

Overview of other options for Level 2 Competition Secondary Schools (3b.2)

Year 7 & 8 Local Competitions

Over the last couple of years, counties may have organised local Year 7 & 8 schools competitions. Whilst we are now prioritising the nationally organised AEGON Team Tennis Schools competitions for secondary schools we fully support counties in continuing to offer these competitions – where capacity and interest allows – as an opportunity for beginners and players new to the game.

School Games Organisers and competition organisers have several options when looking at their secondary programme of competitions for the coming academic year:

- Continue to run Year 7 & 8 local competitions as a stand-alone event with local Level 2 competitions leading to a County Final.
- Transition your current Year 7 & 8 local competition into a local Division 1 or Division 2 League as part of the Year 8 AEGON Team Tennis Schools competition.
- Signpost Schools to entering the AEGON Team Tennis Schools competitions nationally.

More Information

For all AEGON Team Tennis Schools enquiries, please visit www.schoolstennis.org. If your query cannot be resolved, please contact schoolscompetition@LTA.org.uk or **0208 487 7000**.

Resources to deliver Year 7 & 8 competitions are still available to access online at www.schoolstennis.org

Secondary schools may also want to participate in other modified or alternative competitions for players of all abilities. Some suggested formats are included below:

Mini Tennis Competitions

Although Mini Tennis was originally designed for primary school age children, it's a great modified version of the game and can be successfully be used in Secondary Schools also.

Why not consider running a Mini Tennis Red competition on badminton courts in your Sports Hall?

Why not consider running a Mini Tennis Orange or Green competition on outdoor courts at a place to play tennis?

A range of resources can be found within this toolkit to support Mini Tennis Competition – in particular the section on the Priority Year 3 & 4 Competition in England.

Elimination Competitions

A standard 'knock-out' style event, with a consolation draw for players losing in the first round. An Elimination Draw Sheet can be found in the 'Resources' section of this toolkit, which can be used to support this option.

Compass Draw Competitions

- Enter all the players entered into the competition in round 1.
- Seed your top two players at the top and bottom of the draw.
- Winners of the first round move to the right of the draw and runners-up move left.
- The runners-up of the Quarter Finals move down to the space marked for them below.
- Winners of the Quarters stay in the same draw but move to the Semi-Final.
- Make sure you book enough courts so players aren't waiting around for their next match. For 8 players you will need 4 courts.
- You can modify the scoring to suit the age of the players and the timescale of the competition.

A Compass Draw Sheet can be found in the 'Resources' section of this toolkit, which can be used to support this option.

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Hit & Mix Competitions

'Hit & Mix' competitions (also known as an American tournament) work on the basis that players play for a fixed period of time or for a certain number of games with one partner against their opposition.

When the competition organiser says so, the players switch around as detailed on the score cards in the 'Resources' section of this toolkit.

When to use this format

This competition format can be used for social competitions such as adult/junior tournaments and social tennis events. It can also be used to help with team selection or running fun competitions for your clubs top players.

How to set the competition up

- 1. Split the players** – Split the players into 2 groups depending on the competitors this could be boys/girls, adults/juniors or team/non-team players.
- 2. Label the courts** – Make sure all the players know which court is court 1, 2, 3 etc.
- 3. Deciding the pairs** – The players always play with someone from the other group. This could be a boy playing with a girl or an adult playing with a junior etc.
- 4. Length of the match** – Decide on the length and number of matches. Matches should be a set number of games or points (must be an odd number) or the matches could be timed e.g. 10/20 minutes.
- 5. Create player cards** – Create player cards and hand out so each player knows how they give in their score and where they move after each round. See above (a word version of these cards has also been produced for you to adapt and print).
- 6. Play the first match** – After the first match the winners 'move up a court' (e.g. on 3 courts: court 2 winners move to court 1, court 3 winners move to court 2 and court 1 winners move to court 3) and separate so the winning pair are playing against each other in the next match. Runners-up stay on the same court and separate.
- 7. Determining a winner** – The competition organiser counts up the scores at the end. The winners are (a) the player from the white card group who has the highest score and (b) the player from the grey card group with the highest score.
- 8. Hand out the prizes** – It would be great if you are able to reward players who have played well or won the competition, etc. You should try and make the prizes appropriate to the competitors. Even if you can't provide any prizes you should get everyone together at the end of the competition to thank them for playing, to read out the results and advise when the next event is.

Hit & Mix Competition Cards can be found in the 'Resources' section of this toolkit, which can be used to support this option.

Squad Tennis Competitions

Squad Tennis is a simple team event for groups of players.

- Players in a team should be ranked in order of standard to ensure better standard players from each squad play each other.
- No player can play more than one singles match.
- Players play one singles and one doubles match.
- The length of each match can be flexible depending on the time and courts available.
- However particularly for juniors you should try to ensure that the match format can count towards a players rating (best of 3 sets, each set is the first to 4 (tie break at 4-4) with a championship tiebreak played should the match go to three sets).
- The squad that wins the most matches wins the competition.

A Squad Tennis Draw Sheet can be found in the 'Resources' section of this toolkit, which can be used to support this option.

Competition Organisers Toolkit

More detailed advice and support on running other types of competitions is available from the British Tennis Competition Organisers Toolkit, which is available at: www.lta.org.uk