



## **Age-Based Curriculum FAQs**

### **Why move to age-based programming?**

- Extensive research and feedback from participants and parents consistently shows that age-appropriate programming will increase both engagement and retention of kids, especially older youth.
- Registration will be simpler as parents are familiar with age-based as most sports and activities are set up this way. As participants stay with us longer, they will be eligible for more life-changing experiences and opportunities including scholarships.
- The switch will allow for kids to learn with kids their own age and progress with them. Friends can learn and grow with their friends.

### **What are the age groups?**

- The age groups are: 7-9, 10-11, 12-13, 14+.

### **What if my child ages up during the middle of summer?**

- The age a child is on the **first day** of the summer will dictate what class they sign-up for.
- If a child has a birthday in the middle of a summer that moves them up, they will remain in the current class until the end of the summer. For example, a child turning 10 in the middle of the summer will remain in the 7-9 year old class.

### **Will my child lose their level?**

- First Tee will be sunsetting Levels and moving to a new system of measuring accomplishments and progression. More information about this system is forthcoming.
- Levels will be used at a limited capacity for events outside of classes.
- 2022 is a transition year, kids will receive recognition for their level accomplishments in some manner.

### **Are the core values still part of the curriculum?**

- Yes! The values will still be highlighted in lessons and their positive attributes will be referred to throughout the program. We do not plan to lose the valuable content that is applicable and supportive to positive youth development.

### **How will the age-based classes affect the current level of progression?**

- Kids will no longer test to move into a new level. Once they reach the new age group, they will automatically move into the next age group.
- Progression will be measured through a new badge system (starting in 2023).

### **Will the whole structure of advancement change?**

- Yes, they will not advance based on skill but based on age.

- Badges will be used to measure advancement (starting in 2023).

**How will more advanced players be taught in a class with those just learning the game?**

- Classes will be split up into smaller groups that are based on ability or by their previous program level (PLAYer, Par, Birdie or Eagle).
- This will allow for each group to receive the skill instruction that's appropriate for their skill level and ability.
- The Life Skills Curriculum will be refreshed so there will be new information for both new and returning participants.

**How will eligibility for national opportunities be determined?**

- For 2022, previous levels will still be used to help determine eligibility for national opportunities.
- Coaches will help identify kids who are ready for national opportunities. These kids then may need to complete additional steps prior to being eligible for the event.

**Will there be a breakout of groups?**

- Yes, these groups may be based on skill level or previous program level.

**Will there be a basics class for beginners to learn the game so that advanced players don't have to go through basic instructions again?**

- If possible, yes. Classes will be split into smaller groups to accommodate different skill levels and abilities.

**How will children be assessed (tested) using the age-based system?**

- Participants will not move through different levels as in previous years.
- Badges will replace assessments. Badges will be based on various accomplishments.
- The badge system will not be implemented until 2023 since First Tee is still in the process of finalizing the system.

**Will class duration change?**

- No, class times will stay the same as in previous years. The only thing that might change is what time the age group is offered
- Class duration will be from 75-90 minutes depending on age group.

**Will it be harder for my child to get into a class because there is only a single day for that age group?**

- Age group class times may vary based on what our most popular ages are.
- Otherwise, we will adjust the class breakdown as necessary.

**Will there be an exception for siblings of different ages to be in the same group for convenience purposes if they are at the same skill level?**

- No, we will adhere to the age of participants. Accommodation will not be made for siblings.
- The curriculum is designed for the specific age groups, kids staying in their age group will ensure that kids are getting a curriculum that is developmentally appropriate.
- Contact your location for more information