

AEGON Team Tennis 2012

Open (adult) Age Group Rules (County, Regional & National Tier)

13. Eligibility

Places to Play Eligibility

13.1 Entry to AEGON Team Tennis ('the Competition') is open only to registered places to play, defined as Associates in Rule 4 of the LTA.

Team Eligibility

13.2 Events: Men's & Women's Open.

13.3 A place to play may enter as many teams as it wishes in the competition but may have no more than 2 teams in any division of the National, Regional or County Tier. This rule applies to men and women separately.

13.4 Where a place to play has two or more teams in the National and/or Regional Tier the top 4 rated players nominated may only play for team 'A'. Any other nominated players in the place to play may play up or down in line with rule 13.5.

13.5 Where a place to play has two or more teams in the Competition (County, Regional or National Tiers) a player may 'play up' on a maximum of one occasion without loss of eligibility for their lower team. Once a player has represented a higher team on more than one occasion, they are no longer eligible to represent the lower team.

Player Eligibility

13.6 A player may only:

- I. Represent one place to play in the Open (adult) age group.
- II. Play in a maximum of two age groups (including 14&U, 16&U or 18&U).

13.7 All players must:

- I. Have a British Tennis Membership number which links to the place to play they are competing for.
- II. Have a British Tennis rating.
- III. Be a member of the place to play they are competing for as of 1 April 2012.
- IV. Be born on or before 31 August 1998.

13.8 A place to play with a team(s) in the County Tier only, does not need to nominate players and can play players of any standard.

A place to play with a team in the National or Regional Tier may nominate up to 12 players rated 4.1 or better no later than 5 March 2012¹. For each additional team in the National/Regional Tier, up to a further 9 players rated 4.1 or better may be nominated by the place to play.

Of the nominated players a place to play may include up to 2 players that have an ATP/WTA singles world ranking of 750 or better as of 5 March 2012. Places to play may nominate a third player with an ATP/WTA singles world ranking of 750 or better as of 5 March 2012 providing that player has played in at least 2 AEGON Team Tennis matches for the place to play in each of the last 2 seasons.

This rule applies to men and women separately.

13.9 County Tier Play-offs

Players must have represented the team in at least 1 division match prior to the Play-offs or have a rating of 4.2 or worse.

Where two teams compete in a division match and a player is given a walkover, the rubber will count towards a player's eligibility. An entire team walkover does not count for player eligibility.

National Tier Play-offs & Finals

Players must have represented the team in at least 2 group matches prior to the Play-offs/Finals or have a British Tennis rating of 4.2 or worse. Exception: If a team competes in 3 group matches or less, players need only represent the team in one group match to be eligible for the Play-offs/Finals.

Where two teams compete in a group match and a player is given a walkover, the rubber will count towards a player's eligibility. An entire team walkover does not count for player eligibility.

14. Competition Structure

14.1 County Tier

Teams shall be entered in a County Tier league based on their place to play registration code. Each league will be divided into divisions of 3-6² teams. Each team will play each other team in their division once.

County Tier Play-off

The winning team from each County Division 1 shall qualify to the County Play-offs for promotion to the Regional Tier.

14.2 Regional Tier

Comprises of 8 groups each consisting of up to 8 teams based on specific Counties which will remain fixed year on year. Each team will play each other team in their group once. The winning team in each group shall be promoted to its respective National Tier group.

14.3 National Tier³

Comprises of 4 groups each consisting of up to 8 teams based on specific regions (and therefore Counties) which will remain fixed year on year. Each team will play each other team in their group once. The winner of National Tier South East, South West, Midlands and North divisions will automatically qualify to the Finals.

¹ No nominations will be accepted after 5 March 2012. Any place to play failing to nominate by this deadline will not be allowed to field in their team(s) any player 4.1 or better. Places to play with no players 4.1 or better do not need to nominate but must notify the National Organiser by 5 March 2012. Players rated 4.2 or worse may play in any match and do not need to be nominated.

² County exceptions may apply.

³ Places to play winning prize money in the National Tier must submit a prize money form to Teamtennis@LTA.org.uk no later than 31 July 2012.

National Tier Play-offs

Teams finishing in the following positions will compete in the National Open Playoffs.

HOME	AWAY
2 ND place in South West	4 TH place in South East
2 ND place in Midlands	3 RD place in South East
2 ND place in North	1 ST place in Scotland
2 ND place in South East	3 RD place in Midlands

Matches will take place at 12pm on Sunday 1 July 2012.

National Tier Finals

The top men's and women's teams in each of the 4 National Tier divisions are joined by the 4 winning play-off teams. Prior to the Finals, teams shall nominate 4 to 8 players. The Referee shall seed 4 teams in the draw. The top 4 players who are playing on Friday must be nominated by 12pm on the Thursday before the Finals to determine seeding for the event. Team captains and/or nominated players will be allowed on court and will be subject to the Code of Conduct.

14.4 Promotion/Relegation for 2012

Refer to the online document 'Open (adult) Promotion/Relegation 2012' at www.LTA.org.uk/AEGON-Team-Tennis.

