



# **Cheshire County LTA Junior Handbook 2017-18**



**Cheshire County LTA**  
Formed 1895



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<b>Contents</b>	<b>Page</b>
Introduction - Chairman of Competitions & Tournaments Committee	1
Annual Junior County Championships	3
County Championships Frequently Asked Questions	3
Fair Play	4
The Dick Fontes Cup	5
Cheshire LTA Junior County Championships 2016	5
Junior County Cup	7
Training Camps 2017-18	7
Aegon Junior County Cup Results 2017	8
12 Counties Championships 2016-17	9
Monkhouse Shield	11
LTA Competitions	12
What is Highland Spring Mini Tennis?	12
Fast4 Tennis	16
Miss Hits - Fun and friendly tennis programme for girls aged 5-8	17
Aegon Team Tennis	18
British Tennis Ratings	19
British Tennis Rankings Guide	21
Your Notes	23
Cheshire County LTA Contact Details	Back Cover

## Junior County Handbook Introduction

The Cheshire Competitions & Tournaments Committee and Junior County Committee produce this handbook for the benefit of all Cheshire tennis clubs, as well as targeting junior players and their parents. The aim is to update everyone as to what has been happening in Cheshire during the last year, as well as giving some insight as to how Cheshire Junior tennis is organised. We hope you find it useful, and would welcome feedback especially regarding how we might improve this booklet.

I would like to take this opportunity to highlight some achievements by Cheshire junior players over the last 12 months. The stand out team performance was our 18U girls' County Cup team of **Eden Richardson, Hannah McColgan, Ellie Tsimbilakis, Eve Daniels, Ellie Aldrich, Ella Walker, Laura Jackson and Jenni Bailey**. They came so close to gaining promotion to Group 1 with great wins against very strong teams from Warwickshire and Essex, before just losing to Kent.

There was also the 14U girls' team comprising **Ella Walker, Alice Shields, Olivia Anderson, Jemma Cave, Alice Kraunsoe and Lara Wedd** who came so close to qualifying for the National Finals, defeating North of Scotland (5-1) and Derbyshire (4-2), and then just losing the play off to Essex in a match that was decided on a Championship tie break 10 – 8! This only reinforced the small margins that exist between the elation of winning and disappointment of just losing, that tennis players have to deal with.

Three players who deserve special mention are **Ella Walker, Ellie Aldrich and Tom Owen**. Ella played at number 1 for the 14U team, but also achieved selection for the 18U team, and was not overawed against girls who were much older and more experienced. Ella is one to watch for the future, as is **Ellie Aldrich**. Ellie has only just moved out of the 14U age group this year.



She won the Cheshire 18U singles title last year, and has built on this success in 2017, playing for the 18U County team, and gaining selection for the Ladies County Week team as well. Two especially noteworthy performances have been reaching the singles finals of a Nike Grade 1 tournament at the NTC in London, and a Ladies British Tour event. **Tom Owen**, like Ellie, was a 14U player last year, but he has already started to make an impact in the 18U age group. Tom won the Cheshire 16U singles title in 2016, and gained selection for our very strong 18U County team this year which was an achievement in itself. Tom showed his potential by remaining undefeated in the Junior County Cup, Group 2, winning all three of his singles matches.

We will continue to watch the progress of all our junior players with interest and hope they can match, or even better, the achievements of Ella, Ellie and Tom during 2017 and 2018.

Our **Competitions & Tournaments Committee** continue to be open to the views of junior players and parents regarding tennis both in Cheshire and nationally. We are especially keen to listen to any new ideas to help increase participation levels across all age groups, and especially to help us in our drive to increase the number of girls playing tennis. We are always on the look out for tennis enthusiasts who might be interested in getting involved in the work of our Committee.

**Please do not hesitate to contact any of the Committee if you are interested.**

The Competitions & Tournaments Committee comprises: Barbara Bloor (Heswall LTC), John Doe (Congleton LTC), John Hilton (David Lloyd, Cheshire Oaks), Esme Laing (Birkenhead LTC), Russell Lawrence (Cheadle LTC), Debbie McKeever (Bramhall Lane LTC), Barbara Newnes (Birkenhead LTC), Sarah Rizvi (Hoole LTC), Linda Simpson (Heswall LTC), Liz Sweeting (Bramhall Lane LTC) and Anthony Wilding (Hoole LTC).

### **John Hilton**

**Chairman** - Junior County Committee and Competitions & Tournaments Committee

## Annual Junior County Championships

In the last week of August each county across Great Britain runs a Junior County Championships which provides competitive opportunities for mini (8 - 10 year olds), and junior players (11 - 18 yrs) of all standards. In Cheshire players from 12U are welcome to enter up to three events and can enter online via the LTA website. All players who participate in the Championships receive a free Cheshire tennis t-shirt.

