**Mini Tennis Competition in Devon**

In Devon there are lots of opportunities for our 8Us, 9Us and 10Us to get involved in fun and enjoyable competition. Playing in competitions is a great way to put a player's skills into practice and demonstrate fair play, as they get the chance to compete against other players of a similar standard.  It can be daunting to know where to start, so, if you are new to competition then this brief guide should help you get started.

**New to Competition – where should I start?**

If you haven’t ventured outside your club environment to play any matches then a great place to start is The Whirlwind Mini Tour, with Red, Orange and Green events. The Tour encourages players to enjoy playing against other local tennis players in a fun, competitive environment. Whirlwind events are matchplays, which means there isn’t a winner at the end of each competition so it gives children the chance just to enjoy playing matches. They will play a maximum of 5 matches at each event (4 at Green). Every match played incurs points towards a Leaderboard which is updated after each event and players can monitor their progress on the website, see how fellow competitors are doing, giving players a real sense of achievement and something to work towards. The top 8 players from the Leaderboard are invited to the Masters Final.

You will find further information and all events listed across Devon and Cornwall at this website <http://www.whirlwindminitour.net/>

**How do I enter a competition?**

Every player will need to have a British Tennis Membership to enter and these are free for children, just register your child’s details at <https://www.lta.org.uk/member/signup/?product=junior-affiliate> Once you have a British Tennis membership (BTM) you will be able to login to your profile, see what matches you’ve played, check your Mini Tennis Dashboard and enter more tournaments.

Now you have your BTM, go to the Whirlwind Competition Listings <http://www.whirlwindminitour.net/competition-lists.html>, find the Whirlwind competition you would like to enter. Then go to the ‘Find a competition’ section on the LTA website <https://www3.lta.org.uk/Competitions/Search/> and search for that tournament. You can now add it to your basket and enter that competition or add it to your watchlist if the event isn’t open for entries yet. On the right hand side of the page you can search more events via your location, age group, level of competition and more!

**How do I know the right level of Competition for me?**

All competitions are graded from 7 through to 1 to help you find the right tournaments. For further information about grading go to: <https://www.lta.org.uk/play-compete/competing/start-competing/>

Our Whirlwind Tour are graded 6 as they are a good introduction to Competition. Once your child has enjoyed playing these Grade 6 events, perhaps made it through to the Whirlwind Masters Finals then you should be ready to move to a Grade 5 or Grade 4 event. You can find these on the LTA competition search as mentioned above.

If you would like any further information or have any trouble entering an event then please contact Jemima Morris, [devoncompetitiontennis@gmail.com](mailto:devoncompetitiontennis@gmail.com) or 01752 892664