



LEAGUE

# WINTER 2024/25 – RULES

8 & Under

9 & Under

11 & Under

14 & 18 Under

Problem Solving Issues & Regulations



TENNIS  
FOR BRITAIN

## 8&U Age Group Rules

### 1. Eligibility

#### **Venue Eligibility**

1.1 Entry to LTA Youth League ('the Competition') is open only to LTA registered venues, defined as Associates in Rule 28 of the LTA.

#### **Team Eligibility**

1.2 Event: Mixed 8 & under (born in 2017 or later).

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

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

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

#### **Player Eligibility**

1.6 A player may only:

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

1.7 All players must:

- I. Have an LTA Advantage Membership number which links to the venue they are competing for.
- II. Be a member of the LTA registered venue they are competing for as of 1<sup>st</sup> August 2024 and commit to representing that venue.
- III. Be of the correct age (see rule 1.2).

### 2. Competition Structure

2.1 County Tier

Teams shall be entered in a County Tier league based on their LTA venue registration code.

Counties may run a central venue event at 8&U.

### 3. Match Arrangements

3.1 Time & Date

Fixtures shall be played on the fixed dates and times specified. Three sessions are scheduled for each match date. Times are published online. Players should report to their team captain on the viewing gallery 10 minutes before the match start time and wait to be called down to court by the supervisor. This will prevent disruption to matches being played in the earlier session.

As a central venue format is being used, the league organiser will contact all team captains pre-season to provide arrangements and advise the date and time of a pre-season virtual meeting.

3.2 Courts and Equipment

The venue shall provide a minimum of 2 red courts (preferably 4); supply the court equipment and set-up the court in line with the Competition Framework - [www.lta.org.uk/8-9-10competitions/](http://www.lta.org.uk/8-9-10competitions/)

3.3 Balls

The venue will supply 3 sponge balls for each rubber.

3.4 Match Format

At each session, 3 teams will form a group with each team playing both of the other teams in the group. Singles 1v1; 2v2; 3v3; 4v4; 1v2; 2v1; 3v4; 4v3 i.e. 8 rubbers for each of the two matches played. When recording match scores online, unplayed rubbers are recorded 'not played, no players'. In the event of 1 of the 3 teams not showing, the remaining 2 teams will play 16 rubbers with each of the 4 players in one team playing all other players in the second team. There will be no doubles rubbers at 8&U.

3.5 Team Format

A team shall consist of 4 players of any gender. There are no additional players or substitutions permitted at a match.

3.6 Singles Nominations

At least 15 minutes before the start time of each fixture, team captains must nominate in writing (on a scorecard) their singles players which should be in order of merit.

Singles Playing Order

Players should play in order of merit as determined by the team captain. Boys and girls may play against one another. Team Captains are encouraged, in the spirit of providing an enjoyable and competitive experience, to nominate in order of playing standard i.e., strongest player should play as singles 1, second strongest player as singles 2 and so on.

3.7 Order of play (based on a group of 3 teams on 4-red courts)

	Court 1	Court 2	Court 3	Court 4
Round 1	A1 v B1	A2 v C2	B3 v C3	A4 v C4
Round 2	A1 v C1	B2 v C2	A3 v B3	B4 v C4
Round 3	B1 v C1	A2 v B2	A3 v C3	A4 v B4
Round 4	A1 v C2	A2 v B1	B3 v C4	A4 v C3
Round 5	A1 v B2	C1 v A2	A3 v B4	B3 v C4
Round 6	B1 v C2	C1 v A2	A3 v C4	C3 v B4

1.1 Order of play (based on a group of 2 teams on 4-red courts)

	Court 1	Court 2	Court 3	Court 4
Round 1	A1 v B1	A2 v B2	A3 v B3	A4 v B4
Round 2	A1 v B2	B1 v A2	A3 v B4	B3 v A4
Round 3	A1 v B3	B1 v A3	A2 v B4	B2 v A4
Round 4	A1 v B4	B1 v A4	A2 v B3	B2 v A3

Each round should take approximately 12 minutes. Matches should follow one another immediately. Home players stay on the same court.