There are separate 8U, 9U and 10U mini singles events (no doubles). The 8U and 9U events are played over just one day on the indoor courts at Birchwood Tennis Centre. The 10 & Under players use the outdoor courts at Grappenhall LTC, Warrington, just like the other age groups (12U, 14U, 16U & 18U).

Last year was a very special year as it turned out to be the final year in which Diane Tod sponsored our Junior County Championships. Many of our young players over the last 22 years have benefited from her generosity. Her continuous support has been truly outstanding and we will be forever grateful to her. On behalf of Cheshire County LTA "Thank you so much Mrs Tod".



## County Championships Frequently Asked Questions

### What exactly are the County Championships?

County Closed tournaments have traditionally catered for aspiring junior players. They are open to players of all ages and abilities. The Championships will mark the finale to the summer holidays and should provide enjoyment for competitors and spectators alike.

### What are the eligibility criteria?

A player is required to compete in his/her own County's Championships. A player's county is defined by his/her place of birth or place of permanent residence (for at least six months).

### What happens if a player loses their first singles match?

We offer all players the opportunity to play in a bonus draw to guarantee all players at least two matches.

### What is a progressive draw?

The aim of a progressive draw is to try and match players of a similar standard in the first/early round(s), therefore avoiding playing the highest rated players, who are introduced into the draw later in the competition.

### Can a player enter just doubles?

Yes, doubles entries are welcome, although we do like players to enter both singles and doubles events if possible.

### Is there a closing date for entries?

Yes, make sure you read the specific tournament information on the LTA's website to find out about the entry process and note closing deadlines.

## Will the County Championships count for a leaderboard?

No, the Championships form a unique category of competition, with the aim of finding a County Champion for each age group, and so do not feature in the county or regional leaderboards. However results will count for British Tennis Rankings, LTA Ratings and Mini Tennis recent form.

## Will there be prizes?

Yes, all finalists receive trophies to recognise they have played in their County Championship Finals. Winners of the 16U and 18U singles events gain automatic entry into the open age group County Championships which take place on 2nd and 3rd September. Players who win matches in the main draw of this event receive prize money. 12U singles winners will be invited to compete in the Babolat Cup 2017 at Edgbaston Priory Club on 16th and 17th September.

## Fair Play

Fair Play is an important value in tennis. We are committed to ensuring that tennis is played in a fair, open and inclusive nature at all levels.



We've outlined some core values of Fair Play for you to consider when on the court and playing tennis. These values apply equally to players, parents, coaches, officials and volunteers and cover all tennis activities, whether it is a competition, a friendly hit at a local court or a match you're watching.

### Enjoy

- Tennis is a game, enjoy it!
- Be a good sport when you win, lose and watch matches.
- Be a role model and set a good example of the behaviour you expect from others.

### Respect

- Respect other players, parents and officials.
- Take responsibility for your actions.
- Learn and follow the rules
- Call the score and lines clearly and fairly and leave it to the official to resolve problems

In 2013, Cheshire LTA decided to introduce an annual Fair Play Award that has been kindly sponsored by Mr and Mrs Davey. In 2016, we were delighted to present the award to both Jac Goodall and Matthew French at the Annual Presentation Evening.

If you wish to find out more about the Fairplay initiative please go to: [www.lta.org.uk/fairplay](http://www.lta.org.uk/fairplay)

## The Dick Fontes Cup

This trophy was presented to the then Junior Tennis Committee by Nancy Fontes, in memory of her late husband Dick. Both Dick and Nancy had been responsible for the formation of a Cheshire Committee solely in charge of all aspects of Junior tennis.

The trophy is awarded annually to the Junior player who in the opinion of the Competitions & Tournaments Committee has contributed most to Cheshire Junior tennis in the previous year.

At the time it was stressed that this was not necessarily the best player, but was open to any junior. Certain criteria were laid down amongst which were commitment to Cheshire, shown by a willingness to represent the county, and to compete in the Junior County Championships. Consideration was also to be shown to participation in school and club tennis. At clubs, those who show a willingness to help and encourage other juniors are important factors in selection.

It goes without saying that good behaviour on and off the court will also be considered. There have been many worthy winners of this trophy, and long may the tradition flourish.

### Recent winners:

2016 - Hannah McColgan (Bramhall Lane LTC)  
2015 - Saleem Rizvi (Hoole LTC)  
2014 – Adam Jones (Prenton LTC)  
2013 – Sean Sivewright (Prestbury LTC)

## Cheshire LTA Junior County Championships 2016

### Event

Girls' Singles	Winner	Runner Up
18U	Ellie Aldrich	Emily Sproston
16U	Not played	
14U	Ella Walker	Olivia Anderson
12U	Alice Shields	Jemma Cave
10U	Elena Asgill-Whalley	Katie Huang
9U	Abi Redman	Eva Senior
8U	Eva Senior	Susanna Thompson

