in (or informed the Referee of his/her arrival) pursuant to paragraph 5.15, above, he/she may leave the competition site only:

- (a) if he/she has no further matches that day; or
- (b) with the permission of the Referee or (if applicable) assistant Referee.

#### Composition of matches

- 5.19 Matches will be played in accordance with the Rules of Tennis.
- 5.20 The Organising Committee will select the scoring method(s) to be used from those set out in the Rules of Tennis save that, where the Organising Committee has determined that the Players will play deciding match tie-breaks when they have reached one set all, the deciding match tie-break may only be played to ten points (and not to seven).

**Explanatory note:** A deciding match tie-break will be counted as a set won or lost by one game to nil and the score will be recorded as in the following examples: 3-6, 6-4, [10-8] (or 3-6, 6-4, 1-0(8) when using TTP); 7-6(3), 6-7(6), [12-10] (or 7-6(3), 6-7(6), 1-0(10) when using TTP).

*Competition formats (including scoring methods) for all age groups and competition grades are set out in Appendix Eight. Further information on timed tennis can be found at [www.lta.org.uk/volunteers-officials/Organiser-Officials-Resources/](http://www.lta.org.uk/volunteers-officials/Organiser-Officials-Resources/)*

#### Scheduling of matches

- 5.21 Except in relation to Mini Tennis:
- (a) where reasonably practicable, Players will be scheduled to play two matches per day; and
  - (b) save in exceptional circumstances, a Player will not be scheduled to play more than two singles and two doubles matches (or, where short sets are being used, more than three singles and two doubles matches) per day.
- 5.22 Subject to paragraph 5.23, below, except in relation to Mini Tennis, where a Player is scheduled to play more than one match per day, the following minimum rest periods will be allowed between singles matches:

- (a) where the Player has played 20 games or fewer: a rest period of 30 minutes;
- (b) where the Player has played more than 20 games: a rest period of 60 minutes; save that where a match has been interrupted for a single period of more than 30 minutes, only those games played following the resumption of play will be counted for the purposes of paragraphs (a) and (b), above.

5.23 The minimum rest periods in paragraph 5.22, above, may be reduced in exceptional circumstances including, but not limited to, where a Player is involved in more than one final, adverse conditions or bad light.

#### Warm-up and breaks in play

**Explanatory note:** A summary of breaks in play can be found after paragraph 5.41, below.

- 5.24 Immediately prior to a match, the Players are entitled to a warm-up period not exceeding five minutes.
- 5.25 If a match is interrupted for reasons beyond the control of the Players, a further warm-up period will be permitted immediately before the restart as follows:  
0 to 15 minutes interruption:  
no further warm-up;  
15 to 30 minutes interruption:  
three minutes further warm-up; and  
30 or more minutes interruption:  
five minutes further warm-up.
- 5.26 Subject to paragraphs 5.27 to 5.45, below, as a general principle play should be continuous from the time the match commences (when the first service is put into play) until the end of the match. Each Player should adopt a reasonable pace of play, and at all relevant times the Player receiving serve must be ready to play each point consistent with the reasonable pace of play adopted by the Player serving.
- 5.27 The following breaks in play are permitted (the maximum time runs from the moment that one point finishes until the first service for the next point is struck):

- (a) A maximum of 20 seconds between points.
- (b) A maximum of 90 seconds when the Players change ends at the end of a game. However, after the first game of each set and during a tie-break game, play will be continuous and the players will change ends without a break.
- (c) A maximum of 2 minutes at the end of each set.

5.28 A Player may only leave the court during a match (including during the warm-up) with the permission of the Chair Umpire. Where no Chair Umpire is appointed, a Player may only leave the court during a match (including during the warm-up) with the permission of the Referee or the Referee's designee, including a Court Supervisor (except where the Referee is not on the court and the Player is calling for the Referee pursuant to paragraph 5.55, below).

5.29 Subject to obtaining the appropriate permission pursuant to paragraph 5.28, above, a Player may leave the court for a reasonable time for a toilet break or (for female Players) a change of attire break as follows:

- (a) a Player is entitled to two such breaks during a singles match. In a doubles match, each doubles pair is entitled to a total of two such breaks;
- (b) toilet breaks should be taken at the end of a set; change of attire breaks may only be taken at the end of a set;
- (c) such breaks may not be used for any purpose other than the use of the toilet or (for female Players) change of attire;
- (d) if a doubles pair leave the court together, that will only count as one of the pair's breaks;
- (e) any time a Player leaves the court for such a break, it will count as a break regardless of whether or not the opposition has left the court for a break; and
- (f) any such break taken after the warm-up has started will count as a break.

5.30 Permission may be given for additional toilet breaks but the relevant Player may be penalised in accordance with paragraph 1(b) of the LTA Code of Conduct if the Player is not ready to play within the time allowed under paragraph 5.27, above.

5.31 Violations of paragraphs 5.24, 5.25 and 5.27, above, will be penalised with a Time Violation (in the first instance by a warning and in each subsequent instance by a one point penalty). However, a Player who refuses to play or who is not ready to play within the allowed time having left the court pursuant to paragraphs 5.28 to 5.30, above, will be penalised in accordance with paragraph 1(b) of the LTA Code of Conduct.

#### *Medical evaluation and treatment during matches*

*Explanatory note: A summary of breaks in play can be found after paragraph 5.41, below.*

5.32 Medical evaluation and treatment of a Player's condition during a match may only be conducted by the competition doctor/trainer. However, if there is no competition doctor/trainer available, a Player may nominate another person to evaluate and treat him/her or may do so him/herself, subject to the Referee or the Referee's designee being called on-court to authorise such evaluation and/or treatment.

5.33 Subject to paragraph 5.35, below, during a match a Player may receive on-court evaluation, treatment and/or supplies but only during breaks at the end of sets and during breaks when the Players change ends at the end of a game (see paragraph 3.27, above), always subject to the permission of the Chair Umpire (or, where no Chair Umpire is appointed, the Referee or the Referee's designee, including a Court Supervisor). In general, permission will not be granted for evaluation and/or treatment on more than two consecutive breaks for each condition.

5.34 If a Player cannot continue playing due to muscle cramping, the Player may concede

points and games in order that a changeover or set break is reached.

5.35 A Player may not receive treatment and/or supplies pursuant to paragraphs 5.33, above, for the following conditions (**Non-Treatable Conditions**):

- (a) any condition that cannot be treated appropriately or that will not be improved by available medical treatment within the time allowed under paragraph 5.33, above;
- (b) any pre-existing condition that has not been aggravated during play;
- (c) general fatigue; or
- (d) any condition requiring injections, intravenous infusions or oxygen (save for diabetes, where injections may be administered off-court).

5.36 In addition to the medical evaluation and treatment referred to in paragraph 5.33, above, during a match (including during the warm-up) a Player is entitled to one medical time-out for each condition of three minutes as follows:

- (a) a Player must make a request for a medical time-out to the Chair Umpire or, where no Chair Umpire is appointed, the Referee or the Referee's designee, including a Court Supervisor;
- (b) where the condition is believed to be acute (i.e. severe), the medical time-out may be taken at any time; where the condition is not believed to be acute, the medical time-out may only be taken at a changeover or set break;
- (c) where a Player's request for a medical time-out is granted, the competition doctor/trainer or such other person as referred to in paragraph 5.32, above, will be called to evaluate and diagnose the medical condition; the medical time-out will begin after such evaluation and diagnosis or as otherwise decided by the Referee or the Referee's

designee, including a Court Supervisor; and

- (d) a Player may not receive a medical time-out for Non-Treatable Conditions or muscle cramping (which may only be treated at a changeover or set break pursuant to paragraph 5.34, above).

5.37 Where there is any doubt over whether a Player's condition is acute, not acute or a Non-Treatable Condition, the determination of the doctor, trainer or such other person as referred to in paragraph 5.32, above (except for the Player him/herself) will be final and binding on all parties and no one will have the right to appeal against or otherwise challenge that determination. Where there is no such person the determination will be made by the Referee or the Referee's designee, including a Court Supervisor.

5.38 If a Player is bleeding, play must be stopped as soon as possible and the Chair Umpire (or, where no Chair Umpire is appointed, the Referee or the Referee's designee, including a Court Supervisor) may allow up to five minutes to control the bleeding. If blood has spilled onto the court or its immediate vicinity, play must not be resumed until the spill has been cleaned.

5.39 A Player who refuses to play or who is not ready to play within the allowed time due to a medical condition or treatment will be penalised in accordance with paragraph 1(b) of the LTA Code of Conduct.

5.40 Either before or during a match, the Referee may rule a Player unable to compete due to serious sickness or injury. This power will only be exercised in exceptional circumstances and the Referee will seek medical advice and any other appropriate information before making a decision.

#### *Procedures in case of adverse conditions*

5.41 It will be for the Referee to decide, due to adverse conditions (including, but not limited to, bad weather or venue conditions or for health and safety reasons), whether or not to

## Summary of Breaks in Play

Break	When available	Maximum time permitted	Maximum number permitted	Permission required
During play	Between points	20 seconds	N/A	No
	Between games when a change of end is required (except after the first game of each set and during a tie-break)	90 seconds	N/A	
	Between sets	Two minutes	N/A	
Toilet break	Should be taken between sets	Reasonable amount of time	A total of two toilet and attire breaks per Player (and in doubles two per pair). Permission may be given for additional breaks but only to be taken during the usual breaks during play (for example, in the two minutes between sets)	Yes
Change of attire break (female Players only)	Between sets			
Medical break (for evaluation, treatment or supplies, but not for Non-Treatable Conditions)	In the 90-second or two-minute breaks in play between sets or between games when a change of end is required	90 seconds/ two minutes	N/A, but permission will not generally be granted for evaluation, treatment or supplies on more than two consecutive breaks for each condition	Yes
Medical timeout (not for Non-Treatable Conditions or muscle cramping)	<i>Acute condition:</i> at any time <i>Non-acute condition:</i> in the 90-second or two-minute breaks in play between sets or between games when a change of end is required	Three minutes (starting after evaluation completed)	One per condition	Yes
Blood break	At any time	Up to five minutes	N/A	Yes

shorten a match by selecting an alternative scoring method as set out in paragraph 5.20, above. However, save in exceptional circumstances, the Referee will not shorten a match (a) once it has started, and (b) unless the entire round of matches of which the relevant match forms part is to be shortened in the same way. Following a decision to shorten a match pursuant to this paragraph, and if time allows, the Referee may decide to revert to the original scoring method for some or all of the remainder of the event, but, save in exceptional circumstances, only if the same scoring method applies to each match in an entire round.

**Explanatory note:** *Competition formats (including scoring methods) for all age groups and competition grades are set out in Appendix Eight.*

- 5.42 A Chair Umpire or the Referee may suspend play if, in his/her opinion, the court is no longer fit for play. A match in which play has been suspended will, if practicable, be resumed on the same court, unless the Referee determines that it is necessary for the match to be moved to another court. The score at the time of suspension will stand upon resumption.
- 5.43 It will be for the Referee to decide whether or not to postpone a match to another day due to adverse conditions (including but not limited to bad weather or venue conditions or for health and safety reasons).
- 5.44 Where, due to bad light, a match is suspended, moved to another court or postponed, where practicable this should be done at the end of a set or after an even number of games in the set in progress.
- 5.45 Where a competition is significantly affected by adverse conditions (including but not limited to bad weather or venue conditions or for health and safety reasons), the Referee may decide, in his/her absolute discretion, to cancel or (if they have already begun) abandon events. Where an event is abandoned, for the purposes of Ranking

points the Players remaining in the event will receive 'losing' Ranking points for the round reached.