1.2 Rubber Scoring

	Set 1
8&U	Match Tie Break (to 10 points, with 2 clear)

1.3 Match Scoring

A team is awarded 2 points for each rubber won.

1.4 Match Result

The team with the most rubber points shall win the match. If teams are level on rubbers the match shall result in a draw.

A team will receive 2 match points on the league table for a match win and 1 match point for a draw.

In a knock-out format, if match points are equal, the team with the higher number of points won will be the winner. If points are equal, the result of the rubber between players 1 v 1 will determine the winner;

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

**Note that any un-played rubbers must be recorded as 'not played, no players' before saving..**

1.5 Division Standings if competition played as a round robin league.

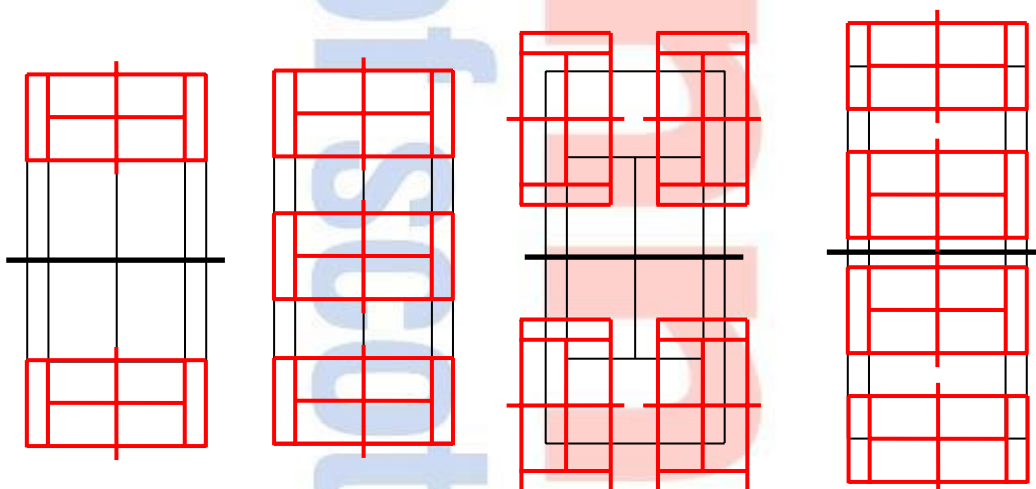
The final standings in each division shall be determined by the following:

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

**Red** Equipment & court lay-out

For more information, please visit [www.lta.org.uk/8-9-10competitions/](http://www.lta.org.uk/8-9-10competitions/)

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



## 9&U Age Group Rules

### 2. Eligibility

#### **Venue Eligibility**

2.1 Entry to LTA Youth League ('the Competition') is open only to LTA registered venues, defined as Associates in Rule 28 of the LTA.

#### **Team Eligibility**

2.2 Event: Mixed 9 & Under (born in 2015 or 2016). Passport players will be allowed to play up in line with the Player Passport system.

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

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

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



#### **Player Eligibility**

2.6 A player may only:

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

2.7 All players must:

- I. Have an LTA Advantage Membership number which links to the venue they are competing for.
- II. Be a member of the LTA registered venue they are competing for as of 1 August 2024 and commit to representing that venue.
- III. Be of the correct age (see rule 4.2).

### 3. Competition Structure

3.1 County Tier

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

### 4. Match Arrangements

4.1 Time & Date

Matches shall be scheduled at an indoor central venue on Saturday afternoons. Each session will have a number of different start times which may vary for a team from session to session. A team not showing within 15 minutes of the scheduled start time will forfeit the match. If any team does not show for two sessions, that team will be withdrawn from the competition.

4.2 Courts and Equipment

Tennis West of Scotland will appoint supervisors to set up courts at each central venue. Team captains of teams in the first session of the day may assist with setting up. Team captains of teams in the final session of each day may assist supervisors to put equipment away. Framework - [www.lta.org.uk/8-9-10competitions/](http://www.lta.org.uk/8-9-10competitions/)

4.3 Balls

3 orange balls will be supplied for for each rubber.

