

INCLUSION & COMPETITION FOR SPECIAL SCHOOLS AND YOUNG PEOPLE WITH A DISABILITY

Tennis is a sport that can be played and enjoyed by all people, enhancing health, fitness and general well-being. Specifically, tennis can help with co-ordination, motor skills and spatial awareness.

When considering competitive opportunities for people with a disability, players can be included within mainstream events*; alternatively events can be run which are specific to a category of disability.

Different types of disability specific tennis competitions include:

- Deaf Tennis.
- Learning Disability Tennis.
- Wheelchair Tennis.
- Visually Impaired Tennis.

Many young people with a disability have the ability to participate fully in tennis, with little or no adaptations. However, for some pupils with more limited functional or physical abilities, tennis activities can be adapted to ensure that all young people enjoy their experience and can achieve.

*Example – If a non-disabled player is playing against a wheelchair user; the wheelchair user is allowed 2 bounces, with the non-disabled player allowed one bounce.

The three-hour Inclusive Tennis Teacher Training Course has been designed to give teachers and teaching assistants in special schools, and those teaching disabled children and young people in units or mainstream education, the confidence and tools to deliver tennis to a class of children with a range of abilities in a small space.

This course is aimed at qualified and active school teachers, teaching assistants and those working and delivering physical education in a special school or mainstream environment.



MORE INFORMATION

More information about Disability Tennis can be found online at:
www.tennisfoundation.org.uk/play-tennis

Why not run a County Special Schools Competition?

We are really keen to see more Counties run Inclusive Mini Tennis Red Tennis Competitions or competition for young people with a disability - many of the resources in this toolkit can be used to help you prepare and deliver a competition. A good practice example is shown in the next section overleaf.

Inclusive Mini Tennis Red is the Tennis Foundation's competition format for young people with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities.

It is a fun, modified version of the game, ideal for delivering tennis to pupils with special education needs or those with a disability.

Inclusive Mini Tennis Red uses shorter rackets, smaller courts, slower / softer balls and simple scoring as well as additional adaptations that can be tailored to the young people you are working with.

These adaptations make the game accessible to all young people, regardless of their ability or previous experience, and enables SEND and non-SEND pupils to compete together.

For more information, please visit:
www.yourschoolgames.com

If you planning on running an event and would like any support, please contact us.



Warwickshire Special Schools Competition

For the last five years, Warwickshire LTA have organised a Special Schools Competition, linked to The AEGON Classic International Women's Event.

The format for the events were similar to that of the mainstream competitions, running parallel. Special Schools across the County were grouped together and competed in two feeder events at tennis clubs - one in the North and one in the South of the County. The winning teams then progressed through to compete at the final, which was staged at The AEGON Classic event, as part of its Community Activity Programme.

Mini Tennis Red was used as the format for primary school age players and Mini Tennis Orange was used as the format for secondary age pupils. Over 40 players with a learning disability competed against each other.