

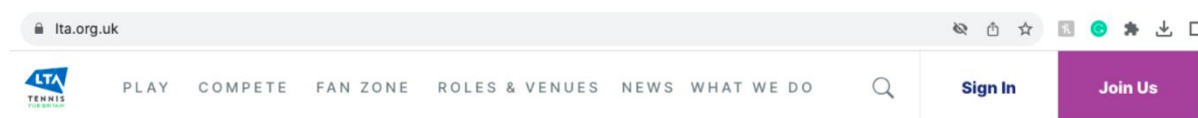
# Guide for parents – British Tennis Membership and Competitions

## British Tennis Membership guide to ‘signing up’ online

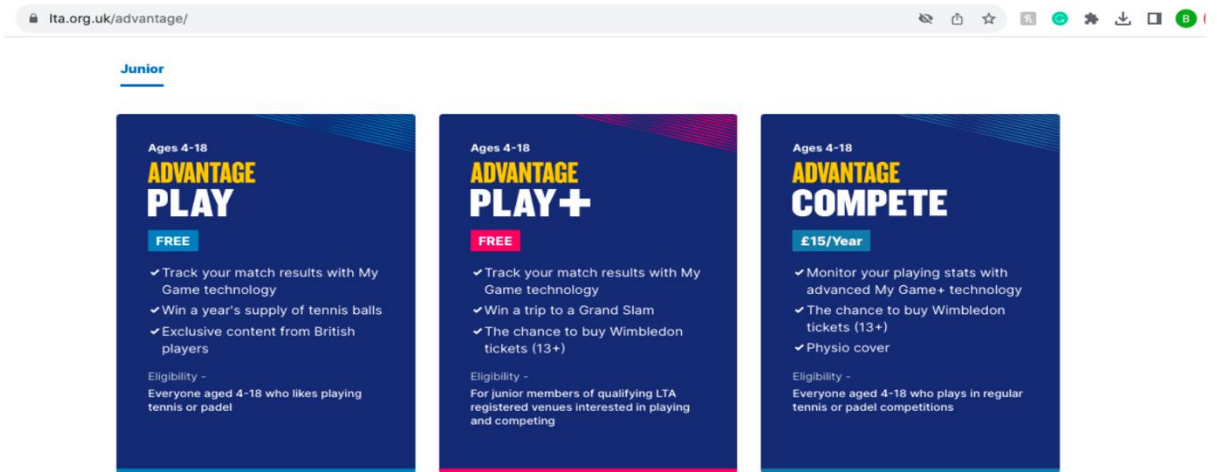
If your child is interested in tennis and taking part in coaching sessions then they are ready to be signed up for British Tennis Membership (BTM), this is free for everyone and only takes a few minutes to complete.

This process shouldn't take too long and is relatively simple, there are just a few steps. After this, you will be able to enter tournaments online and get your child competing in LTA competitions locally. The LTA may change their website graphically, so it's possible the screenshots won't be identical. It also looks slightly different if doing on a phone, so please bare this in mind when referring to the screen shots.

- 1) Go to the LTA website and click on- Join us. Make sure your screen is fully maximised to see the button. <https://www.lta.org.uk/>



- 2) You should see a page like this, that allows you to choose an adult or junior membership



- 3) For children, choose Advantage Play + if they are a member of a club. You can change your membership option later if you would like. Then sign up with your child's personal details. You may be asked to verify your email. Please make sure to save your details and password. Choose an email address you can easily access as this will be the one that all the competition information comes through. The page should look like this.

The screenshot shows the LTA registration form. At the top, there is a banner for 'Last few tickets for Great Britain's Billie Jean King Cup tie against Sweden at the Copper Box Arena on 11-12 November'. The form is titled 'Register today JOIN NOW TO TAKE ADVANTAGE' and includes the following fields:

- What's your first name?
- What's your last name?
- What's your date of birth?
- What's your gender?  Male  Female

A photo of a tennis player is visible on the right side of the form.

- 4) It's important for you add your County as 'Sussex' and your 'venue' if you play at a club, it is also useful for the competition organisers if you add a mobile contact number.

