

We've put some guidelines, for parents to have a better understanding on how we structure groups.

Please spare a minute to read it, and what might apply for your child/children

RED 1: Entry stage/group for any player without prior experience in tennis, below the age of 8/9. Depending on age, skills/strength, extra coaching, etc, this player might move on to next group after 1, 2 or 3 terms.

RED 2: Players here, are aware and confident to do almost all basic shots in tennis (forehand, backhand, volleys, serve...) A player might be on this group, for 1 or 2 terms (or more if stops playing during winter), depending on age, skill or strength, since next stage is on regular tennis court (but adapted to a smaller scale). Also, be able to start playing points

ORANGE: Orange level players, need to be confident/strong enough to pull most shots without technique breaking down (or at least before being considered to move up to Green). Players might need to stay on this stage for up to 3 terms approx, which could be through 2 summer seasons, if they stop in the winter), since next stage need to be able to play full court, able to serve&play and confident enough to make some line calls during play & strong enough to play from the base-line (full court)

GREEN: Players here need the strength, confident & experience required to start thinking of playing/filling in for beginner interclub. This can also work a social group if not interested to play any IC. Only ready to move to bronze 1, once he's ready to be considered to play competitively and/or the skills to do so

BRONZE 1: These players ideally should be ready for interclub matches or as fill-ins. They should be comfortable playing singles & doubles, making their own calls, keeping track of scores, etc. Players playing all year around would have a much better transition to Bronze 2 (rather than bronze 1 invitation) than others playing on summer only.

BRONZE 1 (Invitation only): This group will be starting summer IC competitions.

BRONZE 2: Players here are strong enough and have more competitive experience, and technically more sound as well, than the previous stage

SILVER: Good level of play. All around confident technique. Will have to play mostly all year around to be considered to move up to this group. Main or co-main sport throughout the year.

GOLD: Experience players that have been at the club for years. Late teens normally, that its a mix with social trainings as well. This stage, players are comfortable to play at a high-level, or even in adult interclub. Also, they have the experience and technical ability to start helping us out with some of the HotShots coaching groups if they want to.

Like everything, there's situations and exeptions we need to make, for example when a player might be of a silver-level group, but playing on a team with Gold-level players, so he might be 'pushed-up' so to be with his team mates. This could be strictly because of team pairings that sometimes are not perfect. Other situations (similar to this) may apply...

Tennis (although considered a summer sport in NZ!) is the kind of sport that needs constant training, to keep seeing positive results. I'd like to take this opportunity to mention that some of those kids that have played in the winter, have also competed on individual competitions (not necessarily on a team scenario such as interclubs), and they have had success & positive results. This will also put those kids with loads more experience for the summer interclubs matches

Finally, please we aware that to play tennis, is extremely important to have the appropriate shoes & racquets. We've seen kids show up with running shoes, or others similar. Although we've mentioned this to them, we cant stress enough how important is to have tennis shoes. Running shoes, dont have the support needed, for what tennis needs, like constant start/stop movements, running in all directions, stability/balance, etc. You may find tennis shoes, in any sports store or tennis pro-shop.

Finally, please, if you have any ideas, questions or feedback you want to share, we're always here for you!