**Explanatory note:** *For example, if an event is abandoned after the quarter finals but before the semi-finals, the four remaining Players will receive semi-final losing Ranking points.*

*Clothing and equipment*

- 5.46 When participating in a match, only recognised tennis clothing (including t-shirts) may be worn by a Player, as determined by the Organising Committee and specified in the competition information referred to in paragraph 3.8, above.
- 5.47 A Player may wear warm-up clothing during the warm-up and the Referee may, at his/her discretion, permit warm-up clothing, tracksuits or waterproof clothing of a suitable type to be worn by a Player during a match in adverse weather conditions or for medical reasons.
- 5.48 No footwear may be worn on court that is of a type prohibited by the host venue or that may, in the opinion of the Referee, cause damage to the court surface.
- 5.49 Women may wear compression shorts during a match under a skirt, dress or shorts. Men may wear compression shorts during a match under shorts.
- 5.50 No commercial or other messages, logos, brands or other identifications will be permitted on a Player's clothing, products or equipment on court (including during the warm-up) or at any press conference or competition ceremony, except as set out in Appendix Four. For the avoidance of doubt, no messages, logos, brands or other identifications (a) that are political in nature, (b) that are (or have the potential to be) insulting or offensive in nature, and/or (c) that will (or have the potential to) harm the reputation of the relevant competition, the LTA and/or any of the LTA's commercial partners, will be permitted.

### Tennis balls

5.51 The Organising Committee will:

- (a) in advance of the competition, select the brand of tennis ball (or Mini Tennis ball) to be used from the list of ITF-approved balls in existence from time to time (and identify that brand in the competition information referred to in paragraph 3.8, above);
- (b) in advance of the competition, determine, in consultation with the Referee, the number of balls to be used in each match (to a minimum of three) and the frequency of ball changes (if any) per match; and
- (c) ensure an adequate supply of tennis balls is provided;

such decisions may be altered by the Organising Committee, at the request of the Referee, if conditions render it necessary.

5.52 Mini Tennis green balls may be used for adult competitions graded 6 and 7.

### Court markings

5.53 Courts with multiple sport markings (for example, netball markings) may be used for matches with the permission of the Referee.

5.54 For the avoidance of doubt, if the only other court markings are markings for Mini Tennis, the use of such courts is permitted for matches.

### Matches played without a Chair Umpire

5.55 In matches played without a Chair Umpire:

- (a) each Player or doubles pair is responsible for all calls on his/her/their side of the net;
- (b) “out” and “fault” calls must be made promptly after the ball has bounced and loudly enough for the opposition to hear;
- (c) each Player must, where he/she is in doubt, give the benefit of the doubt to the opposition;

- (d) subject to paragraph 5.55(g), below, if a Player incorrectly calls a “fault” or calls the ball “out” and then realises that the ball was good, the point should be replayed unless it was clearly a point-winning shot (i.e. a shot that the Player could not have successfully returned had he/she known the ball was good) or unless that Player has made one or more incorrect “fault” or “out” calls earlier in the match pursuant to this sub-paragraph, in which case that Player loses the point;
- (e) the server must call the score before each first serve, loudly enough for the opposition to hear;
- (f) if a Player is unhappy with the decisions or actions of the opposition, the Player may call the Referee, the assistant Referee or the Court Supervisor; and

**Explanatory note:** *Where there is a dispute regarding lets, ‘not-ups’ or ‘foul shots’, the Referee, assistant Referee or Court Supervisor should ascertain what has happened and either confirm the call or replay the point, as he/she deems appropriate. Foot faults may only be called by an on-court official and not by the opposition.*

- (g) for matches played on clay courts, a ball mark may be checked on a point-ending shot, or when play is stopped (a reflex return is allowed). If a Player is unsure of the opposition’s call, the Player may ask the opposition to show the ball mark and the Player may cross the net to look at the ball mark. If a Player in those circumstances then erases the ball mark, the Player will be deemed to have conceded the point. If there is disagreement over a ball mark, the Referee, the assistant Referee or the Court Supervisor may be called to make a decision. If a Player incorrectly calls a ball “out” and then realises that the ball was good, that Player loses the point.

5.56 A breach of paragraph 5.55, above, may (among other things) result in the application of the ‘hindrance rule’ (as set out in the Rules of Tennis) and/or may constitute a violation of paragraph 1(j) of the LTA Code of Conduct.

### Results

5.57 For competitions graded 1 to 5 the Referee must use TTP, Results Manager or LP to accurately submit results, Code Violations and Withdrawals (and failures to appear) to the LTA within 72 hours of completion of the competition.

5.58 For competitions graded 6 and 7 the Referee must use TTP or an Excel spreadsheet to accurately submit results, Code Violations and Withdrawals (and failures to appear) to the LTA within 72 hours of completion of the competition.

5.59 TTP and LP files that are submitted incorrectly will be returned to the Referee.

### Prizes

5.60 Prize money will not be offered at any Junior event.

5.61 The value of any one prize offered at a Junior event will not exceed £300.

5.62 Prizes will be distributed as announced in the competition information pursuant to paragraph 3.8, above, unless prior written approval has been obtained from the LTA (which approval will be granted only in exceptional circumstances).

5.63 A Player who is defaulted from an LTA Official Competition pursuant to paragraph 2 or 3 of the LTA Code of Conduct will forfeit any prizes from that competition to which he/she would otherwise be entitled.

5.64 Where a Player has unpaid entry fees, the Organising Committee may decide to deduct those fees from any prize money won by the Player and/or withhold all or a part of any prize won by the Player until the outstanding fees are paid.

5.65 Prize money for competitions abandoned before completion will, provided that at least one Player has reached a stage that qualifies for prize money, be divided among the Players remaining in the competition according to the stage each Player has reached.

### 6. RATING AND RANKING

6.1 A Player’s Rating is based on his/her results in matches played against other Players as set out more particularly in Appendix Five.

6.2 A Player’s Ranking is based on his/her six best competition results in a rolling 12-month period as set out more particularly in Appendix Five.

6.3 Performances in competitions graded 1 to 5 qualify towards a Player’s Rating and Ranking, save where an event has fewer than five entries (where no Ranking points will be available for that event). Performances in competitions graded 6 to 7 qualify towards a Player’s Rating but not Ranking, as set out more particularly in Appendix Five.

### 7. MINI TENNIS

#### General

The following additional regulations apply in relation to Mini Tennis:

7.1 Mini Tennis events may be stand alone (for example, 8&U) or part of a competition with multiple age groups (for example, 8&U, 9&U, 10&U and 12&U), and may be single or mixed gender. For each multi-age group grade 3 Junior competition, the Organising Committee must run an event for each of the Mini Tennis age groups.

7.2 Any seeding in Mini Tennis events will be based on Mini Tennis rating followed by recent form in accordance with paragraphs 3.29 to 3.34, above.

#### Red Ball tennis

7.3 All 8&U events must be played with a red ball (a sponge ball for indoor courts and a felt ball for outdoor courts) on a red size court (**Red Ball**). The dimensions of a red size court are 11-12m x 5-6m with a net height of 80cm. The recommended racket size is up to 58cm (23”).



7.4 Scoring must be a one match tie-break of first to ten points with either two clear points or ‘sudden death’ at nine all, and each point will be played in accordance with the Rules of Tennis. Where reasonably practicable, each match will have a Court Helper to assist with scoring and line/net calls.

**Explanatory note:** Further information on Red Ball tennis, including how to set up red size courts, can be found at [www.lta.org.uk/lta-mini-tennis/](http://www.lta.org.uk/lta-mini-tennis/) and [www.lta.org.uk/volunteers-officials/Organiser-Officials-Resources/](http://www.lta.org.uk/volunteers-officials/Organiser-Officials-Resources/)

#### Orange Ball tennis

7.5 All 9&U events must be played with an orange ball on an orange size court (**Orange Ball**). The dimensions of an orange size court are 18m x 6.5m (or 18m x 8.23m for doubles matches) with a net height of 80cm. The recommended racket size is 58-63cm (23” to 25”).

7.6 Scoring must be the best of three standard tie-breaks (first to seven points with either two clear points or ‘sudden death’ at six all) or one short set to four games. Where reasonably practicable, each match will have a Court Helper to assist with scoring and line/net calls (ordinarily one Court Helper per two courts).

**Explanatory note:** Further information on Orange Ball tennis, including how to set up orange size courts, can be found at [www.lta.org.uk/lta-mini-tennis/](http://www.lta.org.uk/lta-mini-tennis/) and [www.lta.org.uk/volunteers-officials/Organiser-Officials-Resources/](http://www.lta.org.uk/volunteers-officials/Organiser-Officials-Resources/)

#### Green Ball tennis

7.7 All 10&U events must be played with a green ball on a normal size court (**Green Ball**). 10&U doubles matches should be played on a normal size singles court with singles sticks in place (if available). The recommended racket size is 63-66cm (25” to 26”).

7.8 Scoring must be two short sets with a match tie-break or one short set to four games.

**Explanatory note:** Further information on Green Ball tennis can be found at [www.lta.org.uk/lta-mini-tennis/](http://www.lta.org.uk/lta-mini-tennis/)

## 8. COMPLAINTS

8.1 In the event of a complaint in respect of an LTA Official Competition (including in relation to an Organising Committee, Referee, Chair Umpire, line/net umpire, Court Supervisor or coach), a written complaint may be lodged with the LTA at [officiatingsupport@lta.org.uk](mailto:officiatingsupport@lta.org.uk) within 7 days of the occurrence of the situation leading to the complaint. The LTA’s Officiating Development Manager will determine what further action, if any, should be taken, including referring the matter to another party such as ABTO, a club, County Association or Organising Committee and/or the LTA Disciplinary Officer (to be dealt with in accordance with the LTA’s Disciplinary and Dispute Resolution Procedures). For the avoidance of doubt, the results of all matches connected to the complaint will stand in any event.

## 9. NON-COMPLIANCE

9.1 Notwithstanding any other provision in these Regulations:

(a) Where a Player has committed a serious breach of these Regulations and/or of any other conditions of entry of an LTA Official Competition, the Organising Committee may decide to withhold all or a part of any prize (including prize money) won by the Player. Where the Organising Committee decides to withhold any prize pursuant to this paragraph, it will notify the Player and the LTA as soon as practicable. The Player may appeal against the Organising Committee’s decision by giving written notice to the LTA Disciplinary Officer within 28 days of receipt of notification of the decision (see paragraph 10.6, below). The appeal will be dealt with by the Appeals Committee pursuant to the LTA’s Disciplinary and Dispute Resolution Procedures. By entering a competition, a Player is expected to be available to compete

in each part of the event which they progress to. If a Player is unable to start a match or withdraws from a match (including due to a prior commitment), the Organising Committee may decide to withhold all or part of any prize (including any prize money) won by the Player. Where this decision is taken, they will notify the Player as soon as practicable. The Player may appeal against the decision by communicating their decision to appeal with the reasons for the appeal and any evidence that supports the appeal to the LTA Disciplinary Officer (at [ltadiscipline@lta.org.uk](mailto:ltadiscipline@lta.org.uk)) within 72 hours of receipt of the notification of the decision to withhold all or part of the prize.

