

YOUNG PEOPLE IN GOLF DEVELOPMENT PATHWAY

This framework helps parents and young people identify the opportunities best suited to their junior golf journey. The “Stage”, “Who”, “Voice of the Participant”, and “Participant Profile” sections help determine the development stage that best reflects them. Once identified, the “Learning/Coaching” and “Play/Events” sections outline the most appropriate options for that stage. Each of these developmental categories are supported by the respective philosophy principals listed, which we encourage to be applied at that stage.



As well as providing a clear understanding of current opportunities, the framework also highlights future pathways based on ability and ambition.

STAGE	WHO	VOICE OF THE PARTICIPANT	PARTICIPANT PROFILE	LEARNING / COACHING	PLAY / EVENTS	PHILOSOPHY
Beginner – Junior	Players who are new to golf Approximate Age: 7-12 years	“I’m just getting started” “I love having fun”	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No handicap Playing from the fairway distance markers or forward tees Playing 1-6 holes Parental support required on course 	Multi week coaching programmes i.e. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Futures Hub coaching Club junior coaching Girls Golf programmes Golf in Schools 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Futures 6 Team Golf Family Ambrose Casual Family Play Learn More 	Principals of Play
Beginner – Youth	Players who are new to golf Approximate Age: 12-17 years	“I’ve played other sports, but I’m trying golf for the first time” “I love having fun” “I enjoy playing with other kids”	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No handicap Playing from the forward tees Playing 6-9 holes 	Multi week coaching programmes i.e. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Futures Hub coaching Club junior coaching Girls Golf programmes Golf in Schools 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Futures 6 or 9 Team Golf Family Ambrose Casual Family Play Learn More 	Be Supportive Games Based Approach
Intermediate - Junior	Players who have been playing golf for a few terms Approximate Age: 7-12 years	“I enjoy playing 6-9 holes with other kids” “I love having fun”	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Working towards or has achieved an official handicap Playing from the purple or yellow tees Playing 6-9 holes 	Multi week coaching programmes i.e. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Futures Hub coaching Club junior coaching Girls Golf programmes Golf in Schools 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Futures 6 or 9 Team Golf Family Ambrose Casual Family Play Learn More 	Be Supportive Games Based Approach
Intermediate - Youth	Players who love the game and the opportunities Approximate Age: 12-18 years	“I want to play a variety of courses” “I’m learning to understand rules and different formats” “I’m being more independent on course”	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Handicap likely to be less than 36 Ability to play unaccompanied Ability to play from multiple tee options Learning to score more consistently Developing knowledge with rules, etiquette and course management 	Multi week coaching programmes i.e. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Advanced Futures Hub coaching or Club junior coaching 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Futures 9 or 18 Twilight Junior Interclub Casual Play Junior Opens Secondary School Events 	How to coach with balance is better
Social and Recreational - Youth	Players who want to play recreationally Approximate Age: 12-18 years	“I want to play without too much focus on the score” “I enjoy playing golf with my mates”	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Enjoys the social interaction and personal challenge May or may not have an official handicap 	No formal environment, as and when the participant chooses with a social component, i.e. driving range visit, simulator golf etc.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Twilight Futures 9 or 18 Secondary School Events Casual Play 	Balance is better at providing opportunities for all
Develop and Perform - Youth	Players who are aspiring to be the best they can be Approximate Age: 12-18 years	“I enjoy playing tournaments and want to improve my performance” “I like that the opponent is not the person, but the golf course”	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consistent scoring on a variety of courses Open to learning new skills to improve performance Understand the importance of reflecting on performance 	Multi week coaching programmes i.e. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Advanced Futures Hub coaching or Club junior coaching May seek out individual coach to support learning needs District development sessions focussed on skill development and effective practice 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Futures 18 Junior Opens Secondary School Championship Junior/Senior Interclub District Age Group Championships National Age Group Championships 	Balance is better Canterbury Golf Emerging Players Programme
Talent Development	Players who aspire to win majors and medals Age 13+	“I want to follow in the footsteps of Ryan Fox and have a successful professional career” “I want to win majors and medals like Lydia Ko” “I know I’m not a great player yet. But I understand what great looks like and where my game is currently”	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Learning to transfer skills into appropriate competition Has goals and understands commitment required to achieve own aspirations 	District development sessions focussed on challenging all areas of skill development under a variety of training conditions Building an individualised development plan that addresses strengths, weaknesses and the gap between their current game and their aspirations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Junior Opens Secondary School Championship Order of Merit Events Senior Interclub District Age Group Championships National Age Group Championships District Rep teams 	Canterbury Golf Talent Development Programme Golf NZ Talent Development Programme