

## 12&U Winter Competition Guide



Playing regular competition that is appropriate to your age and level is an important part of your child's development as a young tennis player.

We've put this guide together to give general guidelines on tournaments and competitions in the 12&U age groups. Your child's individual coach will be best placed to give you advice specific to your child and help you plan which events to enter.

There are lots of opportunities to get involved in tournaments and competitions. This guide will help you navigate the tournaments available both within Wales and across the border. This guide is specific to WINTER events (our 'winter season' runs from 1st Sept - 31st March).

We hope it's useful but if you have any queries please get in touch with our 12&U National Performance Development Officer (Becca Strelzyn) on [becca.strelzyn@tenniswales.org.uk](mailto:becca.strelzyn@tenniswales.org.uk)

### **CHOOSING THE RIGHT TENNIS COMPETITION**

All British Tennis competitions are graded (7-1).....local level is grade 7 up to national level events at grade 1.

### **MINI TENNIS RATINGS, LTA RATINGS & 12&U RANKINGS**

You can find more information on the LTA ratings, mini tennis ratings and 12&U rankings on the separate info sheet that we've put together (and on the the LTA website ([LTA.org.uk](http://LTA.org.uk)))

If you child is competing in 10&U, 9&U and 8&U age groups they will be given a mini tennis rating. Having a mini tennis rating that best reflects their playing level will help them to play in the most suitable events.

### **LINKING EVENTS**

There are some tournaments that provide opportunities for players to qualify for the next grade of event. For example winning a WCT Grade 4 competition (that is a linked event) will give a player a place in the relevant WRT Grade 3 competition.

### **GETTING INTO COMPETITIONS (ACCEPTANCE)**

The criteria that organisers use for deciding which players are accepted into the tournaments depends on the LTA grade of the event. For higher level events the tournament will often have more entries than places in the draw so acceptance will be decided on LTA Ranking (Grade 3 and above) and LTA Rating (Grade 4 and below).

## LTA Grade 6&7 - Winter Competitions

### Who are these events for? - Beginners & Club Level Players

**12&U:** For players new to competition. Generally with ratings of **10.2** up to **8.1**. There are no LTA ranking points allocated for these events.

**10&U:** For players new to competition or for those that have just moved up to the age group. Generally **Green 4** and **Green 3** ratings.

**9&U:** For players new to competition or those still in 8&U age group but with an orange rating (have played 40 mini red matches). Most suitable for players with **Orange 4** or **Orange 3** ratings.

**8&U:** For all mini red players, particularly those new to tournaments. No ratings for this age group.

## What to Expect

**Tournaments:** Sytner MINI circuit events, matchplay events, club tournaments

**Venues:** Various club / venues across Wales, no need to travel far for these competitions

**Dates:** Set by local organisers and take place through-out the season

**Age Groups:** All age groups are catered for (8&U - open)

**Cost:** Expect to play £7-£18 per event, the more expensive tournaments will be indoors.

**Length of event:** 8&U / 9&U - 2-3hrs, 10&U / 12&U - depending on draw size and scoring format anywhere between 3-6hrs.

**How to enter:** Varies for each event...some accept online entry ([LTA.org.uk](http://LTA.org.uk)), others are pay on the day or register with the local organisers.

**Where to find the details:** Most events will be on the LTA website, others you can find on the Tennis Wales website or through your venue or coach.



## LTA Grade 5 - Winter County Tour & G5 Competitions

### Who are these events for? - Club Level Players

**12&U:** This is the first tier of competition to count towards LTA British Tennis Rankings. Generally for players with **10.2** to **8.1** ratings. Ideal for those that have just moved up to the 12&U age group from 10&U.

**10&U:** For players that have already played some competitions. Aimed at **Green 4, Green 3, Green 2** ratings.

**9&U:** For players that have played some competition already. Aimed at **Orange 4, Orange 3 and Orange 2** ratings.

**8&U:** For players that have played competitions already, generally a higher level than the Grade 6&7 events.

### What to Expect

**Tournaments:** Winter County Tour (9&U, 10&U, 12&U), Grade 5 tournaments & LTA Rankings tournaments.

**Linking Events:** Some Grade 5 tournaments link to Grade 4 events

**Venues:** Various clubs / venues across Wales and over the border. You might consider travelling for around 1hr to play in these events, depending on where you live.

**Dates:** Set by local organisers and take place through-out the season

**Age Groups:** All age groups are catered for (8&U - open)

**Cost:** Varies depending on venue and how many matches your child will play. £8 - £20 per event.

**Length of event:** 8&U - 2-3hrs, 9&U, 10&U and 12&U - 1 Day

**How to enter:** Online entry ([LTA.org.uk](http://LTA.org.uk))

**Where to find the details:** LTA website



## LTA Grade 4 - Winter County Tour

### Who are these events for? - County Squad Level Players

**12&U:** Generally for players with **9.2** to **7.2** ratings. Also a good opportunity for those that have just moved up to the 12&U age group from 10&U. Normally only 8 players accepted (on LTA Rating).