(b) Where a Player has unpaid competition fees, the LTA, a County Association and/or a competition organiser may prevent that Player from entering any further competitions until the outstanding fees are paid.

(c) In the event of any breach of these Regulations, the LTA may bring disciplinary proceedings in accordance with the LTA’s Disciplinary and Dispute Resolution Procedures.

## 10. MISCELLANEOUS

10.1 These Regulations, and any dispute or claim arising out of or in connection with them (including any dispute or claim relating to non-contractual obligations), will be governed by and construed in accordance with English Law (without regard to the conflict of law principles thereof) and, except where otherwise provided herein, will be subject to the exclusive jurisdiction of the English courts.

10.2 No waiver of any part of these Regulations or of any rights or remedies in respect of any breach of any part of these Regulations will be treated as a waiver of any other part or a future waiver of the same part or as a waiver of rights and remedies in respect of any other breach of any part or any later breach of the same part.

10.3 A failure by one party to comply with its obligations under these Regulations will not justify or excuse (or provide a defence to proceedings brought regarding) another failure by the same or another party.

10.4 Where a matter arises for which provision has not been made in these Regulations, the LTA Main Board will provide for the matter as it sees fit.

10.5 A ruling by a competent authority that any provision of the Regulations is invalid or unenforceable will not affect the legal enforceability of the Regulations as a whole. Instead, such provision will be replaced by the LTA Main Board with a valid and enforceable replacement provision as close as possible in effect to the replaced provision.

10.6 Any communications required to be made to the LTA Disciplinary Officer must be directed to:

The LTA Disciplinary Officer  
The Lawn Tennis Association  
The National Tennis Centre  
100 Priory Lane  
Roehampton  
London SW15 5JQ  
Email: [ltadiscipline@lta.org.uk](mailto:ltadiscipline@lta.org.uk)

10.7 Any questions concerning these Regulations can be addressed to the LTA at:

Competitions Team  
The Lawn Tennis Association  
The National Tennis Centre  
100 Priory Lane  
Roehampton  
London SW15 5JQ  
Email: [competitionsupport@lta.org.uk](mailto:competitionsupport@lta.org.uk)



**Licensed Official** means a member of the LTA Officials Licence Scheme.

**Local Rights** has the meaning given to that term in paragraph 3.4.

**LP** means the League Planner computer programme used to assist in the running of leagues and to facilitate the electronic transfer of results to the LTA.

**LTA** means the Lawn Tennis Association Limited.

**LTA Code of Conduct** means the code set out in Appendix Six.

**LTA Competitions Team** means the team whose details are set out in paragraph 10.7.

**LTA Council** means the Council appointed pursuant to the LTA Rules.

**LTA Disciplinary Officer** means the person appointed by the LTA to perform that role.

**LTA Logo** means the logo set out in Appendix Two or such other logos as notified by the LTA from time to time.

**LTA Main Board** means the Main Board of Management appointed pursuant to the LTA Rules.

**LTA Official Competitions** has the meaning given to that term in paragraph 1.2.

**LTA Rules** means the Rules of the Lawn Tennis Association and/or their successor rules, in each case as amended from time to time and as at 1 September 2013 found at [www.lta.org.uk/Footer/about-us/Policies-and-rules/LTA-Rules-and-Regulations/](http://www.lta.org.uk/Footer/about-us/Policies-and-rules/LTA-Rules-and-Regulations/)

**LTA Website** means the official website of the LTA, as at 1 September 2013 situated at [www.lta.org.uk](http://www.lta.org.uk).

**Lucky Loser** has the meaning given to that term in paragraphs 3.39 to 3.43.

**Mini Tennis** means Red Ball, Orange Ball and Green Ball tennis.

**National Association** means one of the National Associations of, respectively, Scotland and Wales.

**Non-Treatable Conditions** has the meaning given to that term in paragraph 5.35.

**Officiating Development Manager** means the person appointed by the LTA to perform that role (or his/her designee).

**Orange Ball** tennis has the meaning given to that term in paragraph 7.5.

**Organising Committee** means the committee appointed pursuant to paragraph 3.1 to administer and organise an LTA Official Competition under these Regulations.

**Player** means an individual tennis player.

**Ranking** means a Player's ranking as determined in accordance with the Aegon British Tennis Rankings, as set out in paragraph 6.2 and Appendix Five.

**Rating** means a Player's rating as determined in accordance with the Aegon British Tennis Ratings, as set out in paragraph 6.1 and Appendix Five.

**Recent Form** means a Player's best individual tournament performance at that ball colour within the last three months.

**Recognised Person** means an LTA licensed or LTA registered coach, a competition organiser, a Referee or a recognised club official.

**Red Ball** tennis has the meaning given to that term in paragraph 7.3.

**Referee** means a person appointed to perform that role pursuant to paragraph 3.2(e).

**Regulations** means these LTA Competition Regulations.

**Regulations concerning Match Fixing, Financial Speculation and Betting** means the LTA's regulations on match fixing, financial speculation and betting and/or their successor regulations, in each case as amended from time to time and as at 1 September 2013 found at [www.lta.org.uk/Footer/about-us/Policies-and-rules/LTA-Rules-and-Regulations/](http://www.lta.org.uk/Footer/about-us/Policies-and-rules/LTA-Rules-and-Regulations/)

**Results Manager** means the Results Manager software used to assist in the running of Grade 6 and Grade 7 competitions and to facilitate the electronic transfer of results to the LTA.

**Rules of Tennis** means the ITF's Rules of Tennis, as amended from time to time and as at 1 September 2013 found at [www.itftennis.com/about/organisation/rules.aspx](http://www.itftennis.com/about/organisation/rules.aspx)

**Senior** means aged 35 and over.

**Tennis Anti-Doping Programme** means the LTA's anti-doping programme and/or its successor regulations, in each case as amended from time to time and as at 1 September 2013 found at [www.lta.org.uk/Footer/about-us/Policies-and-rules/LTA-Rules-and-Regulations/](http://www.lta.org.uk/Footer/about-us/Policies-and-rules/LTA-Rules-and-Regulations/)

**Tennis Development Manager** means a person appointed by the LTA to perform that role.

**Tennis Europe** means the European Tennis Federation, known as Tennis Europe, whose website as at 1 September 2013 is situated at [www.tenniseurope.org/](http://www.tenniseurope.org/), and Tennis Europe ranking means ranking as determined by Tennis Europe.

**Time Violation** has the meaning given to that term in paragraph 5.31.

**Transgender Policy** means the LTA's policy on transgender Players, as amended from time to time and as at 1 September 2013 found at [www.lta.org.uk/Footer/about-us/Policies-and-rules/](http://www.lta.org.uk/Footer/about-us/Policies-and-rules/)

**TTP** means the Tennis Tournament Planner computer programme used to assist in the running of tournaments and to facilitate the electronic transfer of results to the LTA.

**Wild Card** means the entrance of a Player into a draw pursuant to paragraphs 3.20 and 3.21.

**Withdrawal** means a Player who has been accepted into a competition (including as a reserve) subsequently communicating to the Organising Committee or the competition Referee that the Player will no longer be participating in the competition (and Withdraw, Withdrawing and Withdrawn will be construed accordingly).

**Withdrawal Points** means the points incurred pursuant to paragraph 4.1.

**World Ranking** means the ranking as determined by the ATP, the WTA, the ITF Senior or ITF Junior Departments as appropriate.

**WTA** means the Women's Tennis Association.

**Yellow Ball** tennis means all age groups save for Mini Tennis.

## APPENDIX TWO

LTA Logo



## APPENDIX THREE

## Draw methods and seeding

## 1. TRADITIONAL DRAW (SEE FIGURE 1)

- 1.1 Players will be drawn to meet each other in pairs, with progressive elimination until a winner is decided.
- 1.2 If the number of entries is not a number in the following sequence (2, 4, 8, 16, 32, 64, 128 and so on), Byes will be inserted throughout the draw in the first round only so as to produce a full second round of matches.

## 2. QUALIFYING DRAW (SEE FIGURE 2)

- 2.1 A qualifying draw will be made in sections, with one section for each place allotted in the main draw.
- 2.2 Players will be drawn to meet each other in pairs, with progressive elimination until the qualifier is decided.

## 3. PROGRESSIVE DRAW (SEE FIGURE 3)

- 3.1 The event will be divided into a number of sections, with at least one Player from each section qualifying for a place in the next section. Each section will normally be played to a conclusion. Where a playback event is included, it is an integral part of the event and is not optional.
- 3.2 A Player's Rating will determine in which section of the draw and in which round of the section he/she plays his/her first match. As a general principle, a Player's first match will be against an opponent with the same or similar Rating.
- 3.3 Players with the lowest Rating will be drawn in a pattern of progressive elimination to meet Players of a higher Rating in the next round or section.
- 3.4 If a Player Withdraws, his/her place may be taken by a Lucky Loser or reserve, save in the final draw where his/her place may be taken in the first round only.

- 3.5 For the purposes of Ranking points, the final draw will be regarded as the main draw and the preceding draws will be regarded as qualifying and pre-qualifying draws.
- 3.6 To enter a progressive draw on TTP, the final draw should be designated as Stage 1 and the preceding draw as Stage 2, and so on.
4. STAGGERED DRAW (SEE FIGURE 4)
- 4.1 A staggered draw is a limited form of progressive draw, where a Player's Rating will determine in which round of the draw he/she plays his/her first match.
- 4.2 The group of Players with the lowest Ratings will meet in the first round, with the next lowest group given Byes into the second round, and so on.
- 4.3 Players will meet each other in pairs, with progressive elimination until a winner is decided.
- 4.4 Players should be staggered over no more than three rounds and no Player should enter a draw further forward than the round of eight (quarter finals).
5. COMPASS DRAW (SEE FIGURE 5)
- 5.1 Winners and losers will play off progressively in pairs at every stage so that all Players in the draw play the same number of matches and have a finishing position.
- 5.2 The number of entries will be a number in the following sequence (2, 4, 8, 16). The maximum number of compass draw entries that can be processed by TTP (and therefore used for Ranking purposes) is 16.
- 5.3 Players who lose their first match and go into the playback in the left of the draw will receive consolation Ranking points. Players finishing in position 16 (or 8 in an eight Player draw) will receive one Ranking point.
- 5.4 A Player who retires or gives a walkover due to a late arrival in a match may play in his/her

next match; if, however, such Player does not play in his/her next match, he/she may not participate further in the compass draw.

## 6. ROUND ROBIN DRAW

- 6.1 Players will be arranged into a number of groups to produce qualifiers for the final stage, which may be organised as a round robin or a knock-out format. Alternatively, an event may comprise solely of a single round robin main draw.
- 6.2 Each Player will play all the other Players in the group.
- 6.3 The final standings in each group will be determined as follows in order:
- Highest number of wins.
  - If two Players are tied, the result in the match played between the two Players.
  - If more than two Players are tied, the highest percentage of sets won out of sets played (if, after this calculation, only two Players remain tied, the result in the match played between the two Players will be used to break the tie).
  - If more than two Players have the same percentage of sets won out of sets played, they will be placed according to the highest percentage of games won out of games played (if, after this calculation, only two Players remain tied, the result in the match played between the two Players will be used to break the tie); for Mini Tennis events using tie-break scoring, such Players may instead be placed according to the highest percentage of points won over points played (if, after this calculation, only two Players remain tied, the result in the match played between the two Players will be used to break the tie).
  - If more than two Players also have the same percentage of games won out of games played, the positions will be drawn by lot; for Mini Tennis events using tie-break scoring, such Players may instead be placed according to the highest percentage of points won over points played (if, after this calculation, only two

Players remain tied, the result in the match played between the two Players will be used to break the tie).

