

## WHY MAKE CHANGES TO COMPETITION AGE GROUPS?

- Competition age groups in sport are a hotly debated subject with many different views. Following feedback from people involved in tennis we will be making changes to competition age groups as of 1st September 2010.
- Competition is the backbone of any sport and having healthy, enjoyable, easy-to-access competitions attracts new players and keeps existing players in the sport longer. Changes to competition age groups will make competition fairer for many more players which will support a more enjoyable and vibrant competition environment.
- For the list of the benefits for making changes to the age groups please see overleaf.

## HOW WILL COMPETITION AGE GROUPS WORK FROM 1ST SEPTEMBER 2010?

- All junior age groups, from 8 and under through to 18 and under, will be aligned with the competition seasons. The competition season dates will be:
  - Winter Season: 1st September – 31st March
  - Summer Season: 1st April – 31st August
- The competition age group a player will compete in for the upcoming season will be determined by their age on the last date of that upcoming competition season.

### ***Player Examples:***

#### ***What age will you be on the 31st March 2011? Answer: 9***

You will play 9U orange ball competition for the coming winter season – 1<sup>st</sup> September 2010 to 31st March 2011

#### ***What age will you be on the 31st August 2011? Answer: 10***

You will play 10U green ball competition for the coming summer season – 1<sup>st</sup> April 2011 to 31st August 2011

#### ***What age will you be on the 31st March 2011? Answer: 12***

You will play 12U yellow ball competition for the coming winter season – 1<sup>st</sup> September 2010 to 31st March 2011

#### ***What age will you be on the 31st August 2011? Answer: 13***

You will play 14U yellow ball competition for the coming summer season – 1<sup>st</sup> April 2011 to 31st August 2011

## AGE GROUP CALCULATOR

There is an online calculator which will help individual players understand what competition age groups they will be competing in from 1st September 2010. Please see the link below:

<http://www.lta.org.uk/Competition/Age-Group-Calculator/>

## FURTHER INFORMATION AND SUPPORT

Competition Age Groups - Frequently Asked Questions document is available to download at:  
[http://www.lta.org.uk/Resources/Competition/Competition%20Age%20Groups%20FAQs\\_March.pdf](http://www.lta.org.uk/Resources/Competition/Competition%20Age%20Groups%20FAQs_March.pdf)

The County Team are here to support you in better understanding how the changes will impact you and your tennis so do please contact us should you have any queries or questions on [Wiltshire@LTA.org.uk](mailto:Wiltshire@LTA.org.uk) or telephone 01793 887155.

# WHAT ARE THE BENEFITS OF MAKING THESE CHANGES TO COMPETITION AGE GROUPS?

## PLAYERS AND PARENTS

- Competition will be fairer for more players; players born in the last half of the calendar year will not always be the youngest in an age group and suffer because of a 'bad birthday'
- More players will have the opportunity to realise their potential, increasing the talent pool of players
- Changes to competition age groups will support higher quality competitions and provide players with a better experience

## COACHES

- Coaches will have players competing in a fairer environment which will better support their development and enjoyment and keep them in the game for longer helping to support the business of coaching
- Coaches will be better equipped to sell the benefits of competition to players, because the system will be fairer and easier to understand. This will support the attraction and retention of players – which can only be good for the growth of the coaching market

## PLACES TO PLAY

- Competition brings profile to a 'place to play' and contributes to the attraction and retention of members, which ultimately generates income – if more players are attracted to the sport and more stay in the game because competition is fairer and more enjoyable, this will support places to play in growing their business
- If there are more players involved in the sport and wanting to compete there will be more demand for places to play to run competitions, providing more opportunities to make money

## COMPETITION ORGANISERS AND OFFICIALS

- If there are more players involved in the sport and wanting to compete there will be more demand for competition, increasing the opportunities for organisers and officials to get involved
- If competition is fairer; more players will enjoy competing making the experience for organisers and officials more rewarding