15. Match Arrangements

15.1 Dates

Matches are to be played on the fixed dates specified⁴. County Tier matches to start between 10am-4pm unless both teams agree otherwise. National and Regional Tier matches to start at midday.

15.2 Court Surfaces

The home place to play shall provide 2, 3 or 4 courts of the same surface. Where more than one court surface is used, the away team shall have the choice of court allocation.

15.3 Balls

The home team shall supply a minimum of 3 new ITF approved balls for each singles rubber. At a National and Regional Tier, new balls shall be supplied for each doubles rubber.

15.4 Match Format

A match shall consist of 4 singles and 2 doubles rubbers.

15.5 Team Format

A team shall consist of four to six players. Four players shall play one singles rubber each and the 5th and/or 6th player(s) may be selected for one doubles rubber only.

15.6 Singles Nominations

At least 15 minutes before the start time of each match the team captains shall nominate in writing (on a Team Tennis scorecard) their singles players in order of current British Tennis ratings⁵. At the same time, captains shall provide the name of any other player(s) who may be selected for the doubles only. If players have the same rating, the captain can decide the team order which may change from match to match.

15.7 Doubles Nominations

The team captains shall nominate their doubles pairings after the singles rubbers have been completed. The doubles pairings shall be nominated in accordance with the sum of the singles positions of the players in each pairing (see below). Where players are nominated for the doubles rubber(s) only then his/her singles position shall be regarded as:

Number 5 in the case of the 'doubles only player' with the higher rating (or ATP/WTA ranking of 750 or better as of 5th March 2012)

Number 6 in the case of the 'doubles only player' with the lower rating.

If singles player number 1 plays with 5 and singles player 2 plays with 3 then 2 and 3 shall be the first pair. Where the total is the same, the pairing which includes the player who played in the highest order singles match shall be nominated as the first pair (e.g. if the pairings are 1 + 4 and 2 + 3, then 1 + 4 must be nominated as the first pair). If one player from a team of 4 is unable to play doubles, the nominated pair must play number 1.

15.8 Order of Play

	On 2 Courts	On 3 Courts	On 4 Courts
Round 1	Singles 1&2	Singles 1-3	Singles 1-4
Round 2	Singles 3&4	Singles 4	Doubles 1&2
Round 3	Doubles 1&2	Doubles 1&2	

⁴ It is both team captains responsibility to contact each other before the match. In the County Tier, there will be flexibility to play before a fixed date if both teams agree and there is prior consent from the league organiser. On match day the home team captain shall be responsible for welcoming the away team and organising refreshments.

⁵ ATP/WTA singles world ranking of 750 or better as of 5th March 2012 must take precedence over British Tennis ratings.

15.9 Rubber Scoring

County Tier

	Sets 1 & 2	Set 3 (if necessary)
Singles & Doubles	Tiebreak at 6-6	Match Tiebreak (to 10 points, with 2 clear)

Regional/National Tier

	Set 1 & 2	Set 3 (if necessary)
Singles	Tiebreak at 6-6	Tiebreak at 6-6
Doubles	Tiebreak at 6-6	Match Tiebreak (to 10 points, with 2 clear)

15.10 Match Scoring

A team is awarded 2 points for each rubber won.

At 6 points each a tiebreak shoot-out shall be played. 1 bonus rubber point will be awarded to the winning team in a tiebreak shoot-out. A tiebreak shoot-out shall consist of two singles tie breaks⁶ (to 10 points, with 2 clear) which are to be played at the same time followed by a doubles tiebreak (to 10 points, with 2 clear) if necessary. No player may play in more than one tiebreak. Players are to be nominated as follows:

Tiebreak 1 (Singles): One of the original players from the 1st/2nd singles rubbers.

Tiebreak 2 (Singles): One of the original players from the 3rd/4th singles rubbers.

Tiebreak 3 (Doubles): A pairing comprising any two of the other players who have played in the match.

15.11 Match Result

The team with the most rubber points shall win the match.

A team will receive 2 match points on the league table for a match win.

Both captains must complete and sign the Team Tennis scorecards, and retain their copy. The winning captain must then submit the result online within 48 hours⁷.

15.12 Division Standings

The final standings in each division shall be determined by the following:

- I. The team with the greatest number of match points.
- II. If match points are equal, the team with the greatest number of rubber points.
- III. If only two teams are level on match points and rubber points; their head to head result.
- IV. If more than 2 teams are level, the round robin rule in the LTA Competition Regulations will determine the league standings.

⁶ In the event that a team is reduced to 3 players, that team must concede the doubles tiebreak. In the event that both teams are reduced to 3 players and the singles tiebreaks are shared, a deciding doubles tiebreak (to 10 points, with 2 clear) shall be played between the remaining player and one of the singles shoot-out players. No substitutions or changes are permitted to the players who originally competed in the match.

⁷ Any teams found guilty of submitting false results shall be subject to rule 17.2.