- For the purposes of the calculations in paragraphs (c), (d) and (e), above, when a match is played with a deciding match tie-break instead of a final set, the tie-break will count as a set won or lost by one game to nil.
- 6.4 If a number of group runners-up from the initial stages are required, these places will be allocated as follows:
- Highest percentage of wins out of matches played.
  - If two or more Players are tied, the highest percentage of sets won out of sets played. If any such Players have the same percentage of sets won out of sets played, they will be placed according to the highest percentage of games won out of games played. If any such Players also have the same percentage of games won out of games played, the positions will be decided by a play-off or drawn by lot.
- 6.5 Each set of a match won by default will be recorded as a 6-0 result (or 4-0 where short sets are being used) provided that the opponent participates (and/or has participated) in the rest of the group matches. A Player winning due to retirement of an opponent will be awarded as many games as are required to achieve a result provided that the opponent participates (and/or has participated) in the rest of the group matches.
- Explanatory note:** For example, if a Player retires when winning 4-3 in the first set, his/her opponent will win the match 6-4, 6-0 provided that the retiring Player participates (and/or has participated) in the rest of the group matches. If the retiring Player does not participate in the rest of his/her group matches, paragraph 6.7, below, will apply.
- 6.6 A Player who retires or gives a walkover due to a late arrival in a match in a group may play in his/her next match; if, however, such Player does not play in his/her next match, he/

she may not participate further in the group matches.

- 6.7 If a Player is unable to start a match in a group or, before completing his/her group matches, Withdraws or is disqualified from the event, all matches completed or started by that Player will be void for scoring purposes but will count for Ratings.

## 7. CONSOLATION DRAW

- 7.1 A consolation draw will be treated as a normal elimination event and may be seeded.
- 7.2 A consolation draw for *first round* losers may be a direct playback or may be redrawn.
- 7.3 In a consolation draw for *first match* losers, the Players may go into a predetermined position in the consolation draw (as in a playback) or the Players may be redrawn.
- 7.4 If consolation events from two Junior age groups are merged, the event will be classified under the older age group for the purpose of Ranking points. In Senior age groups, merged events will be classified under the younger age group for the purpose of Ranking points.
- 7.5 A Player is only eligible to participate in a consolation draw if he/she has been entered into the relevant main draw (see also paragraph 4.13 of the Regulations, above).
- 7.6 As set out in paragraph 3.8 of the Regulations, above, a list of all consolation draws (and whether entry is compulsory) must be included in the competition information made available to all Players before entries are accepted.

## 8. SEEDING

- 8.1 Where a traditional draw is used, the seeds will be placed as follows (see Figure 1 and the table, below):
- seed number 1 will be placed at the top of the draw;
  - seed number 2 will be placed at the bottom of the draw;

- seed numbers 3 and 4 will be drawn as a pair, with the first drawn placed in the top half of the draw and the second drawn placed in the bottom half of the draw; and
  - the remaining seeds will be drawn in groups of four (for example, 5-8, 9-12, 13-16) from top to bottom.
- 8.2 Where a qualifying draw is used, the seeds will be placed as follows (see Figure 2):
- seed number 1 will be placed at the top of the first section of the draw; seed number 2 will be placed at the top of the second section of the draw; and so on until all sections have one seed at the top of the section;
  - the remaining seeds will be drawn as one group, with the first drawn placed at the bottom of the first section of the draw, the second drawn placed at the bottom of the second section of the draw, and so on until all sections have one seed at the bottom of the section;
  - if there are insufficient seeded Players, the sections with the highest seeds will not have a second seed; and
  - each section will have a maximum of two seeded Players.
- 8.3 Where a progressive draw is used, in the final draw the Players are seeded and placed according to paragraph 8.1, above, with other Players playing through to meet them (see Figure 3).
- 8.4 Where multiple round robin draws are used for a qualifying event, up to 2 Players per draw may be seeded. If the main draw is being played in round robin format, no seeds are required.
- Explanatory note:** If a qualifying event has 2 round robin boxes of 4 Players, seeds 1 and 2 must be placed in separate boxes and seeds 3 and 4 must be drawn into separate boxes.

Seed position by line number in the first round

	Line Number					
	Draw Size 8	Draw Size 9-16	Draw Size 17-32	Draw Size 33-64	Draw Size 65-128	
Seed 1	1	1	1	1	1	
Seed 2	8	16	32	64	128	
Seed 3 or 4 (Top)		5	9	17	33	
Seed 3 or 4 (Bottom)		12	24	48	96	
Seed 5 to 8		8	16	32		
			16	32	64	
			17	33	65	
Seed 9 to 12		25	49	97		
			9	17		
			25	49		
			40	80		
Seed 13-16		56	112			
			8	16		
			24	48		
			41	81		
Seed 17-24		57	113			
			9			
			24			
			41			
			56			
			73			
Seed 25-32		88	105			
			120			
			8			
			25			
			40			
			57			
			72			
	89					
	104					
	121					