4.4 Match Format

A Mixed League match shall consist of 9 singles rubbers. A Girls League match shall consist of 4 singles and 1 doubles rubber..

4.5 Team Format

A Mixed team shall consist of 3 players of any gender. There are no additional players or substitutions permitted at a match. A Girls team shall consist of 2 girls. No additional players are allowed in either 9U competition.

4.6 Singles Nominations

At least 15 minutes before the start time of each match, team captains must nominate in writing (on a scorecard) their singles players, in order of merit.

Singles Playing Order

Players should play in order of merit as determined by the team captain. Boys and girls may play against one another. Team Captains are encouraged, in the spirit of providing an enjoyable and competitive experience, to nominate in order of playing standard i.e., strongest player should play as singles 1, second strongest player as singles 2 and so on.

#### 4.7 Order of Play – Mixed League

	Court 1	Court 2	Court 3
Round 1	Singles 1v1	Singles 2v3	Singles 3v2
Round 2	Singles 2v2	Singles 1v3	Singles 3v1
Round 3	Singles 3v3	Singles 1v2	Singles 2v1

#### Order of Play – Girls League

	Court 1	Court 2
Round 1	Singles 1v1	Singles 2v2
Round 2	Singles 1v2	Singles 2v1
Round 3	Doubles	

Matches should follow one another immediately. There should be no rest period between rubbers other than any required toilet break.

#### 4.8 Rubber Scoring Singles & Doubles

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

#### 4.9 Match Scoring

A team is awarded 2 points for each rubber won.

#### 4.10 Match Result

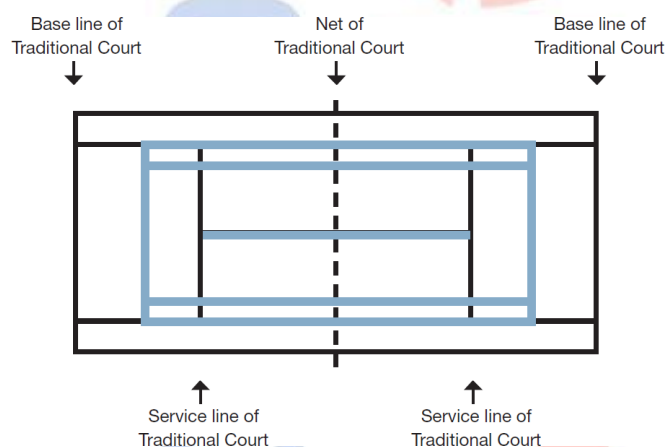
The team with the most rubber points shall win the match. A team will receive 2 match points on the league table for a match win .

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

#### 4.11 Division Standings

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

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



#### Orange Equipment & court lay-out

For more information, please visit [www.lta.org.uk/8-9-10competitions/](http://www.lta.org.uk/8-9-10competitions/)

<b>Ball:</b>	Orange
<b>Court:</b>	Singles court: 18m x 6.5m; Doubles court: 18m x 8.23m
<b>Net Height:</b>	80cm (at middle of net)
<b>Recommended Racket Size:</b>	58cm - 63cm (23" - 25")

## 11&U, 14&U and 18&U Age Group Rules

### 5. Eligibility

#### Venue Eligibility

5.1 Entry to LTA Youth & National League ('the Competition') is open only to LTA registered venues, defined as Associates in Rule 28 of the LTA.

#### Team Eligibility

5.2 Events:

Girls/Boys 18 & Under (born in 2006 – 2013 inclusive)  
Girls/Boys 14 & Under (born in 2010 – 2013 inclusive)  
Girls/Boys 11 & Under (born 2013 or 2014)

5.3 A venue may enter more than one team in each event.

5.4 Where a venue has two or more teams in an event, the 'A' team should be the strongest team based on singles ITF World Tennis Number as of 1<sup>st</sup> April 2023, and if applicable, the 'B' team should be stronger than the 'C' team based on singles ITF World Tennis Number etc.

