

England

Priority Year 7&8 Competition (3a.2)

This document aims to assist you in running a Year 7&8 Schools Tennis Competition, by providing information about the rules of tennis, guidance on formats and all other areas associated with the competition.

This document is split into the following areas:

- Aim of the Competition
- Overall Competition Structure
- Roles & Responsibilities
- Team Composition
- Duration/Length of Matches
- Playing
- Tournament Format
- Resources
- Young Leaders & Officials
- Miscellaneous
- More Information & Support
- Event Checklist

Aim of the Year 7&8 Schools Competition:

The Year 7&8 Schools Competition is an entry level event, aimed at beginners and players new to the game, rather than an opportunity for advanced players already competing regularly outside of school.

Overall Competition Structure

The structure has been created to engage with the Competition Manager network and School Sport Partnership infrastructure in England.

The Senior Competition Manager (or Competition Manager with a lead for tennis) working closely with the local Tennis Development Manager should take overall responsibility for co-ordinating the competition.

The structure has been designed so that no one person is over-burdened with running a large amount of events.

The competition works at 2 stages:

- **Partnership Leagues**
Each Secondary School within a Partnership is encouraged to enter the Partnership League and compete against each other on a home and away basis. Matches can take place after school and take no longer than 2 hours to complete.
- **County Final**
The winners of each Partnership League within your County, progress through to the County Final to compete against each other. This event can be run at a local tennis venue, centrally located within the County, or if more appropriate at a Secondary School / Specialist Sports College. This event is co-ordinated by the local Tennis Development Manager / Officer.

(continued overleaf)

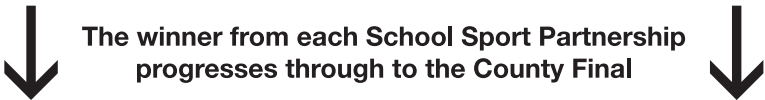


England

Priority Year 7&8 Competition (3a.2)

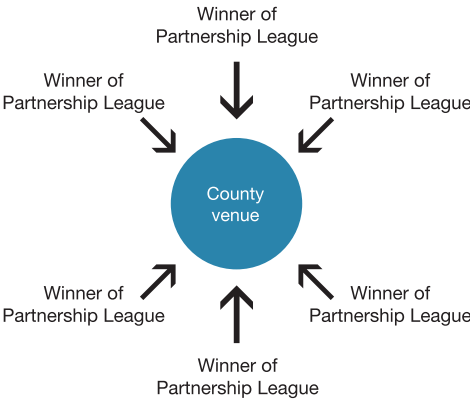
Stage 1: Partnership League

(Organised by Competition Manager Team/School Sport Partnership)



Stage 2: County Final

(Organised by the County LTA, in partnership with Competition Manager Team)



England

Priority Year 7&8 Competition (3a.2)

Roles & Responsibilities:

The table below outlines the key, headline responsibilities for the co-ordination of this competition:

Responsibility:	Role:
Tennis Development Manager & Senior Competition Manager	Overall co-ordination & management of priority local competitions across the County.
Tennis Development Manager	Responsibility for tennis specific issues; ensuring exit route information is promoted accordingly and arranging involvement of local clubs/coaches where appropriate.
Senior Competition Manager / Competition Managers	Responsibility for encouraging schools to enter and dealing with entry related administration.
Competition Manager	Co-ordination/delivery of Partnership Leagues
Tennis Development Manager	Co-ordination/delivery of County Finals

Court Requirements

- Year 7&8 events should be played on standard, full-size tennis courts.
- Ideally, each tie requires 4 tennis courts, however a tie can be played on 2 courts.

Team Composition

- The suggested team composition is 4 players, 2 boys and 2 girls and schools are welcome to enter more than 1 team, capacity permitting.
- Alternatively, should it be jointly agreed locally, a larger team approach can be taken – with teams of 6 or 8.
- Each team should consist of 2 boys & 2 girls from Year 7 and/or Year 8 – i.e. a mixture of the two Year Groups can be used, or your team can be from all one Year Group.
- If agreed at County level, there is flexibility to run two separate events – one for boys and one for girls, rather than one ‘mixed’ event.
- This competition is an entry level event, aimed at beginners and players new to the game, rather than an opportunity for advanced players already competing regularly outside of school.

Please take the above into account when inviting schools to enter the event. To assist in ensuring the appropriate standard of players are participating, you may wish to decide with your local Tennis Development Manager to implement a Countywide entry restriction using ‘AEGON British Tennis Ratings’ as a guide.

Tennis Development Managers can provide more advice on this and more information on AEGON British Tennis Ratings can be found online at: www.lta.org.uk – the relevant information is found within the ‘Players’ section.



England

Priority Year 7&8 Competition (3a.2)

Tournament Format

At Partnership Level, the league works best on a 'home and away' basis, however the league could also operate on a 'Central Venue' basis, if preferred.