Figure 1: example of a traditional draw showing match numbers

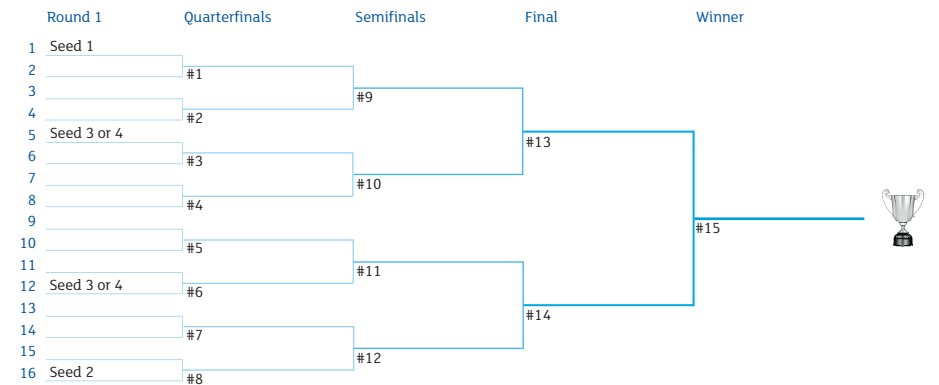


Figure 2: example of a qualifying draw showing match numbers

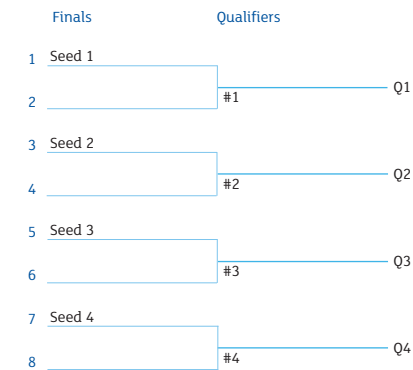


Figure 3: example of a progressive draw showing Ratings and match numbers

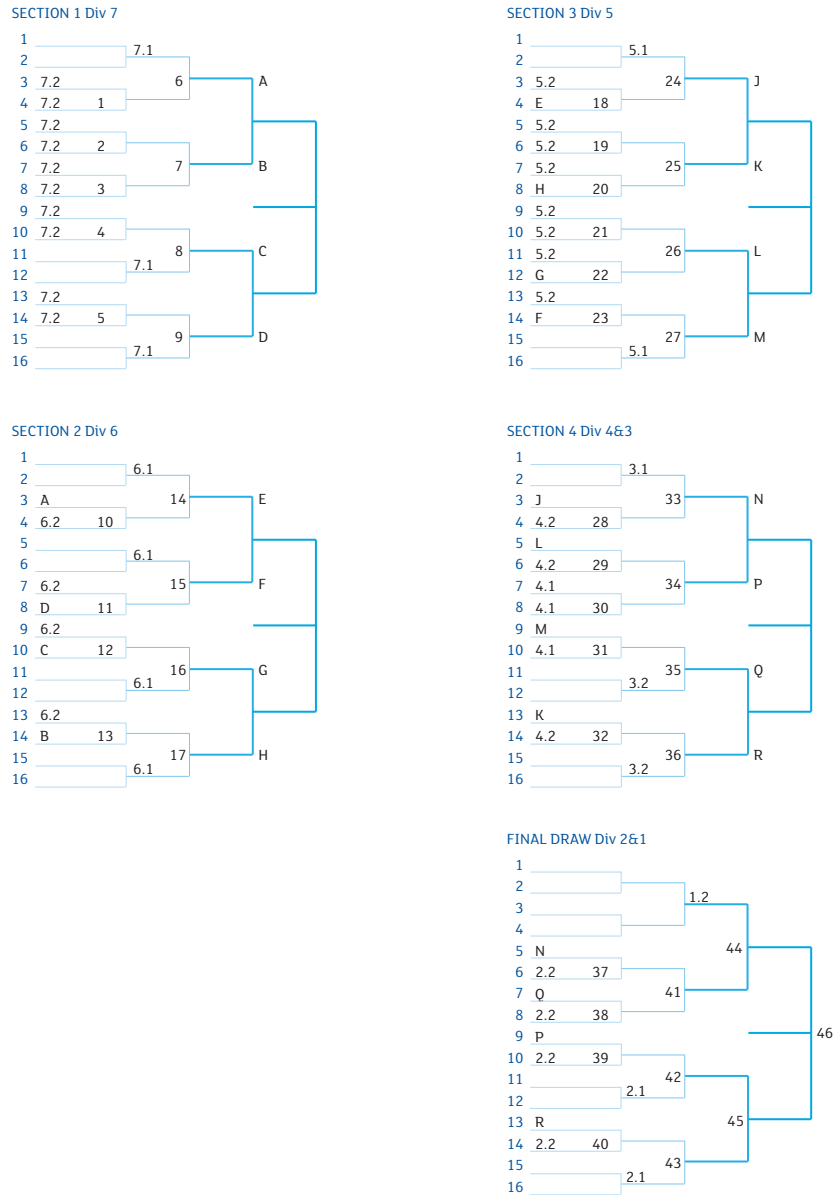


Figure 4: example of a staggered draw showing Ratings

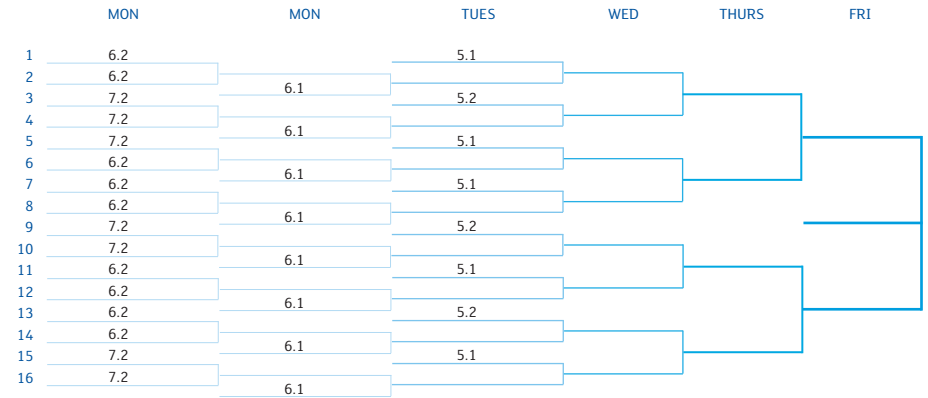
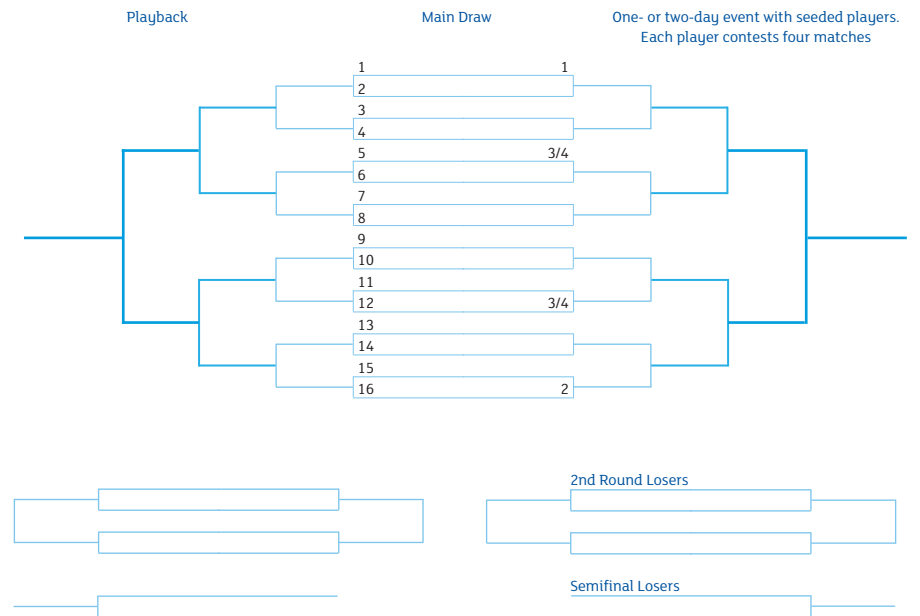


Figure 5: example of a compass draw showing position of seeds



## APPENDIX FOUR

## Permitted identifications

The following provisions set out the commercial and other messages, logos, brands or other identifications that are permitted on a Player's clothing, products and equipment on court (including during the warm-up) or at any press conference or competition ceremony as part of an LTA Official Competition.

## 1. SHIRT, SWEATER OR JACKET

## Sleeves

- 1.1 One commercial (non-manufacturer's) identification on each sleeve, neither of which exceeds three square inches (19.5 sq. cm), plus one manufacturer's identification on each sleeve, neither of which exceeds eight square inches (52 sq. cm).

**Explanatory note:** *If written identification is used within the eight square inches (52 sq. cm) area on either or both sleeves, such written identification may not exceed four square inches (26 sq. cm) per sleeve. On sleeveless items, the two commercial identifications permitted pursuant to paragraph 1.1, above, may be placed on the front of the garment.*

## Front, back and collar

- 1.2 A total of two manufacturer's identifications, neither of which exceeds two square inches (13 sq. cm), or one manufacturer's identification, that does not exceed four square inches (26 sq. cm).
2. SHORTS AND SKIRTS
- 2.1 Two manufacturer's identifications, neither of which exceeds two square inches (13 sq. cm), or one manufacturer's identification, that does not exceed four square inches (26 sq. cm).

- 2.2 On compression shorts, one manufacturer's identification that does not exceed two square inches (13 sq. cm) (in addition to the manufacturer's identifications permitted on shorts and skirts pursuant to paragraph 2.1, above).

**Explanatory note:** *No commercial or manufacturer's identifications are permitted on the front or back of regular tennis panties. For the purposes of this Appendix Four, a dress will be treated as a combination of a shirt and a skirt, dividing the dress at the waist.*

## 3. SOCKS AND SHOES

- 3.1 Manufacturer's identifications on socks and shoes. Any manufacturer's identification on a sock must not exceed two square inches (13 sq. cm).

## 4. RACKET

- 4.1 Manufacturer's identifications on rackets and strings.

## 5. HAT, HEADBAND OR WRISTBAND

- 5.1 One manufacturer's identification that does not exceed two square inches (13 sq. cm), on each item.

## 6. BAGS, OTHER EQUIPMENT OR PARAPHERNALIA

- 6.1 Tennis equipment manufacturer's identifications on each item, plus two separate commercial identifications on one bag neither of which exceeds four square inches (26 sq. cm).

## 7. CLOTHING PROVIDED BY A COMPETITION SPONSOR

- 7.1 Notwithstanding paragraphs 1 to 6, above, tennis clothing (including t-shirts) provided by a competition sponsor may be worn at the competition in question, subject to the approval of the Referee.

*NOTE: Notwithstanding paragraphs 1 to 6, above, the identification by use of the name, emblem, logo, trademark, symbol or other description of any tennis circuit, series of tennis events, tennis exhibition, tennis competition or any other sport or entertainment event is prohibited on all clothing, products and equipment unless prior written approval is obtained from the LTA.*

*For the purposes of this Appendix Four:*

- (a) *the manufacturer means the manufacturer of the clothing, product or equipment in question; and*
- (b) *the size limitation will be ascertained by determining the area of the actual patch or other addition without regard to the colour of the same. In determining the area, depending on the shape of the patch or other addition, a circle, triangle or rectangle will be drawn around the same and the size of the patch will be the area within the circumference of the circle or the perimeter of the triangle or rectangle, as appropriate. When a solid colour patch is the same colour as the clothing, in determining the area, the size of the actual patch will be based on the size of the logo identification.*



## APPENDIX FIVE

## RATING AND RANKING

## 1. RATING

1.1 To obtain a Rating a Player must hold British Tennis Membership. A Player who did not apply for a Rating when becoming a member can request a Rating by emailing his/her name and membership number to [info@lta.org.uk](mailto:info@lta.org.uk).

**Explanatory note:** A Player can sign up for British Tennis Membership by telephone (020 8487 7000) or online ([www.lta.org.uk/Members/Join/](http://www.lta.org.uk/Members/Join/))

## Mini Tennis Rating and 'playing up'

1.2 There are the following Rating bands in Red Ball, Orange Ball and Green Ball tennis, with band 1 (or, in the case of Orange Ball and Green Ball tennis, band 1\*) being the highest and band 4 being the lowest:

Mini Tennis	Rating band				
Red Ball	Red1	Red2	Red3	Red4	
Orange Ball	Orange1*	Orange1	Orange2	Orange3	Orange4
Green Ball	Green1*	Green1	Green2	Green3	Green4

**Explanatory note:** A Player will automatically move from a Red Ball Rating to an Orange Ball Rating to a Green Ball Rating as he/she moves into the relevant age group. For example, a Player with an Orange4 Rating at the time when he/she moves into the 10&U age group will move to a Green4 Rating.

1.3 Mini Tennis Players can improve their respective Ratings as follows:

## (a) In Red Ball tennis:

- To move from Red4 to Red3: by playing in at least six matches.
- To move from Red3 to Red2: by playing in at least 20 further matches.

- To move from Red2 to Red1: by playing in at least 40 further matches and recording at least 20 qualifying wins against Players rated Red2 or Red1.

## (b) In Orange Ball tennis:

- To move from Orange4 to Orange3: by playing in at least six matches.
- To move from Orange3 to Orange2: by playing in at least 20 further matches.
- To move from Orange2 to Orange1: by playing in at least 40 further matches and recording at least 20 qualifying wins against Players rated Orange2 or Orange1.
- To move from Orange1 to Orange1\*: by recording at least 20 qualifying wins against Players rated Orange1 or Orange 1\* in LTA Official Competitions graded 1 to 3.

## (c) In Green Ball tennis:

- To move from Green4 to Green3: by playing in at least six matches (a Player who moves into Green Ball tennis with an Orange1 Rating will start with a Green2 Rating).

- To move from Green3 to Green2: by playing in at least 20 further matches.
- To move from Green2 to Green1: by playing in at least 40 further matches and recording at least 20 qualifying wins against Players rated Green2 or Green1.
- To move from Green1 to Green1\*: by recording at least 20 qualifying wins against Players rated Green1 or Green1\* in LTA Official Competitions graded 1 to 3.

1.4 For the purpose of paragraph 1.3, above:

- (a) Results in timed tennis matches will count towards a Player's Mini Tennis Rating.

- (b) Doubles matches will count as 'participation' matches but not as 'wins', regardless of the result.
- (c) Qualifying wins must be in the same ball colour (i.e. a red ball must be used on a red court for a win to count towards a red rating).
- (d) In exceptional circumstances, the LTA Talent and Performance Team may recommend a rating adjustment for Mini Tennis players. Subsequent ratings increases must be earned according to the set criteria.

**Explanatory note:** Further information on timed tennis can be found at [www.lta.org.uk/volunteers-officials/Organiser-Officials-Resources/](http://www.lta.org.uk/volunteers-officials/Organiser-Officials-Resources/)

1.5 Mini Tennis Players may 'play up' as follows:

- (a) When a Player is in his/her penultimate and last Competition Season of Red Ball tennis and has reached a Red1 Rating, he/she will move to an Orange4 Rating and may compete in both Red Ball and Orange Ball competitions.
- (b) When a Player is in his/her last Competition Season of Orange Ball tennis and has reached an Orange1 or Orange1\* Rating, he/she will stay at that Rating but may compete in both Orange Ball and Green Ball competitions.
- (c) When a Player is in his/her last Competition Season of Green Ball tennis and has reached a Green1 or Green1\* Rating, he/she will stay at that Rating but may compete in both Green Ball and 12&U competitions, but not higher age groups.
- (d) An exceptional Mini Tennis player may be awarded a 'passport' by the LTA Talent and Performance Team to play in Yellow Ball competitions (any age group) and may also continue to compete in his/her current age group.

**Explanatory note:** Further information on Mini Tennis Ratings can be found at [www.lta.org.uk/LTA-Mini-Tennis/Mini-Tennis-Competition/Competition/](http://www.lta.org.uk/LTA-Mini-Tennis/Mini-Tennis-Competition/Competition/)

## Yellow Ball Rating

1.6 In Yellow Ball tennis, independent of age, there are 20 Rating bands within ten divisions as follows (with band 1.1 being the highest and band 10.2 being the lowest):

Division	Rating band	
Division 1	1.1	1.2
Division 2	2.1	2.2
Division 3	3.1	3.2
Division 4	4.1	4.2
Division 5	5.1	5.2
Division 6	6.1	6.2
Division 7	7.1	7.2
Division 8	8.1	8.2
Division 9	9.1	9.2
Division 10	10.1	10.2

1.7 A Player's start Rating is determined as follows:

- (a) A Junior Player moving into Yellow Ball tennis with a Green2, Green3 or Green4 Rating (or no Rating) will start with a Yellow Ball Rating of 10.2.
- (b) A Junior Player moving into Yellow Ball tennis with a Green1 Rating will start with a Yellow Ball Rating of 9.2.
- (c) A Junior Player moving into Yellow Ball tennis with a Green1\* Rating will start with a Yellow Ball Rating of 9.1.
- (d) Adult Players will start with a Rating of 10.2 save that an adult Player may apply for a higher start Rating up to 7.2 through the self-assessment process (details of which can be found in the Player's British Tennis Membership area on the LTA Website).

Experienced Players may apply for a higher start Rating. However, such requests will be considered only where the Player provides evidence of his/her playing standard by means of an international ranking, a rating or ranking from another national tennis association or officially recorded match results.