**10&U:** Aimed at players with **Green 1\***, **Green 1**, **Green 2** ratings. Either 8 or 16 players are normally accepted. Players with Green 3 and Green 4 ratings might not get into the event but this will vary locally.

**9&U:** Aimed at players with **Orange 1\***, **Orange 1**, **Orange 2** rating. Either 8 or 16 players are normally accepted. Players with Orange 3 and Orange 4 ratings might not get into the event but will vary locally.

**8&U:** More experienced mini red players (having played around 40 matches or more).

### What to Expect

**Tournaments:** LTA Winter County Tour (rankings points count towards LTA Rankings and Winter County Tour Leaderboards. LTA Grade 4 Tournaments.

**Linking Events:** For selected Grade 4 events winning the tournament will give you a place in a linked Regional Tour competition.

**Venues:** Various clubs / venues across Wales and over the border. You might consider travelling for around 1-1.5hrs to play in these events, depending on where you live.

**Dates:** Set by local organisers and take place through-out the season

**Age Groups:** All age groups are catered for (8&U - open)

**Cost:** Varies depending on venue and how many matches your child will play. £8 - £20 per event.

**Length of event:** 8&U - 2-3hrs, 9&U, 10&U and 12&U - 1 Day.

**How to enter:** Online entry ([LTA.org.uk](http://LTA.org.uk))

**Where to find the details:** LTA website



## LTA Grade 3 - Winter Regional Tour

### Who are these events for? - Regional Level Players

**12&U:** 4 rotations of 2-day tournaments. Players accepted will generally have an LTA **GB Ranking of around 200**. 16 players into each 2-day tournament.

**10&U:** Aimed at players with **Green 1\***, **Green 1** ratings. 8 players are accepted for the 1-day tournament. Players with Green 2, Green 3 and Green 4 ratings might not get into the event but will vary locally.

**9&U:** Aimed at players with **Orange 1\***, **Orange 1** rating. Either 8 or 16 players are normally accepted. Players with Orange 3 and Orange 4 ratings might not get into the event but will vary locally.

**8&U:** Over the winter these events tend to be part of bigger tournaments taking place around the school holidays. For more experienced mini red players.

### What to Expect

**Tournaments:** LTA Regional Tour (WRT) competitions

**Venues:** Indoor venues, mostly in England. You'll most likely need to travel for around 1-1.5hrs to play in these events, depending on where you live. For the 12&U competitions you might consider travelling further and staying overnight (2-day event).

**Linking Events:** Winning a Grade 3 (WRT) event will give you a place in the linked National Tour competition.

**Dates:** Set by the LTA in 'rotations' of tournaments with winners qualifying for a linked Winter National Tour event

**Age Groups:** WRT (Winter Regional Tour) events are 9&U - 18&U. Some 8&U competitions take place for 8&U but these are not part of the WRT.

**Cost:** 9&U, 10&U - £20, 12&U - £26

**Length of event:** 9&U and 10&U - 1 day, 12&U - 2 Days.

**How to enter:** Online entry ([LTA.org.uk](http://LTA.org.uk))

**Where to find the details:** LTA website



## LTA Grade 2 - Winter National Tour

### Who are these events for? - National Level Players

**12&U:** 3 tournaments over the season with a 1-day qualifying (24 players) and a 4-day Main Draw (24 direct acceptances). These events are always over-subscribed and accepted players will generally have an LTA **GB ranking of 100** or higher.

**10&U:** 3 tournaments over the season with a 32 draw size for each event. Accepted players will normally have **Green 1\* or Green 1** LTA mini tennis rating. Event are always over-subscribed and played over 2-days.

**9&U:** There are no WNT events for this age group

**8&U:** There are no WNT events for this age group



### What to Expect

**Tournaments:** LTA National Tour

**Venues:** Indoor venues around England. You'll need to travel for some distance to play in these events and it's likely you'll need to stay overnight. Tennis Wales often look to run official trips to take players to LTA National Tour events.

**Linking Events:** There are no links from these events but the Winter National Tour Leaderboard will decide which players are invited to the Winter National Tour Finals.

**Dates:** Set by the LTA

**Age Groups:** 10&U - 18&U

**Cost:** All age groups - £26

**Length of event:** 10&U - 2-days, 12&U - qualifying 1-day, main draw 3-days.

**How to enter:** Online entry ([LTA.org.uk](http://LTA.org.uk))

**Where to find the details:** LTA website

## LTA Grade 1 - Winter National Finals

### Who are these events for? - National Level Players

**10&U and 12&U:** Players accumulate points from the WNT events over the season. The **top 14 players** on the Leaderboard will be invited to the Winter National Tour Finals in London.

**9&U:** There is no Grade 1 competition for this age group

**8&U:** There is no Grade 1 competition for this age group



### What to Expect

**Tournaments:** Winter National Tour Finals 2018

**Venues:** National Tennis Centre, Roehampton

**Linking Events:** Leaderboards will decide which players are invited to the Winter National Tour Finals.

**Dates:** Set by the LTA

**Age Groups:** 10&U - 18&U

**Length of event:** 10&U - 2-days, 12&U - 3-days

**How to enter:** Invitation only

**Where to find the details:** LTA website