## Cheshire LTA Junior County Championships 2016 *Continued*

### Event

Boys' Singles	Winner	Runner Up
18U	Adam Jones	Jamie Oakes
16U	Tom Owen	Danny Urey
14U	Danny Urey	Sam Reeve
12U	Mason Dace	Henry Boles
10U	Ilias Hirani-Worthington	George Boles
9U	Richard Carroll	Daniel Longshaw
8U	Regan O'Brien	Zach Thompson

### Event

Doubles	Winners	Runners Up
Girls' 18U	Rhona Cook & Olivia French	Ellie Aldrich & Ella Walker
Girls' 14U	Olivia Anderson & Ella Walker	Amber Thoms & Daisy Thoms
Girls' 12U	Jemma Cave & Alice Shields	Anna Jones & Alice Kraunsoe
Boys' 18U	Jamie Oakes & Lewis Denton	Ben Nicol & Tom Owen
Boys' 14U	Ben Nicol & Sam Reeve	Robin Bloomer & Arthur Cooper
Boys' 12U	Oliver Critchley & Mason Dace	Rory Walton-Smith Lewis Wilson
18U Mixed	Matthew Cooper & Olivia French	Adam Bolchover & Ellie Aldrich
14U Mixed	Not played	
12U Mixed	Aidan Yates & Alice Kraunsoe	Lewis Wilson & Niamh Cronin

## Junior County Cup

The Aegon sponsored Junior County Cup events give players the opportunity to represent their County in team competition in national/regional stages. There are separate Aegon County Cup competitions for five age groups, 18U, 14U, 12U, 10U and 9U which are each held at different times of the year.

**In order to compete players have to be selected by their County.**

The 44 competing counties are organised into groups according to their performance in the previous year's event. In the 14U, 12U and 10U events the counties are organised into groups on a regional basis, with winning teams progressing to a finals stage. The 9U is solely a regional event. Team composition and match formats vary from event to event with singles matches qualifying for rating wins and ranking points. All these team events involve doubles matches as well as singles.

Cheshire has a Junior County Committee comprising John Hilton, Debbie McKeever, Sarah Rizvi and Liz Sweeting. This Committee has responsibility for all matters relating to the 14U and 18U Junior County teams. This includes the appointment of team captains, and approving the teams selected by each captain. The guidelines the Captains and Junior Committee will refer to when selecting the 14U and 18U County teams in 2017 are the same as last year.

**The following factors will be taken into account:**

- ranking
- rating
- tournament matches played over the last season
- Cheshire Junior Championship results
- doubles results/prowess
- playing record if played for Cheshire previously
- involvement at Junior County training squads
- on court behaviour record
- if injury/illness has impacted on participation

Whilst taking part in the training squads is important, we wish to emphasise that playing in tournaments should **always** take priority over attendance at training.

## Training Camps 2017-2018

Cheshire County LTA will be organising and running County training camps for the most promising girls and boys across a wide age range starting at 9U through to 18U. The training camps will usually be taken by the County Captain for each age group, along with a second coach who will be the Vice Captain of the team. The age group camps will be:-

9 - 11 yrs (starting October), 12 - 13 yrs (starting September or October), 14 - 15 yrs (start October), 16 - 18 yrs (starting September).

The training camps will take place approximately once per month, until the Aegon Junior County Cup team event for each age group is held in 2018. At the time of this handbook going to print the Captains, Vice Captains and the exact dates and times of the camps have not been finalised.

The Junior County Cup Committee (John Hilton, Debbie McKeever, Sarah Rizvi & Liz Sweeting), is responsible for identifying the players who will be invited to the training camps along with Andy Wilkinson (i/c Performance for the North West). Players and their parents can expect to receive their invitations before September 2017.

# Aegon Junior County Cup Results 2017

Age Group & Event	Captain & Vice Captain	Players	Opponents and Results
<b>10U Boys</b> Qualifying Lytham St Annes	Tony Green	Daniel Longshaw Richard Carroll Zac Jones Alfie King	North of Scotland Won 6 - 2 Yorkshire Lost 8 - 0 West of Scotland Won 8 - 0 Lancashire Lost 6 - 2 <b>Finished 3rd</b>
<b>10U Girls</b> Qualifying Lymm LTC	Katie Thornewill	Abi Redman Ruby Roberts Korinne Roberts Leila Green Edie McGuinness	North of Scotland Won 6 - 0 Yorkshire Lost 8 - 0 West of Scotland Won 6 - 0 Lancashire Lost 8 - 0 <b>Finished 3rd</b>
<b>12U Boys</b> Qualifying Widnes	Simon Thornewill	Myles Minchin Oliver Hague Oliver Critchley Ilias Hirani-Worthington Andy Brisdon	North of Scotland 4 - 4 Lost on sets/games Yorkshire Lost 6 - 2 East of Scotland Won 6 - 2 Lancashire 4 - 4 Won on sets/games <b>Finished 3rd</b>
<b>12U Girls</b> Qualifying Holcombe Brook	Katie Thornewill	Florence Helsby Elena Asgill-Whalley Abigail Yates Martha Bevan Ane Oberholster	North of Scotland Lost 6 - 2 Yorkshire Lost 8 - 0 East of Scotland 4 - 4 Won on sets/games Lancashire Lost 8 - 0 <b>Finished 4th</b>
<b>14U Boys</b> Qualifying Lytham St Annes	Brent Parker & Allan Morton	Sam Reeve Danny Urey Matthew Cooper Mason Dace Jonah Gethin Lewis Wilson	Surrey Lost 4 - 2 Northumberland Won 5 - 1 Warwickshire Won 5 - 1 <b>Finished 3rd</b>
<b>14U Girls</b> Qualifying Stourbridge	Mark Hunter & Sarah Lawton	Ella Walker Alice Shields Olivia Anderson Jemma Cave Alice Kraunsoe Lara Wedd	Essex Lost 4 - 2 North of Scotland Won 5 - 1 Derbyshire Won 4 - 2 <b>Finished 2nd</b>