5.5 Where the venue has two or more teams in an event, a player may 'play up' on a maximum of one occasion without loss of eligibility in their lower team. Once a player has represented a higher team on more than one occasion, from that point onwards, they are no longer eligible to represent the lower team.

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

#### Player Eligibility

5.7 A player may only:

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

5.8 All players must:

- I. Have an LTA Advantage Membership number which links to the venue they are competing for.
- II. Have an ITF World Tennis Number.
- III. Be a member of the LTA registered venue they are competing for as of 1 April 2024 and commit to representing that venue.
- IV. Be of the correct age (see rule 10.2)

### 6. Competition Structure

6.1 LTA Youth League (County Tier)

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

### 7. Match Arrangements

7.1 Time & Date

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

Matches must be played at the time published online unless both captains agree to play at a different time. A match should not be rescheduled due to team having a player who chooses to play in a different competition on the match date.

Fixtures are to start at the online time unless both teams agree otherwise.

The home team must confirm start time with the away team a minimum of 14 days before the match date. Away teams must still be active in obtaining the time. By the Tuesday, the week prior to the fixture, the away team must also confirm their team's attendance. 3 rubber points may be deducted from the match accumulated league total at the discretion of the league organiser for non-compliance from either team. Each team must have an adult captain (age 18+) present at each fixture. The home team captain shall be responsible for welcoming the away team and organising hospitality.

In exceptional cases, fixtures may be rescheduled at a later date where 2 or more nominated players in the same team are involved in National training camps, International representation or other National/International competitions taking place in Great Britain (e.g., County Cup, Junior Internationals) on the same date.

Participation of nominated players competing in all other activities is not a reason for a match to be rescheduled.

- 7.2 Courts  
The home team shall provide 2 courts of the same surface. Where more than one court surface is used, the away team shall have the choice of court allocation.
- 7.3 Balls  
The home team shall supply a minimum of 3 new ITF approved balls for each singles rubber.
- 7.4 Match Format  
A match shall consist of 2 singles & 1 doubles rubbers.
- 7.5 Team Format  
A team shall consist of two or three players. Two players shall play one singles rubber each and any 3<sup>rd</sup> player may be selected for the doubles rubber.
- 7.6 Singles Nominations

I. LTA Youth League (County Tier)

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

Team Captains are encouraged, in the spirit of providing an enjoyable and competitive experience, to nominate in order of playing standard i.e., strongest player should play as singles 1, second strongest player as singles 2 and so on.

Any player(s) playing doubles only must be nominated at the same time. Please see below the ITF World Tennis Number (singles) bands:

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

- 7.7 Doubles Pairings  
A 3<sup>rd</sup> player can substitute directly for any of the two singles players. The nominated doubles substitution must be on site at the agreed start time of the fixture.
- 7.8 Order of Play  
Clubs are encouraged to consider organizing two matches at the same time on 3 courts with the doubles rubber of one of the matches being played before the two singles rubbers.  
There is to be a maximum of 15 minutes rest between rounds.
- 7.9 Rubber Scoring  
**FAST4**
- 7.10 Match Scoring  
A team is awarded 2 points for each rubber won.

- 7.11 Match Result  
The team with the most rubber points shall win the match' A team will receive 2 match points on the league table for a match win.
- Both captains must complete and sign the Youth & National League scorecards and retain their copy. The winning captain must then submit the result online within 48 hours. The result may be added by the losing team captain if agreed on match day. Any teams found guilty of submitting false results shall be subject to rule 17.2.
- 7.12 Division Standings  
The final standings in each division shall be determined by the following:
- The team with the greatest number of match points.
  - If match points are equal, the team with the greatest number of rubber points.
  - If only two teams are level on match points and rubber points: their head-to-head result.
  - If more than 2 teams are level, the round robin rule in the LTA Competition Regulations will determine the league standings.