1.8 A Player's Rating is based on his/her results in 'qualifying matches' as follows:

- (a) A 'qualifying win' is a win against another Player with the same or a higher Rating.
- (b) A 'qualifying loss' is a loss against another Player with a lower Rating.
- (c) If a Player receives a walkover in a draw, it will not count as a qualifying win for Ratings purposes; a Player who retires during a match against another Player with a lower Rating will incur a qualifying loss for Ratings purposes.
- (d) Results in doubles matches, Challenge Matches and in matches against 10&U Players who are 'playing up' in 12&U competitions will not count towards a Player's Rating.
- (e) Results in mixed singles matches will not count towards a Player's Rating save in relation to matches at grades 6 and 7 for Rating bands 9.1, 9.2, 10.1 and 10.2.
- (f) Results in timed tennis matches will not count towards a Player's Rating save in relation to Rating bands 9.1, 9.2, 10.1 and 10.2.
- (g) Results from matches in international competitions will not count towards a Player's Rating save in relation to matches in which each participating Player has a Rating. Matches in international competitions played in Great Britain, the Channel Islands or the Isle of Man will be automatically submitted by the tournament director if it is a professional event and by the Referee if it is a Seniors or Junior event. Where the tournament takes place elsewhere, the player should submit results of matches to the relevant County Association office along with the official competition draw sheet.

**Explanatory note:** Further information on timed tennis can be found at [www.lta.org.uk/volunteers-officials/Organiser--Officials-Resources/](http://www.lta.org.uk/volunteers-officials/Organiser--Officials-Resources/)

1.9 A Player Rated from 10.2 to 9.1 can improve his/her Rating and move to the next band by recording four qualifying wins in that band; the wins can be achieved at any time (although, for the avoidance of doubt, each win can only be used in relation to one Ratings move) and, once recorded, the Player will automatically move to the next band.

**Explanatory note:** For example, if a Player with a Rating of 10.2 records four qualifying wins, he/she will automatically move to a Rating of 10.1, and so on. This Rating calculation takes place overnight on a daily basis and is based on results that have been processed and are showing on a Player's record.

1.10 A Player Rated 8.2 or higher can improve his/her Rating and move to the next band up to four times a year, in each of the 'Ratings runs' (mid summer Competition Season; end of summer Competition Season; mid winter Competition Season; end of winter Competition Season), as follows:

- (a) a Junior Player Rated 8.2 or higher can improve his/her Rating and move to the next band by recording at least six qualifying wins with at least a 60% win/loss percentage from all qualifying matches within the relevant Ratings run period;
- (b) an adult Player Rated 8.2 or higher can improve his/her Rating and move to the next band by recording at least three qualifying wins with at least a 60% win/loss percentage from all qualifying matches within the relevant Ratings run period.

**Explanatory note:** The dates of, and periods covered by, the Ratings runs can be found at [www.lta.org.uk/players-parents/Competition/Aegon-British-Tennis-Ratings-Guide/](http://www.lta.org.uk/players-parents/Competition/Aegon-British-Tennis-Ratings-Guide/) End of Competition Season Ratings runs will take into account Players' results from the entire Competition Season i.e. results used in the mid season Ratings runs will also be taken into consideration during the end of Competition Season Ratings runs. Unless otherwise notified by the LTA Competitions

*Team, the competition event end date dictates the Ratings run in which a match will count towards a Player's Rating.*

1.11 Ratings runs are calculated on the basis of Player Ratings **at the time of the calculation.**

**Explanatory note:** For example, if a Player records a win against a Player rated one band below him/her and that other Player's Rating subsequently goes up in the mid Competition Season Ratings run, the win will count as a qualifying win in the end of Competition Season Ratings run. Similarly, if a Player loses to a Player with the same Rating and the first Player's Rating subsequently goes up in the mid Competition Season Ratings run (and the other Player's does not), the loss will count as a qualifying loss in the end of Competition Season Ratings run.

1.12 A Player may appeal against the outcome of a Ratings run in relation to his/her Rating only where he/she can show missing and/or incorrect results. Any such appeal must be lodged with the LTA, within seven days of publication of the outcome of the relevant Ratings run on the LTA Website, through the process notified by the LTA. The decision of the LTA will be final and binding.

1.13 A Player's Rating can decrease as follows:

- (a) Ratings of Junior Players cannot decrease in the quarterly automated ratings runs;
- (b) Ratings of adult Players can decrease but only in the end of summer Competition Season Ratings run and in any event cannot decrease below a Rating of 6.2. An adult Player's rating will decrease if, in the previous two competition seasons, he/she has recorded no results or, in failing to meet the rating increase criteria, has recorded no qualifying wins and more than one qualifying loss within the previous two competitions seasons; and
- (c) notwithstanding (a) and (b), above, the LTA may decrease a Player's Rating in exceptional circumstances (including where a Player's

Rating has increased as a result of incorrect results calculations).

1.14 A player can apply to [info@lta.org.uk](mailto:info@lta.org.uk) to request a manual adjustment to his/her ratings outside of the quarterly, seasonal ratings runs but only in the circumstances set out in sub-paragraphs (a) to (d) below. Manual rating changes cannot be made retrospectively (for example, a player cannot apply for a rating change in respect of a previous competition period or submit an appeal after the official post run appeals process, which operates for one week after each ratings run has gone live). For the avoidance of doubt, manual ratings changes under this paragraph 1.14 are at the absolute discretion of the LTA.

- (a) A Player can apply to have his/her rating adjusted where he/she has a rating and/or ranking (or similar) from another national tennis association. Such equivalency ratings are provisional and at the absolute discretion of the LTA.
- (b) A Player in the yellow ball seasonal ratings run system can apply to have his/her rating adjusted where he/she has, within the relevant ratings run season, recorded at least six wins (or three wins for open age group players) against players with higher ratings in LTA Official Competitions graded 1 – 5 and has at least a 60% win/loss percentage at that higher level. Where a player meets these criteria, his/her rating will be increased by one level manually in advance of the ratings run and, provided the criteria are still met, by one level again when the next automated run takes place.

**Explanatory note:** For example, a junior player with a 5.2 rating would need to record, within the relevant ratings run period and in LTA official competitions graded 1 – 5, at least six wins against players with a 5.1 rating or higher and have a 60% win/loss percentage at 5.1 rating level i.e. no more than 4 losses at 5.1 level and below.

- (c) Category A Matrix players aged 14 years or older and category A Matrix players who train full time abroad will have their ratings reviewed annually at the end of the summer competition season and may have their ratings adjusted by National Junior Coaches after consultation with Men's or Women's Tennis Managers.

**Explanatory note:** See [www.lta.org.uk/players-parents/Performance-players/Player-funding/Player-Matrix/](http://www.lta.org.uk/players-parents/Performance-players/Player-funding/Player-Matrix/) for further information.

- (d) A Category A Matrix Player and, if applicable, a Team Aegon Player can apply to have his/her Rating adjusted where he/she has missed three or more months of competition due to illness or injury..

**Explanatory note:** See [www.lta.org.uk/players-parents/Performance-players/Player-funding/Player-Matrix/](http://www.lta.org.uk/players-parents/Performance-players/Player-funding/Player-Matrix/) for further information. For the avoidance of doubt, save as set out in this paragraph 1.14 and paragraph 1.15, below, a Player cannot apply to have his/her Rating changed due to illness or injury.

- 1.15 An adult Player can apply to [info@lta.org.uk](mailto:info@lta.org.uk) to have his/her Rating 'frozen' for a period of time where he/she is not competing (for example, due to long-term illness or injury) or where he/she is competing exclusively abroad. A Player's Rating will not be frozen because they are fulfilling coaching responsibilities.

- 1.16 A Player can use his/her Rating as soon as it goes live on the LTA Website. If a Player enters a competition before a change to his/her Rating has gone live on the LTA Website, his/her Rating as at the closing deadline will be used.

**Explanatory note:** To search for a Player's Rating go to [www.lta.org.uk/Search/PlayerSearch/](http://www.lta.org.uk/Search/PlayerSearch/)

#### Results from grade 6 and 7 events

- 1.17 Subject to paragraphs 1.18 and 1.19, below, Players' singles match results from the following categories of grade 6 and 7 events will count towards a Player's Rating:

- (a) for grade 6 events, 'external' competitions agreed in advance by the relevant County Association and that are open to all Players (for example, matchplay programmes); and
- (b) for grade 7 events, 'internal' or 'closed' competitions agreed in advance by the relevant County Association and that take place solely for a club's members or squad members (for example, competition within a coaching programme, club box leagues/ladders, matchplay and club closed championships). However, save in relation to Mini Tennis, in internal competitions no more than one win against the same Player will be accepted in any one Ratings movement.

**Explanatory note:** Further information on matchplays can be found at [www.lta.org.uk/volunteers-officials/Organiser-Officials-Resources/](http://www.lta.org.uk/volunteers-officials/Organiser-Officials-Resources/)

- 1.18 The singles match results referred to in paragraph 1.17, above, will count towards a Player's Rating provided that the results of all completed matches (including match scores) and Players' British Tennis Membership numbers are submitted to the relevant County Association using TTP, an Excel spreadsheet or the Results Manager tool by a Recognised Person.
- 1.19 In respect of the events referred to in paragraph 1.17(b), above, the LTA may investigate and, in its absolute discretion, disallow for Ratings purposes results from the following matches:

- (a) where a Player has competed against a coach;
- (b) where a Player has competed against his/her parent, sibling or other relative;
- (c) where a Player has competed numerous times against the same Player and/or much younger or older Players; and
- (d) where a Player has competed in a Challenge Match.

- 1.20 Where grade 6 and 7 events use a matchplay format:

- (a) while the Organising Committee will endeavour to provide each Player with at least one match against an opponent with the same Rating, this is not guaranteed; and
- (b) each Player will be required to play a minimum of two matches, and Withdrawal Points will apply (see section 4 of the Regulations, above).

**Explanatory note:** Further information on Rating can be found at [www.lta.org.uk/players-parents/Competition/Aegon-British-Tennis-Ratings-Guide/](http://www.lta.org.uk/players-parents/Competition/Aegon-British-Tennis-Ratings-Guide/)

## 2. RANKING

- 2.1 A Player's Ranking is a measure of where he/she stands within his/her age group nationally and within the Player's county.

- 2.2 A Player's Ranking in 12&U, 14&U, 16&U, 18&U, open and Senior age groups is based on the following, in order:

- (a) his/her six best competition results (three for Seniors) over a rolling 12-month period;
- (b) if unresolved, the number of events used to obtain the results in paragraph 2.2(a), above;
- (c) if unresolved, the highest Ranking points received from individual events;
- (d) if unresolved, the second highest Ranking points received from individual events, and so on.

A Junior Player and a Senior can have a Ranking in more than one age group

With effect from 1 January 2014, when a Senior player moves up to a new age group, his/her accumulated ranking points from the previous age group will automatically be carried forward to the new age group. Senior rankings will be based on the criteria outlined above in 2.2.

- 2.3 In order to receive the specified Ranking points for reaching a certain round in an LTA Official Competition, a Player must win a match at the draw stage (qualifying draw,

main draw or consolation draw); if a Player does not win a match he/she will receive one Ranking point. The further a Player progresses through a competition draw, the more Ranking points he/she will accumulate. The Ranking points available depend on the grade of the competition (see the table, below).

**Explanatory note:** For example, in a draw with eight Players where a Player was given a walkover and then lost in the semi-finals, the Player will receive only one Ranking point.

**Explanatory note:** Where a Player's opponent retires, this counts as a win and that player is put through to the next round and will receive the relevant ranking points.