## Aegon Junior County Cup Results 2017 *Continued*

Age Group & Event	Captain & Vice Captain	Players	Opponents and Results
<b>18U Boys Group 2A</b> Redbridge	Jonny Kinsella & Matt Chadwick	Adam Jones Jamie Oakes Llewelyn Bevan Lewis Denton Tom Owen Ben Nicol Matthew Earnshaw Mike Armstrong	Buckinghamshire Won 5 - 3 Middlesex Lost 7 - 2 West of Scotland Lost 6 - 3 <b>Finished 3rd</b>
<b>18U Girls Group 2A</b> Bidston	Katie Thornewill & Simon Thornewill	Eden Richardson Hannah McColgan Ellie Tsimbilakis Eve Daniels Ellie Aldrich Ella Walker Laura Jackson Jenni Bailey	Essex Won 7 - 2 Kent Lost 6 - 3 Warwickshire Won 6 - 3 <b>Finished 2nd</b>

## 12 Counties Championships 2016 – 17

This is one of the largest non-LTA run events in the country. It has become an integral part of the Winter calendar for the 12 counties who have chosen to play in this event.

It has a unique format where each team's success is based on an accumulation of points achieved in both boys and girls singles matches in 5 age groups. It is a county team event, where teams of 4 girls and 4 boys play in each age group starting at 10U and progressing onto 12U, 14U, 16U and finally 18U. All the results count in equal measure.

There are 3 Divisions, each with 4 teams, Division 1 the Divisions 2A and 2B, both of which are of equal status. 8 counties play off to try to gain promotion to the top division for next season. This year, Cheshire played in the top Division 1 against Yorkshire, Leicestershire and Essex.

12 Counties provides the opportunity for 20 boys and 20 girls to represent Cheshire across the different age groups, as well as giving them invaluable experience of playing competitive matches in a team setting. Selection is based on a number of criteria including ranking, rating as well as results in the Junior County Championships. However, there is a deliberate policy to use the event to provide representative experience for some players who otherwise may not get the opportunity.

## 12 Counties Championships 2016 – 17 *Continued*

We are very grateful to Alison Redman and Charles Bloomer who captained the girls' and boys' teams. Playing in Division 1 was never going to be easy and any wins were hard fought and well deserved. Cheshire really rose to the challenge, producing some excellent tennis against some very tough opposition. All age groups competed well, with Cheshire finishing 3rd in Division 1.

The following players represented Cheshire in the 12 Counties Championships during 2016 and 2017:

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### 10U

Nia McKiernon, Emma Truscott, Abi Redman, Ruby Roberts, Daniel Longshaw, Sam Senior, Richard Carroll, Zac Jones

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### 12U

Alice Kraunsoe, Anna Jones, Elena Asgill-Whalley, Ane Oberholster, Mason Dace, Charlie Clarke, Oliver Hague, Oliver Critchley

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### 14U

Ella Walker, Alice Shields, Olivia Anderson, Olivia Smith, Danny Urey, Louis Coolican, Matthew Lightfoot, Henry Boles

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### 16U

Rhona Cook, Amy Redman, Emma Standish, Alice Shields, Llewelyn Bevan, Tom Owen, Ben Nicol, Harvey Mottram

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### 18U

Katie Merrick, Rhona Cook, Ella Walker, Amy Redman, Jamie Oakes, James Bloomer, Matt Earnshaw, Jindrich Kosatik

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### One day inter-club junior doubles competition

#### A full day's tennis for all teams

The Monkhouse Shield is the County Junior Inter-Club Championship. Formerly, it was played in a similar format to the adults' Cheshire Shield with teams playing in a knock out draw through the summer culminating in a final in September. However, because entry levels had been dropping and too many matches were being conceded, a new format was adopted in 2013 with the event being held on one day.

Registered clubs can enter with teams of 4 in both the boys' and girls' events. To help encourage more girls to enter, 2 clubs can combine to enter a joint team of girls.

The event is held on the 3rd or 4th Sunday in September and the age limit is set to allow players who finished school in the summer to play.