- 5) Once you have created the account and are logged in, you will need to add payment details to enter competitions. You can do this by going to your account settings, that should look like the image below. Or use this link to take you straight to your account details. Then manually add a card.

<https://www.lta.org.uk/account-details/>

The image shows two screenshots of the LTA Advantage website. The top screenshot is the 'Advantage Home' page, which includes a navigation menu with 'PLAY', 'COMPETE', 'FAN ZONE', 'ROLES & VENUES', 'NEWS', and 'WHAT WE DO'. A sidebar on the left contains links for 'Advantage Home', 'MyNotifications', 'MyBenefits', 'MyContent', and 'MyGame'. The main content area features a link to 'View your account details', a 'YOUR SECURE AREA' section with 'Advantage Home', and buttons for 'Add a new role' and 'Log out'. The bottom screenshot shows the 'account-details' page for 'JONAH JACKSON', with a 'JOINED ADVANTAGE: 03/11/2023' and 'USERNAME: JONAHJACKSON'. It lists several expandable sections: 'My Advantage', 'My interests', 'Personal details', 'Address', 'Linked child accounts', and 'Payment details'. The 'Payment details' section is highlighted with a red box and contains the text: 'We can't find any payment cards. Please click the button below to add a new card.'

## PAYMENT DETAILS

Add card +

[Return to Account Details](#)

- 6) When you have created your membership and added payment details on the LTA website, you will need to go to another website to access competitions. LTA Compete. The website should look like this. Then Log In with your recently created membership details.

<https://competitions.lta.org.uk/>

- 7) Once logged in, you can search for tournaments in the search bar or go to the tournaments tab and use advanced search to find tournaments individually. The advanced search will allow you to narrow down tournaments you are interested in or find a specific one.
- 8) You should now be able to enter tournaments where the entry deadline has not yet passed. This is normally at least a week before the tournament starts.

# **Guide to competition for parents and players**

## **What are the benefits of competing?**

Through playing in appropriate competitions players can:

- ✓ Put the skills learnt in coaching into practice and develop further skills.
- ✓ Visit new places, meet new friends and have fun.
- ✓ Develop confidence and feel a sense of achievement.
- ✓ Learn how to handle winning and losing.
- ✓ Develop problem solving skills and learn how to solve problems themselves.
- ✓ Learn how to handle and deal with pressure.
- ✓ Develop a desire to keep working and keep improving.
- ✓ Develop their independence.
- ✓ Learn to manage their emotions throughout many difficult situations.

## **Where do I start?**

All players will need LTA Advantage Membership to enter and play tournaments. A free account can be created on the LTA Advantage website.

<https://www.lta.org.uk/advantage/> After joining, players will have a number and an account and can enter tournaments.

## **What should I enter?**

Tournaments are divided into age groups and grades. A player's age for tournaments is the age they will be on 31st December in the current year. Players can play their own age group plus a minimum of one higher. Age groups and tournament grades for 2025 and 2026 are as follows:

AGE GROUPS FOR:	FOR 2025	FOR 2026
TOURNAMENT AGE GROUP	PLAYERS BORN	PLAYERS BORN
8U (Red)	2017 or later	2018 or later
9U (Orange)	2016 or 2017	2017 or 2018
10U (Green)	2015 or 2016	2016 or 2017
11U (Yellow)	2014 or 2015	2015 or 2016
12U (Yellow) 14U (Yellow) 16U (Yellow) 18U (Yellow)	2013 or 2014 2011 to 2014 2009 to 2014 2007 to 2014	2014 or 2015 2012 to 2015 2010 to 2015 2008 to 2015

To help players identify suitable competitive opportunities so they can play against others of a similar standard competitions are graded from 7-1, progressing from local club level to county, regional and finally national level competitions.