- 2.4 A Player can receive only one set of Ranking points for each event.

**Explanatory note:** For example, a Player who competes in both the qualifying and main draw of an event will receive only one set of points (which will be the highest set of points).

- 2.5 Team competitions (for example, Aegon County Cups and Aegon Team Tennis) also qualify for Ranking points (see the table, below).

- 2.6 World Ranking points are converted and included in LTA open Rankings. ITF Junior ranking points and Tennis Europe ranking points are not included in 14&U, 16&U or 18&U Rankings.

- 2.7 Rankings are updated weekly and are based on results that have been processed and are showing on a Player's record at least five days prior to the relevant Rankings calculation.

**Explanatory note:** Further information on Ranking can be found at [www.lta.org.uk/players-parents/Competition/Aegon-British-Tennis-Rankings-Guide/](http://www.lta.org.uk/players-parents/Competition/Aegon-British-Tennis-Rankings-Guide/) The LTA also stages and approves a number of 'leaderboards', which largely follow the Ranking system; further information on leaderboards can be found at [www.lta.org.uk/players-parents/Competition-Leaderboards-Search/](http://www.lta.org.uk/players-parents/Competition-Leaderboards-Search/)

Individual Competition Grading Structure

Adults

National	Grade 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>British Tour &amp; Masters (Tier 1)</li> </ul>
National	Grade 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>British Tour &amp; Masters (Tier 2)</li> <li>BUCS Individual Championships</li> </ul>
Regional	Grade 3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>County Closed Tournaments</li> <li>Selected LTA competitions</li> <li>University Tour</li> </ul>
County	Grade 4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Selected LTA competitions</li> </ul>
Local	Grade 5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Selected LTA competitions</li> </ul>
Local	Grade 6	<b>External (open) Matches</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Selected LTA competitions</li> <li>Matchplay Programmes</li> </ul>
Local	Grade 7	<b>Internal (Closed) Matches</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Club Box Leagues/Ladders</li> <li>Club Closed</li> </ul>

Juniors

National	Grade 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Winter National Tour Finals</li> <li>Summer National Tour Finals (9U &amp; 10U Only)</li> <li>British Junior National Championships</li> <li>Clay Court Championships</li> </ul>
National	Grade 2	<b>National Tour</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Selected LTA Competitions</li> </ul>
Regional	Grade 3	<b>Regional Tour</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>County Closed</li> <li>Selected LTA Competitions</li> </ul>
County	Grade 4	<b>County Tour</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Selected LTA Competitions</li> </ul>
Local	Grade 5	<b>County Tour</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Selected LTA Competitions</li> </ul>
Local	Grade 6	<b>External (open) Matches</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Selected LTA Competitions</li> <li>Matchplay Programmes</li> </ul>
Local	Grade 7	<b>Internal (Closed) Matches</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Competition in your coaching programme (often using the timed tennis format)</li> <li>Club Box League/Ladders</li> <li>Club Closed</li> </ul>

Team Competition Grading Structure

Adults

National	Grade 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Team Tennis National Open (Finals)</li> <li>Winter County Cup (Division 1&amp;2)</li> <li>Summer County Cup (Division 1&amp;2)</li> </ul>
National	Grade 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Team Tennis National Open (Group &amp; Play-off)</li> <li>Winter County Cup (Division 3&amp;4)</li> <li>Summer County Cup (Division 3&amp;4)</li> </ul>
Regional	Grade 3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Team Tennis Regional Open (Group stage)</li> <li>Team Tennis County Open (Division 1 Play-offs)</li> <li>Winter County Cup (Division 5&amp;6)</li> <li>Summer County Cup (Division 5-7)</li> <li>BUCS Team Championships (Premier)</li> </ul>
County	Grade 4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Team Tennis County Open (Division 1 Play-offs)</li> <li>BUCS Team Championships (Tier 1 &amp; 2)</li> </ul>
Local	Grade 5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Team Tennis County Open (Division 2 onwards)</li> <li>BUCS Team Championships (Tier 3-5)</li> </ul>
Local	Grade 6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Local league and cup</li> </ul>
Local	Grade 7	

Juniors

National	Grade 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Team Tennis Premier 12&amp;U-18&amp;U (Finals)</li> <li>18U County Cup (Division 1&amp;2)</li> </ul>
National	Grade 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>18U County Cup (Division 3&amp;4)</li> <li>10U/12U/14U County Cup (Finals)</li> </ul>
Regional	Grade 3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Team Tennis Premier 12&amp;U-18&amp;U (Group stage)</li> <li>Team Tennis Schools National Championships (Finals)</li> <li>Team Tennis Schools Year 8&amp;10 (Regional finals &amp; finals)</li> <li>18U County Cup (Division 5&amp;6)</li> <li>9U/10U/12U/14U County Cup (Qualifying)</li> </ul>
County	Grade 4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Team Tennis County 8&amp;U-18&amp;U (Division 1)</li> <li>Team Tennis Schools National Championships (Knock-out stage)</li> <li>Team Tennis Schools Year 8&amp;10 (Knock-out stage)</li> <li>Team Tennis Schools Senior Students (Knock-out &amp; Finals)</li> </ul>
Local	Grade 5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Team Tennis County 8&amp;U-18&amp;U (Division 2 onwards)</li> <li>Team Tennis Schools Year 8&amp;10 (Division 1)</li> </ul>
Local	Grade 6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Team Tennis Schools Year 8&amp;10 (Division 2 onwards)</li> <li>Team Tennis Schools Senior Students (League stage)</li> <li>Local league and cup</li> </ul>
Local	Grade 7	

## Individual Competition: Ranking Points Allocation

Pre-Qualifying	Qualifying	Consolation	Main Draw	Grade 1	Grade 2	Grade 3	Grade 4	Grade 5
			Winner	1000	750	250	125	75
			R Up	750	565	190	95	60
			3rd	625	470	155	80	48
			4th Semi-Finalist	550	415	140	70	45
			5th	500	375	125	65	40
			6th	450	330	110	55	35
			7th	425	310	105	53	32
			8th Quarter-Finalist	400	300	100	50	30
			9th	390	290	97	49	29
			10th	380	280	94	48	28
			11th	370	270	91	47	27
			12th	360	260	88	45	26
			13th	350	250	85	43	25
			14th	340	240	82	40	24
			15th	330	230	79	39	23
		Winner	Round of 16	300	225	75	38	22
		R Up		250	190	63	31	20
		3rd		225	170	56	28	19
		4th Semi-Finalist	Round of 32	200	150	50	25	18
	Qualifier	5th		185	140	46	24	17
	Rup Qualifier	6th		175	130	44	23	16
	3rd# Qualifier	7th		170	128	42	22	15
Pre Qualifier	4th# Qualifier	8th Quarter-Finalist		165	125	41	21	14
		9th		161	122	40	20	13
		10th		157	119	39	19	12
		11th		153	116	38	18	11
		12th		149	113	37	17	10
		13th		145	110	36	16	9
		14th		141	107	35	15	8
		15th		137	104	34	14	7
Rup Pre Qualifier	5th# Qualifier	Round of 16		130	100	33	13	6
3rd# Pre Qualifier	6th# Qualifier	Round of 32	Round of 64	100	75	25	12	5

## Team Competition: Ranking Points Allocation

	Grade 1	Grade 2	Grade 3	Grade 4	Grade 5	Grade 6	Grade 7
Win Over Player 1	100	90	70	45	20	Ratings Only	Ratings Only
Win Over Player 2	95	85	65	40	19		
Win Over Player 3	90	80	60	35	18		
Win Over Player 4	85	75	55	30	17		
Win Over Player 5	80	70	50	25	16		
Win Over Player 6	75	65	45	20	15		

\*Ranking points for Team Tennis Series competitions will be accumulated match on match, and a single total awarded to players after the event. Exceptions; where competitions have 2 or more stages, ranking points will be accumulated per stage. e.g. A player competing in Team Tennis Premier 12&U will be awarded a single total from the 'Group' stage, and if the team qualify to the 'Finals' will be awarded a single total from the 'Finals' stage. e.g. A player competing in Team Tennis County Open Division 1 will be awarded a single total from the 'Group' stage, and if the team qualifies to the 'Play-offs' will be awarded a single total from the 'Play-offs' stage. e.g. A player competing in 12U County Cup will be awarded a single total from 'Stage 1', and if the team qualifies to 'Stage 2' will be awarded a single total from 'Stage 2'.

## APPENDIX SIX

## LTA Code of Conduct

1. In respect of all LTA Official Competitions, each Player must, during all matches and at all times while within the competition site and any official competition residence, conduct him/herself in a professional and appropriate manner. Without prejudice to the generality of the previous sentence, each Player:
    - (a) may leave the court during a match (including during the warm-up) only with the permission of the Chair Umpire. Where no Chair Umpire is appointed, a Player may leave the court during a match (including during the warm-up) only with the permission of the Referee or the Referee's designee, including a Court Supervisor (except where the Referee is not on the court and the Player is calling for the Referee pursuant to paragraph 5.55 of the Regulations);
    - (b) must not refuse to play or fail to be ready to play within 15 minutes of his/her match being called or within the allowed time due to a medical condition or treatment or having left the court with appropriate permission;
    - (c) must use his/her best efforts to win each match in which he/she participates;
    - (d) must complete each match in which he/she participates unless he/she is not reasonably able to do so;
    - (e) must not use an audible obscenity and/or make an obscene gesture of any kind;
    - (f) must not at any time verbally abuse any official, opponent, spectator or other person;
    - (g) must not at any time physically abuse any official, opponent, spectator or other person;
    - (h) must not violently, dangerously or in anger, hit, kick or throw a tennis ball, racket or other equipment;
  - (i) must not receive coaching during a match (including during the warm-up) except where play is suspended and the Players are off court. 'Coaching' is to be interpreted widely, and communication of any kind, audible or visible, between a Player and a person off court (for example, a coach, relative or representative) may be treated as coaching; and
  - (j) must at all times conduct him/herself in a sportsmanlike manner with due regard to the authority of officials and to the rights of opponents, spectators and other persons.
2. Subject to paragraph 3, below, and the discretion of the Chair Umpire, Court Supervisor, Referee or assistant Referee, as the case may be (see paragraph 6, below):
    - (a) any violation of paragraph 1, above (a **Code Violation**), that takes place during or in relation to a match will result in the immediate imposition of the following sanctions (in addition, Code Violation Points will be imposed as set out in Appendix Seven):
      - **first Code Violation:** warning (i.e. the Player will receive a verbal warning)
      - **second Code Violation:** point penalty (i.e. the Player will lose a point)
      - **third Code Violation:** game penalty (i.e. the Player will lose a game)
      - **fourth and subsequent Code Violations:** game penalty or default (i.e. the Player will lose a game or the match)

***Explanatory note:** A game penalty awarded during a game, for example, when the score is at 30-40, means the loss of that game. A game penalty awarded at the end of a game means the loss of the next game.*
    - (b) any Code Violation that is not sanctioned pursuant to paragraph 2(a), above, including, without limitation, a Code Violation committed after the conclusion of a match (an off-court Code Violation), will incur Code Violation Points as set out in Appendix Seven.

3. Notwithstanding paragraph 2, above, if a single Code Violation (including an off-court Code Violation) is sufficiently serious, the Player may receive an immediate default. An immediate default must be reported to the LTA Disciplinary Officer within 48 hours of the date on which it is imposed.
 