The teams play in a round robin format in the first round, with matches using a short scoring system. The results of the first round decide placement into a second round of compass draws or round robins, structured so that teams play against opposition of a similar standard in the second round. All the teams are involved right to the end of the competition so a great day's tennis is guaranteed.

In 2016, the winner of the boys' event was **Alderley Edge LTC**, and the winner of the girls' was **Widnes Tennis Academy**.

Closing date for entries is **August 31st**.

**The event will be held at Congleton LTC on Sunday September 17th 2017.**

**Entries or enquiries to: John Doe 07860 907484 or [john.doe@parkerdoe.com](mailto:john.doe@parkerdoe.com)**



## LTA Competitions

Cheshire Junior County Chamionships is just one type of competition in the tournament calendar;

### LTA Competition Search

The Competition search is the way players and parents can find, enter and pay for a competition online. It's one of the most used areas of the LTA website.

### New Features

- You are able to search based on your postcode and the number of miles you wish to travel.
- You are able to pay for multiple tournaments in one transaction by adding them to your basket.
- You are able to add tournaments to your watch list so you can be reminded when they open for entry.

Visit [www.lta.org.uk/Competitions/Search/](http://www.lta.org.uk/Competitions/Search/)



## What is Highland Spring Mini Tennis?

Children between three and ten years old can now get stuck into the world of tennis with an exciting programme from the LTA sponsored by Highland Spring.

With smaller courts, nets and rackets and lower bouncing balls, Highland Spring Mini Tennis offers the perfect introduction to the sport, with all the fun and energy of the real thing.

There are four stages of Highland Spring Mini Tennis; Tots, Red, Orange and Green, each with their own court size and type of ball. This tailored approach enables players to develop vital skills and techniques at an early age.

There is also the Highland Spring Mini Tennis Rally Awards scheme, designed to help mini players learn in stages and take part in exciting exercises with regular rewards which encourage them to develop their tennis skills at a pace that suits them.

Many sports have a mini version including, football, rugby and cricket which are helping to develop young talent in appropriate learning environments.



## What is Highland Spring Mini Tennis? *Continued*

The Rally Awards will help you to see how your child is improving with stickers, badges, certificates and the Rally Awards Collector. You can also help create a positive environment for children by providing the right support and encouragement.

Here are some top tips to help you and your child have fun playing tennis:

- Allow your child to gain confidence and enjoy the game by playing in the appropriate stage of Highland Spring Mini Tennis until they can control the ball and implement skills effectively.
- Get to know the Mini Tennis Rally Awards and encourage your child to practise the relevant skills.
- Practise with your child at home, at the place you play tennis, on holiday and with friends.
- Explain the Fair Play values as this will encourage good behaviour and sportsmanship in lessons and matches
- Focus on performance and effort instead of results. Ask “How did you play?” or “Did you have fun?”
- Help your child to understand that respect for the rules, opponents and officials is part of playing and enjoying the game.

### **MINI TENNIS COMPETITION**

Whether you are just starting on your Mini Tennis journey or have been playing for a few years there are a lots of opportunities for you to get involved in fun and enjoyable competition.

Mini Red, Orange and Green competitions are graded to help you find the right tournaments for your playing standard starting with local tournaments all the way to a national level.

Once you have started playing in tournaments your results go towards increasing your Mini Tennis Rating which is used to help track your progress and assist with entry into competitions.

### **MINI TENNIS RATINGS**

Mini tennis ratings are designed to help you get the most out of competitive tennis. The ratings are designed to reward you for competing, inspire you to develop your game and offer the opportunity to compete more regularly and to be the best you can be.

### **MINI TENNIS DASHBOARD**

You can keep a track of matches played and wins by checking the Mini Tennis Dashboard which is located in your BTM login area. If you are an Orange level or Green level player you may also want to know about Recent Form which is used for determining acceptance and seeding for competitions.

### **GET A MINI TENNIS RATING**

To get a rating you will need to sign-up to British Tennis Membership.

### HOW DO THE RATINGS WORK?

#### Red ratings

From 1 September 2016, Mini Tennis Red Ratings have been removed from the Mini Tennis Competition Framework. Find out more information.

If a player in their second to last or last seasons of 8U have played 40 Mini Tennis Red matches, they will be allocated an Orange 4 rating.

#### Orange ratings

You will move from level 4 to level 3 once you have played in 6 matches

You will move from level 3 to level 2 once you have played a further 20 matches

You will move from level 2 to level 1 once you have played a further 40 matches including a minimum of 20 wins against level 2 and 1 rated players.

You will move from a level 1 to level 1\* once you have recorded a further 20 wins against Orange level 1 or 1\* players in competitions graded 1 - 5.

#### Green ratings

You will move from level 4 to level 3 once you have played in 6 matches

You will move from level 3 to level 2 once you have played a further 20 matches

You will move from level 2 to level 1 once you have played a further 40 matches including a minimum of 20 wins against level 2 and 1 rated players.