Each tie should consist of 4 games of singles and 2 games of doubles.

The matches consist of:

- Number 1 Boy v Number 1 Boy (Singles)
- Number 2 Boy v Number 2 Boy (Singles)
- Number 1 Girl v Number 1 Girl (Singles)
- Number 2 Girl v Number 2 Girl (Singles)
- Boys (Doubles)
- Girls (Doubles)

It is suggested that leagues should be set up by using a 'Play On Date' basis for matches. This concept states a date (set in advance when the leagues are drawn up) when the matches should be played. However, it allows flexibility for the 2 schools to agree a different, mutually convenient time to play, before the set date, should this be more convenient.

If agreed at County level, there is also the flexibility to consider a different format to the above. If a Partnership League is not realistic in the first year of operation, you can consider a number of one-off events, which progress through to a County Final.

Duration/Length Of Matches

- Traditional tennis scoring should be used, i.e. 15, 30, 40 etc.
- Players play a 'short-set', which is first to 4 games, with a tie break to 7 points if the score reaches 4-4.
- Alternatively, you can use a 'standard set', which is first to 6 games, with a two game clear gap. If the score reaches 6 games all, a tie break should be played to decide the match.
- A maximum of 2hrs is required to complete a full tie (this is using 2 courts) Obviously the time will be less if you use more courts.

Resources

This guide contains all the resources and templates you require to run your events. You should photocopy the required amount of signs, forms and templates for your event in advance and bring with you on the day.

In addition, you are likely to require the following items to run your event:

- Tennis Balls (minimum of 3 per court)
- First Aid Kit
- Water



England

Priority Year 7&8 Competition (3a.2)

Young Leaders & Officials

It is not necessary for each court to have an umpire / scorer, however it is advisable that a nominated adult from each school act as overall match referees to deal with any disputes accordingly.

In addition, these events are great opportunities to involve Young Leaders to assist. British Tennis offers 2 training opportunities for Young Leaders:

Tennis Leaders

Tennis Leaders is targeted at 14 – 16 year olds with an interest in tennis.

Tennis Leaders was updated in September 2009 and the course content has been expanded to include other aspects of tennis volunteering – to encourage more young people to get involved and encourage volunteering in off court tennis activities.

There are 4 modules in the Tennis Leaders Award:

- Planning, Organisation & Communication
- Club Media & Communications
- Playing Partner & Buddy Hitting
- Competition Assistant

Find out more about Tennis Leaders at: www.schoolstennis.org

Young Competition Organisers Workshop; 3 1/2hr for 16-25yr olds

A 3 ½ hour workshop, designed specifically for 16-25yr olds, can be delivered locally by our Tennis Development Managers, to provide the skills to run a range of competitions. At the training, attendees will be given a Competition Organisers Toolkit giving you all the tools and resources you need to run competitions.

More Information & Support

In the first instance, if you require more advice or support, you should contact the person co-ordinating the Schools Tennis Competitions within your School Sport Partnership – likely to be your Senior Competition Manager, Competition Manager or Partnership Development Manager.

Alternatively, you should contact your local Tennis Development Manager, who your School Sport Partnership staff will hold contact details for.

All resources can be found in the Schools Tennis Competition Guide and more info can be found online at: www.schoolstennis.org



England

Priority Year 7&8 Competition (3a.2)

Event Checklist:

Please note that the planning section below is based upon the events running to the following timescales:

- April – June Partnership Leagues take place
- June – July County Final takes place

The suggested timescales below are specifically for the competitions and don't state options for wider tennis activity, such as curriculum-time coaching, teacher training and lead-in programmes in general – although these should always be built in to the overall programme.

Planning		
April – June (Previous year)	Tennis Development Manager meets with Senior Competition Manager to begin planning the priority competition(s) for the next academic year	
June - July (Previous year)	Dates for events confirmed and venues booked	
January	*Send out School Invite Letters for Partnership Leagues	
January – March	*Schools enter Partnership Leagues by returning School Reply Forms	
March	Chase late entries for Partnership Leagues	
March	Send out Confirmation Letters to schools for Partnership Leagues	

4-6 Weeks Before the Leagues Begin		
	*Prepare and circulate fixtures using; Round Robin Box Sheets and Order of Play Guidance	

On The Day [relevant for Central Venue Leagues / County Finals]		
	*Set up Registration Desk	
	*Put up Court Number Signs	
	*Put up Directional Arrows guiding teams to the venue	
	Set up courts and nets	
	Set out equipment (balls & spare rackets)	
	*Complete Risk Assessment	
	Brief assistants / leaders	
	Bring first aid kit, water etc	
	*Distribute information on local places to play tennis	

After the event:		
	Send results / relevant paperwork to the relevant co-ordinator	
	Where appropriate, invite winning team(s) through to the next round of the event	
	*Consider sending a press release to the local media	

*Guidance or templates are available in the 'Resources' section of this guide.