***Explanatory note:** Examples of conduct that might be sufficiently serious include, without limitation, racial abuse, verbal abuse; physical abuse; lewd or obscene gestures or behaviour; intimidating or inappropriate behaviour towards a child; ball or racket abuse where the ball or racket hits, injures or is aimed at another person; and spitting at or near another person. For the avoidance of doubt, these examples are for illustration purposes only and are entirely without limitation.*
4. If a Player is defaulted pursuant to paragraphs 2 or 3, above, the Player will be defaulted from all events at that competition (i.e. he/she will not be permitted to play in any other matches in that competition).
5. The powers set out in paragraphs 2 to 4, above, will be exercised by the Chair Umpire, Court Supervisor, assistant Referee and/or Referee (save for default, which may be imposed only by the Referee or, in exceptional circumstances, his/her designee). Subject to Appendix Seven, any such decisions will be final and binding on all parties and no one will have the right to appeal against or otherwise challenge such decisions.
6. All other persons participating in any way in an LTA Official Competition (including officials, staff, coaches, representatives, agents, medical staff, relatives and associates of a Player, a Player's entourage and spectators) must, during all matches and at all times while within the competition site and any official competition residence, conduct themselves in a professional and appropriate manner. Any failure or refusal to do so may be treated as a disciplinary matter and dealt with under the LTA's Disciplinary and Dispute Resolution Procedures. In addition, a Player is

responsible and accountable for the conduct of his/her coaches, representatives, agents, medical staff, relatives, associates, entourage and/or spectators; any failure or refusal by such a person to conduct themselves in a professional and appropriate manner may also result in sanctions being applied to the Player pursuant to paragraph 2 to 5, above (as if the Player had committed a Code Violation), and/or under the LTA's Disciplinary and Dispute Resolution Procedures.

7. All persons participating in any way in an LTA Official Competition (including Players, officials, staff, coaches, representatives, agents, medical staff, relatives and associates of a Player, a Player's entourage and spectators) must refrain from making comments, including to representatives of the media or through social media, that attack, disparage or criticise Players, organisers, officials or staff of LTA Official Competitions and/or the LTA. Any failure or refusal to do so may be treated as a disciplinary matter and dealt with under the LTA's Disciplinary and Dispute Resolution Procedures.

## APPENDIX SEVEN

## Code Violation Points

1. Except in relation to Red Ball tennis (in which Code Violation Points will not be incurred), any Player who receives a sanction under paragraphs 2, 3 and/or 6 of Appendix Six as a result of one or more Code Violations will also incur the following Code Violation Points:

Code Violation sanction	Code Violation Points incurred
Warning	2
Point penalty	1
Game penalty (for each game penalty imposed)	1
Default	1
Off-court Code Violation	1
Immediate default	6

**Explanatory note:** A Player who walks off court refusing to complete a match will be deemed to have defaulted themselves. This will be recorded as an Immediate Default, incurring 6 code violation points and possible further disciplinary action.

2. Subject to paragraph 11, below, where a Player receives a Code Violation and incurs Code Violation Points, the LTA will notify the Player by email as soon as reasonably practicable.
3. A Player may only challenge the imposition of Code Violation Points:
  - (a) where the Code Violation was a result of the Player having been wrongly identified as the offending Player ('mistaken identity'); and/or
  - (b) where the Player can show exceptional circumstances.
4. If a Player wishes to challenge the imposition of Code Violation Points pursuant to paragraph 3, above, the Player must provide written notice of the challenge, with details of the evidence that will be provided in support of the challenge, to the LTA Disciplinary Officer within

72 hours of receipt of the notification of the Code Violation Points pursuant to paragraph 2, above (see paragraph 10.6, above). For the avoidance of doubt, unless the Player notifies the LTA Disciplinary Officer (and provides details of the relevant evidence) pursuant to this paragraph, the Player will not be entitled to challenge the imposition of Code Violation Points during the course of any subsequent disciplinary proceedings.

5. Upon receipt of any such notification, the LTA Disciplinary Officer will obtain comments thereon of any person(s) that the LTA Disciplinary Officer deems appropriate. Copies of such comments will be sent to the Player.
6. The LTA Disciplinary Officer may at his/her discretion investigate any challenge to the imposition of Code Violation Points and, where he/she (a) is satisfied that the challenge should be upheld, and (b) considers it appropriate to deal with the matter without the need for it to be determined by the Disciplinary Panel pursuant to paragraph 7, below, may adjust the Player's Code Violation Points record accordingly. However, the LTA Disciplinary Officer will only investigate such challenges in very exceptional cases; in the vast majority of cases the notification of Code Violation Points and, where applicable, notification of the Player's challenge and any comments thereon will be kept on file by the LTA Disciplinary Officer and considered pursuant to paragraph 7, below.
7. Subject to paragraph 11, below, when a Player accumulates ten Code Violation Points within any rolling 12-month period:
  - (a) where the Player has not challenged the imposition of any of those Code Violation Points pursuant to paragraph 4, above, the Player will receive an automatic suspension of:
    - (i) three weeks, for a first application of this paragraph; or
    - (ii) four weeks, for the second application of this paragraph in relation to the same 12-month period;

- (iii) five weeks, for the third application of this paragraph in relation to the same 12-month period; and
  - (iv) six weeks, for subsequent applications of this paragraph in relation to the same 12-month period
- and the LTA will notify the Player accordingly; and
- (b) where the Player has challenged any of those Code Violation Points pursuant to paragraph 4, above, the LTA Disciplinary Officer will refer the matter to the Disciplinary Panel for consideration pursuant to paragraph 4 (or its successor) of the LTA's Disciplinary and Dispute Resolution Procedures. If the challenge(s) are not upheld, the Disciplinary Panel will impose the suspensions set out in paragraph 7(a)(i) and (ii), above. If the challenge(s) are upheld, the Player's Code Violation Points record will be adjusted accordingly.

**Explanatory note:** For example, if a Player has accumulated nine (unchallenged) Code Violation Points between 1 January 2013 and 30 September 2013, and then incurs a further three (unchallenged) Code Violation Points on 1 October 2013, making 12 Code Violation Points in total, he/she will receive an automatic suspension of three weeks pursuant to paragraph 7(a)(i), above (for the accumulation of ten Code Violation Points within a 12-month period). He/she will effectively begin another 12-month period on 1 October 2013 and will be treated as having incurred two Code Violation Points on that day (i.e. the two points that did not count towards the ten for the purposes of paragraph 7(a)(i)). And if he/she incurs a further eight (unchallenged) Code Violation Points before 31 December 2013 (making a total of 20 Code Violation Points in the original 12-month period, 1 January – 31 December 2013), he/she will receive a further automatic suspension of four weeks pursuant to paragraph 7(a)(ii), above.

8. In determining when the period of suspension will commence, the LTA or Disciplinary Panel (as the case may be) will take into consideration

all playing consequences of the suspension and will exclude any periods of inactivity for the Player and any periods in which the Player is not fit, available and expected to play so as to ensure that the suspension is effective and meaningful. However, in order to avoid disruption to other competitions, any suspension imposed will not ordinarily commence before the third Monday following the accrual of the tenth Code Violation Point or the determination of the Disciplinary Panel (as the case may be). If the suspension date starts during a competition, a Player is not permitted to play in that competition, even if part of the competition takes place outside of the suspension dates.

9. The decision of the Disciplinary Panel on any challenge pursuant to paragraph 7, above, may be appealed by the Player and/or by the LTA Disciplinary Officer in accordance with paragraphs 5 and 10 (or their successors) of the LTA's Disciplinary and Dispute Resolution Procedures. For the avoidance of doubt, there is no right of appeal in relation to the determination as to when the period of suspension will commence.
10. The LTA may publish the decisions of the Disciplinary Panel and Appeals Committee made pursuant to paragraphs 7 and 9, above (or a summary thereof), and details of suspensions imposed pursuant to paragraphs 7 and 9, above (including details of the Code Violations received).
11. In any case where a Player incurs Code Violation Points pursuant to paragraph 1, above, the LTA may elect not to count such Code Violation Points for the purpose of the aggregation pursuant to paragraph 7, above, but instead to deal with the matter under the LTA's Disciplinary and Dispute Resolution Procedures.

**Explanatory note:** It is anticipated that this discretion is more likely to be exercised for particularly serious incidents or for repeated incidents of a similar nature.

## APPENDIX EIGHT

## Competition formats

Grade	Description	Age Group	Minimum Scoring Format for Rating Purposes	Recommended Scoring Format for Grade
1	NATIONAL LEVEL	8U/Red	N/A	N/A
		9U/Orange	Best of 3 tie breaks OR 1 short set to 4 games	Best of 3 tie breaks
		10U/Green	1 short set to 4 games	2 short sets + match tie break
		12U/14U/16U/18U & Open	2 short sets + match tie break	Best of 3 tie break sets
2	NATIONAL LEVEL	8U/Red	N/A	N/A
		9U/Orange	Best of 3 tie breaks OR 1 short set to 4 games	Best of 3 tie breaks
		10U/Green	1 short set to 4 games	2 short sets + match tie break
		12U/14U/16U/18U & Open	2 short sets + match tie break	Best of 3 tie break sets
3	REGIONAL LEVEL	8U/Red	Match tie break	Match tie break
		9U/Orange	Best of 3 tie breaks OR 1 short set to 4 games	Best of 3 tie breaks
		10U/Green	1 short set to 4 games	2 short sets + match tie break
		12U/14U/16U/18U & Open	2 short sets + match tie break	Best of 2 tie break sets + match tie break
4	COUNTY LEVEL	8U/Red	Match tie break	Match tie break
		9U/Orange	Best of 3 tie breaks OR 1 short set to 4 games	Best of 3 tie breaks
		10U/Green	1 short set to 4 games	2 short sets + match tie break
		12U/14U/16U/18U & Open	2 short sets + match tie break	Best of 2 tie break sets + match tie break
5	LOCAL LEVEL	8U/Red	Match tie break	Match tie break
		9U/Orange	Best of 3 tie breaks OR 1 short set to 4 games	Best of 3 tie breaks
		10U/Green	1 short set to 4 games	2 short sets + match tie break
		12U/14U/16U/18U & Open	2 short sets + match tie break	Best of 2 tie break sets + match tie break
6	LOCAL LEVEL	8U/Red	Match tie break	Match tie break
		9U/Orange	Best of 3 tie breaks OR 1 short set to 4 games	Best of 3 tie breaks OR 1 short set to 4 games
		10U/Green	1 short set to 4 games	2 short sets + match tie break
		12U/14U/16U/18U & Open	2 short sets + match tie break OR 1 full set (players 10.2-9.1 only)	Best of 2 tie break sets + match tie break
7	LOCAL LEVEL	8U/Red	Match tie break	Match tie break
		9U/Orange	Best of 3 tie breaks OR 1 short set to 4 games	Best of 3 tie breaks OR 1 short set to 4 games
		10U/Green	1 short set to 4 games	2 short sets + match tie break
		12U/14U/16U/18U & Open	2 short sets + match tie break OR 1 full set (players 10.2-9.1 only)	Best of 2 tie break sets + match tie break







**The Lawn Tennis Association**  
The National Tennis Centre  
100 Priory Lane, Roehampton  
London SW15 5JQ

**T 020 8487 7000**  
F 020 8487 7301  
[www.lta.org.uk](http://www.lta.org.uk)  
[info@lta.org.uk](mailto:info@lta.org.uk)