You will move from level 1 to level 1\* once you have recorded a further 20 wins against Green 1 or 1\* players in tournaments graded 1 - 5.

### KEY INFORMATION

Remember a match can only count once, and a match only counts as a 'win' if it is against a player rated the same as you or higher.

A 'win' for a player moving from a level 2 to a level 1 also counts as a participation match.

Mixed gender matches count at Red, Orange and Green.

Doubles matches count towards your played matches but not your wins total.

Your rating will change automatically as soon as you have recorded the correct number of matches and wins if required.

### WHAT ARE THE PLAYING UP RULES?

In your second to last & last competition season, if you have played 40 Mini Tennis Red matches, you will move to Orange level 4 immediately and can start to compete in Orange ball competitions. You can also continue to play in red ball competitions.

In your last competition season, if you have an Orange 1 rating or Orange 1\* rating, you can start competing in Green ball competitions, however your rating will not change to a Green rating. You can also continue to play in orange ball competitions.

In your last competition season if you have a Green 1 or Green 1\* rating you can start competing in yellow ball competitions (12U only) however your rating will not change to a Yellow Ball rating. You can also continue to play in green ball competitions.

**Don't forget that your club can hire the mini green mascot, Alfie, for your club events - he's always a hit with the adults as well as juniors! Contact [lynne@cheshirecountyta.org.uk](mailto:lynne@cheshirecountyta.org.uk) or call 01244 893135 for more information.**





**FAST4 Tennis provides a simple, exciting way of speeding up a conventional tennis match.**

The fundamentals of tennis remain the same, but there are four rules that ensure matches are fast, competitive, exciting and can be completed in a reasonable period of time.

### **The rules of FAST4 Tennis**

#### **1. First to four games wins.**

It doesn't matter how you get there, just make sure you do before your opponent does!

#### **2. Tiebreaker at 3 games all**

At 3 games all a tiebreak is played to 5 points. A deciding point will be played at 4 points all.

#### **3. No ad scoring**

If the score reaches deuce, it's a sudden death point. The receiver chooses which side to take the serve on. This also applies in doubles with the receiving pair deciding who receives the serve - however the pair cannot change positions. In mixed doubles the player of the same gender shall receive.

#### **4. Play lets**

If the serve clips the net and lands in the service box, there's no let and the ball is in play. If you are playing doubles either the receiver or the receiver's partner can play the return.

### **Where can I play FAST4 Tennis?**

FAST4 Tennis was introduced to the British Tennis junior competition structure from September 2015 with the winter county tour (Grade 4 and 5) events using this format for 10U - 18U. Some other competitions across Great Britain will also use this format.

# THE FUN AND FRIENDLY TENNIS PROGRAMME FOR GIRLS AGED 5-8.



Miss-Hits was born out of a need to get more girls playing tennis. Girls are currently outnumbered 4:1 by boys at entry level! So, we had to find a way to make our sport more attractive to our target audience.

### Our Mission

To introduce girls aged 5-8 to tennis in a fun, lively, all-girl environment where they can develop their coordination, get to know all the strokes and learn about the game through the Miss-Hits characters.

### Unique way of teaching

You won't find another tennis programme that includes music, dance, nail stickers, animated characters, colouring sheets, puzzles, tricks and team games.



### Girl power

Miss-Hits has a secondary purpose to create a bigger female coaching workforce in tennis. Because of its non-technical content, it will appeal to mums, students, teachers, sporting enthusiasts as well as tennis coaches.

Meet the Miss-Hits characters: an all-girl group who love tennis and think that being sporty is as cool as it is healthy. They're here to encourage girls aged 5 - 8 to play tennis in our fun and lively starter programme.

Every session is based around a Miss-Hits character, with each teaching their own signature tennis shot, along with tips, tricks, games and dance routines - all in a fun and friendly environment.

The girls will make friends, gain new skills, build their confidence, be girly and most of all, have lots of fun. And whether they are a sporting natural, or have never held a racket, the session plans are suitable for all levels.

To find out a bit more about Miss-Hits classes in Cheshire visit <http://miss-hits.co.uk/>

# Aegon Team Tennis 2017

AEGON Team Tennis is a singles based team competition for registered places to play. It aims to provide players of all ages (8U - Open) with regular league matches, against similar standard players in a competitive team environment.

Teams compete on a county basis in leagues which are appropriate to their player standard.

Stronger teams in certain age groups (12U - Open) have an opportunity to compete outside their county in regional leagues. Matches consist of singles and doubles rubbers.

Once again, Cheshire saw a record number of entries into the AEGON Team Tennis competition. This year we have seen 270 teams across all age groups ranging from 8U to Adults, compared to 258 in 2016.



We had a 93% match completion rate in 2016 which will be very tough to beat, however as I write at the beginning of July, we are on target for 86 - 88% which well exceeds the LTA target of 80%. So a big well done to all Team Captains who have made this possible and resulted in more players experiencing more competitive tennis at both singles and doubles.