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

### 8 Problem Solving Issues

#### 8.1 Late Arrival

If any nominated player is not ready to play within 15 minutes of a rubber due on court, then the opposing team shall be awarded a walkover for this rubber (by a score of 6-0, 6-0). No substitutions or alteration to the nominations or playing order may be made. The player concerned shall be permitted to play a doubles rubber (and tie-break shoot-out) provided he/she is ready to play when the doubles rubber is due on court. If he/she is not ready when the doubles rubber is due on court the team will be deemed 'incomplete' and Rules 16.2 and 16.6 will apply.

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

#### 8.2 Incomplete Teams

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

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

#### 8.3 Player Retirement

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

#### 8.4 Completion of Matches (due to inclement weather)

If play is suspended after a match has started, then the match shall resume at the point of suspension.

If a match cannot be started due to rain or rain stops play before any rubbers have been completed, then the match may be rearranged on or before the rain date at the original venue as set by the League Organiser. New nominations may be submitted, and the match can be restarted. At the discretion of the league organiser, the home venue of a fixture may be reversed in the case of inclement weather and/or courts being unfit for play.

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

Where one or more rubbers have been completed, then the winner of the match shall be the team winning the greatest number of completed rubbers. 2 points shall be awarded for each completed rubber with any remaining points shared. For the purposes of final league placing calculations, the incomplete and unplayed rubbers shall be deemed shared by a score of 6-4, 4-6. Should each team have won an equal number of rubbers then each team shall receive 6 rubber points and 1 match point.

#### 8.5 Team Withdrawal

##### County Tier -

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

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

#### 8.6 Playing out of order / Ineligible Player(s)

If players play out of order, then the singles rubbers involving those players shall be forfeited.

If an ineligible player competes then the singles rubber involving the player concerned, and all singles rubbers lower in the team order shall be forfeited. Any completed matches may stand for the purposes of ITF World Tennis Number and the match score must remain in place,



however, the overall team score for that particular match will be awarded to the opposing team. In addition, that team shall have 3 rubber points deducted from their match score for each ineligible player.

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

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

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

## **9 Regulations**

- 9.1 All matches in the Competition shall be conducted in accordance with the ITF Rules of Tennis, the Rules and Regulations of the LTA, the LTA Competition Regulations, the LTA Code of Conduct and the National League Competition Regulations (in the event of any inconsistency, the National League Regulations shall prevail). Each player participating in the competition grants and assigns to the LTA the right to make, use and show from time to time and at its discretion, motion pictures, still pictures and live taped or filmed television and other reproduction of him/her during the event and in connection with the promotion of the event without compensation for him/herself. Such promotional activities by the LTA shall not be identified as or represented to be an endorsement by the player of any product/company.
- 9.2 The day-to-day organisation of the Competition shall be carried out by the League Organiser under the auspices of the LTA Competitions Team (CT). The Competition is sanctioned by the LTA under the management of the CT. The CT shall have the power to decide on matters of interpretation of these regulations, to impose penalties including, but not limited to, the deduction of points and suspension for breaches of these Regulations; to suspend or modify any of these Regulations in appropriate circumstances. The CT decision on all matters is final.
- 9.3 Any complaint/dispute shall be made in writing on email to the League Organiser (copying in [nationalleague@LTA.org.uk](mailto:nationalleague@LTA.org.uk)) by the team captain within 48 hours of the complaint/dispute arising. Nevertheless, the League Organiser/CT shall have the power to consider any matter coming to their attention subsequently.
- 9.4 All players are subject to the Rules and Regulations of the LTA (including, without limitation, the LTA's Anti-Doping Programme, the Disciplinary and Dispute Resolution Procedures and the Regulations Concerning Match Fixing, Financial Speculation and Betting) and fully and unconditionally submit to the jurisdiction and authority of the LTA by competing in the Competition.
- 9.5 Where a LTA registered venue is suspended, the LTA Competitions Team shall determine if the venue shall play any further part in the current or further stages of the Competition