### Competition Grading

- **Grade 7:** If you are just starting to compete, Grade 7 competitions offer a great opportunity to gain some competitive experience in a local environment. These include local competitions such as club or squad box leagues and ladders. This grade of competition counts for ratings but not rankings. To find out more contact your local tennis venue or LTA regional office.
- **Grade 6:** Competitions in this grade are usually match-plays which are open to all players to enter. They are run throughout the year and across the country and offer players in all age groups the chance to develop their competitive tennis. This grade of competition counts for ratings but not rankings.
- **Grade 5:** These competitions take place at local club or county level and are open to players of all ages and abilities. They might be for specific age groups or cater for different age groups within one tournament. These competitions count for both ratings and rankings.
- **Grade 4:** These are county level competitions giving players the opportunity to gain competition experience at the next level and count for both ratings and rankings.
- **Grade 3:** These are regional level competitions that count for both ratings and rankings. There are opportunities for players of all ages to compete in grade 3 competitions throughout the year.
- **Grade 2:** These are national level competitions and count for both ratings and rankings.

- **Grade 1:** This is the top level of national competition and counts for ratings and rankings.

## **Team Events**

Team events are a fun and exciting way to compete. Team tennis events happen at different levels:

- Friendly matches between clubs
- Sussex Team Tennis, a team competition when players represent their club.
- Friendly matches between Sussex and other counties
- County Cup where all counties compete in groups, with a final play off for qualifying groups

## **How do I enter a tournament?**

1. On the LTA tournament page <https://competitions.lta.org.uk> log in using the account you previously created. The log in button will change to a circle with the players initials in.
2. Click on the menu bar (3 lines in the right-hand corner) This will bring up a list of options. Select "Tournaments"
3. Either enter the name of the tournament (if known) or click on "advanced search" and then "filters". You can then enter the date range, age and grade you want and the distance you are happy to travel. Players should discuss the level of tournament they should enter with their coach; we would always advise starting off with Grades 5 -7. Once a list of tournaments has come up, click on the one you are interested in.
4. Each tournament has full details which can be found by clicking on the headings. The fact sheet (click "more" to access) will tell you the entry fee, the address, the referee, closing date, the draw size, draw format and the withdrawal date.
5. Enter the tournament by clicking on the "Enter" button and selecting the event. You will then go through a payment process and entry will be confirmed.
6. After the closing date, check the tournament page again, looking under events to see if you have been accepted. If you are on a reserve list, you might still move into the draw if another player withdraws. Keep checking. You can see your tournament entries by clicking on the round circle with your initials on and clicking on "entries".
7. If you decide to withdraw you should do so before the withdrawal deadline listed on the sheet. There is a withdrawal button on the tournament page. You will get a partial

refund of the entry fee, with a small admin fee retained, if you withdraw before the deadline.

8. If accepted, the tournament referee will send you the time of your first match and you will be able to look online to see the draw.

9. Turn up and enjoy!

## **Further Information**

### **The tournament fact sheet says acceptance is done by “recent form” or “combined ranking”. What is that?**

Points are awarded for all tournaments graded 1-5, depending on the round you reach in a tournament. The amount of points available depend on the level of tournament, with the higher level tournaments awarding the most points. Recent form applies to 9U and 10U players. It is their best 3 sets of results in a 6-month period. These 3 sets of points are added together to give “recent form”. (8U do not have recent form points)

Combined Rankings are for 11U and older. A combined ranking is made up of a player’s best 6 singles results and best 6 doubles results in a rolling 12-month period. 3 singles and 3 doubles results must be from a player’s own age group. The other 3 singles and 3 doubles points can be from their own age group or up to 2 age groups higher. Ranking and recent form lists update every Friday and can be seen by going on to your profile page. The tournaments that have been counted will have \* next to them. If you go onto the menu button and select “combined ranking” or “recent form” you can see the overall lists for every age group in the country. You can filter this down to Sussex only.

### **How often should I compete?**

A tournament schedule should be discussed with a players own coach. For county level players, and above, we recommend a minimum of once a month in term time, more in school holidays.

### **How do I represent my club or county?**

To represent your club, speak to your coach to find out their selection criteria. For selection into a County Cup team, you will need to be highly ranked in the county, competing regularly and attend county training regularly. County training is invitational only and players are invited by the Tennis Sussex performance Manger. Players are selected through recent form, ranking, performance in tournaments, Talent ID days, Fun



days or by recommendation from their own coach. All players attending county training regularly will be considered when selecting teams for friendly county matches.

Useful Links Tennis Sussex: <https://clubspark.lta.org.uk/TennisSussex>

LTA Competition Guidance [www.lta.org.uk/compete](http://www.lta.org.uk/compete)