For the fourth year the Division 1 County Finals were held at Hale TC and much thanks go to Mark Furness [Club Coach] and the club itself for making such a welcoming environment.

Cheshire is the only County that organise such an event and it brings a well appreciated conclusion to the League. On the day there were at least 150 people made up of players and parents. Division 2 Finals were held across the County.

The League has proved another great success and it gives players a chance of local competition and an opportunity to improve their rating.

If you enjoy playing in a team, why not ask your club or coach about entering this competition?

# British Tennis Ratings

A rating is a measuring tool indicating a standard of play and allowing you to record your progress as you develop your game. An accurate rating should give a player access to appropriate level competition.

**For most competitions, ratings take precedence over rankings for both acceptance and seeding.**

Once you have a rating you will appear on the LTA Player Search.

To get a rating you must be a British Tennis Member.

Matches count for ratings in competitions Grade 1 - 7. Grade U is excluded.

## 1. Rating bands

For both junior and adult players there are 20 rating bands, starting with 10.2, which is the lowest, progressing to 10.1, 9.2, 9.1, 8.2 etc. until you reach 1.1, which is the highest.

For Mini Tennis players there is a separate ratings process.

## 2. How to improve your rating

Junior and adult players rated 10.2, 10.1, 9.2 or 9.1 can improve their ratings by recording qualifying wins as follows:

- 4 qualifying wins (singles matches) to move from a 10.2 to 10.1
- A further 4 qualifying wins (singles matches) to move from a 10.1 to 9.2
- A further 4 qualifying wins (singles matches) to move from a 9.2 to 9.1
- A further 4 qualifying wins (singles matches) to move from a 9.1 to 8.2

These wins can be achieved at any time, and may include wins from mixed singles as well as from yellow ball "timed tennis" formal competitions. Your rating will automatically change once you have the correct number of wins and your results have been recorded. The (overnight) calculation takes into account players' ratings as they stand at the time the calculation is made.

A qualifying win is a win against an opponent rated the same or better than you.

Wins from 'mixed' events and "timed tennis" do not count as qualifying wins once 8.2 level is reached and are therefore not included in the quarterly, seasonal ratings runs.

If you are a **junior with a rating of 8.2** or higher, you need to achieve:

- 6 qualifying wins with a 60% win/loss percentage in all qualifying matches, within relevant ratings run period \*

\* *There are 4 ratings run periods each year which fall into 2 competition seasons - summer and winter. The summer season runs from 1st April to 31st August and the winter season from 1st September to 31st March. There are ratings runs at the end of each season and also mid season runs which take place half way through each summer and winter season. The bi-annual seasonal runs look at all results recorded during both halves of the competition season. The quarterly runs look at results recorded from the beginning of the competition season up to a (published) season cut off date. Players are more likely to increase their ratings at the end of a competition season than they are during the shorter mid season periods.*

### 3. Which Matches Count?

**A qualifying win = a win against a player rated the same or higher than you.**

Example: if your rating is 6.2 and you beat a player rated 6.2 or 6.1 or 5.2 and so on up, this will be recorded as a qualifying win for you.

**A qualifying loss = a loss against a player rated lower than you.**

Example: if your rating is 7.1 and you lose to a player rated 7.2 or 8.1 or 8.2 and so on down, this is a qualifying loss.

**For yellow ball**, the quarterly ratings run system end date dictates the season in which matches will count for your rating, ie. if you play a match in August, but the competition event ends in September, that match will not count until the mid-season winter ratings run. The only exceptions to this rule are events in the summer County Championships (results from these events will count for the summer end of season ratings runs and league matches in which match dates have been set).

**Walkovers:** a walkover in a match does not count as a ratings win or loss. At least one point has to be played for a match to count for ratings purposes. Example: you are scheduled to play a match but your opponent fails to appear. You are given a walkover into the next round but do not get a ratings win from the no show.

**Retirements:** a retirement during a match may count for ratings purposes. Example: you suffer an injury after one game in a match and have to retire. Your rating is 5.1 and your opponent's rating is 5.2. This counts as a qualifying loss for you.

**Grade 7 'Internal' Matchplay competitions:** in club or squad 'closed' competitions only one win against the same opponent can count for a player in any single ratings move. This is to encourage competition against a variety of opponents and improve the accuracy of the ratings measure.

**Ad hoc or Challenge matches:** these do not count for ratings purposes. A match must be part of an officially approved competition. Matches count for ratings in competitions grade 1-7. Grade U (purely recreational competition is excluded).

Grade 6 and 7 competitions (4.2 or higher): From the 2015 Summer season, junior players rated 4.2 or higher may only count up to 3 qualifying wins from grade 6 (matchplays) and grade 7 (internal) competitions combined in any given ratings calculation.

### 4. When can your rating change?

If you are a player with a rating of 8.2 or higher, you have the opportunity to increase your rating by one level 4 times a year in the automated ratings run. Your new rating will depend on results achieved during the previous half season period or the entire season.

## British Tennis Ratings *Continued*

Results used to increase your rating in the mid-season calculation will also be used during the end of season review. This is because results from the whole ratings run season will be taken into account based on players' ratings as they stand at the time of the run.

### 5. What is a Mid-season Ratings Run?

Mid-season ratings runs take place half way through each of the two main summer and winter competition seasons. Mid-season runs provide players who are recording sufficiently good results to progress more quickly up the ratings levels without having to wait until the end of the competition season.

Results from the mid-season run are included again in the end of season run, taking into account players' mid season adjustments. The calculations look at players' ratings as they stand when the run actually takes place.

*Example: your rating is 7.1 and you have beaten a player rated 7.2 early in the competition season. In the mid season run this win does not count as a qualifying win. However your 7.2 rated opponent moves up to a 7.1 in the mid season run and your rating stays at 7.1. This result will count as a qualifying win for you in the end of season run. Conversely; your rating is 7.1 and, early in the season, you lose to another player rated 7.1. In the mid season run this does not count as a qualifying loss for you. However, if your rating increase to 6.2 in the mid season run, this match will count as a qualifying loss in the end of season run.*

## British Tennis Rankings Guide

A British tennis ranking is a measure of where you stand within your county, region and nationwide and represent an overall order of merit with players positioned according to ranking points acquired in domestic and international tournaments from both singles and doubles events.

The combined rankings cater for all players in 12U - open age groups with all players appearing on one list.

Rankings are calculated every week, on a Friday, based on points awarded to players for competing in open, 18, 16, 14 and 12 & under age groups. Each age group has its own points table to proportionately reward players for playing in older age groups.

In order to get an age group ranking you need to have a British tennis rating and have competed in an LTA sanctioned tournament (graded 1-5).

### How to earn ranking points

Ranking points are only awarded for grade 1 (highest) to grade 5 tournaments. Grade 6, 7 and U tournaments do not carry ranking points.

Different grades of tournaments have different points allocations; there are separate point tables for each age group; the older the age group and the higher the grade, the more points you can get.

Only one set of points is allocated per event i.e. a player who competes in both the qualifying and main draw events of a tournament will only get one set of points. But you must win a match in the draw to receive the points. Any team competition graded 1 to 5 will also count towards your ranking although points may not be added until the end of the competition.

### How are rankings calculated?

Your combined ranking is made up your best 6 singles(1) plus 25% of your best 6 doubles(2) (3) results within the previous 52 weeks (subject to play up rules - see below).



There is one male and one female rankings list, each has age group filters so it can be filtered to a particular age group and a position for that age group assigned however the points earned will be from all age groups not just the age group filtered.

### What is my ranking used for?

- To measure your standard of play.
- To help determine entry into a tournament if two or more players have an equal rating. In most cases, your rating is used first to determine entry; however ranking for acceptance has been used for Grade 1 - 3 Junior Tournaments since 1 April 2015.
- To help determine your seeding in a tournament; seeding is standard practice to ensure that top players are split in the draw and don't play each other in the early rounds. In most cases, your rating is used first to determine seeding (separated by ranking where tied); however ranking has been used for Grade 1 - 3 Junior Tournaments since 1 April 2015.

Further information about rankings including the Play Up Rules and Age Group and International Multipliers may be found at <https://www.lta.org.uk/competitions/player-ratings-rankings>.







## Cheshire County LTA Contact Details

Cheshire County office will soon be on the move again to its permanent home. As Hoole LTC is moving to Mickle Trafford, the County will have a new, purpose built office there, complete with plenty of storage for the equipment that clubs can borrow.

The move is expected to be completed by the end of the year but we will keep the Club Main Contacts informed of progress and will send out our new contact details nearer the time. Follow us on Twitter for progress!

In the meantime, the office remains in Chester and may be contacted through the part-time County Administrator, Lynne Whitford, who works Tuesday to Thursday from 9am to 2pm. When Lynne is not available, there is a messaging service to answer your call. Here are the fully updated contact details:

### Cheshire County LTA

117a Regus House, Chester Business Park, Chester CH4 9QR

Key Contact: Lynne Whitford (available Tues - Thurs 9am to 2pm)

Tel: 01244 893135

Email: [lynne@cheshirecountyлта.org.uk](mailto:lynne@cheshirecountyлта.org.uk)



@LTACHeshire

### LTA North Regional Offices

USN Bolton Arena, Arena Approach, Horwich, Bolton, Lancashire BL6 6LB

Tel: 01204 488134

David Lloyd Leeds, Tongue Lane, Moortown, Leeds LS6 4QW

Tel: 0208 487 7040

Email: [north@LTA.org.uk](mailto:north@LTA.org.uk)



@LTANorth



Tennis in Cheshire



Formed 1895

Hon. Life Patron: Mrs Diane Tod