

SGC Junior Development Program Frequently Asked Questions

How young do the kids start playing golf? What age should they start?

There is no “golden age” when your child should start playing golf. Even when you look at the elite players, the age when some of the players start playing varies from 4 to 12 years old. It’s all quite individual and depend on the child at the first place.

Things that you need to consider:

- How comfortable does your child feel being in the group? SGC Junior Development Program provides group sessions where you can have 4 to 8 kids working together, so your child needs to be ready for learning in such an environment.
- As has been mentioned above, children are learning in the group environment. Although, it is important for your child to be able to listen to the adults and share the attention and space with their peers.

On the website it says, “Term 4”. Does it mean that I need to wait until the next year to sign up my child for the program in the “Term 1”?

The Junior Development Program is run parallel with the School Terms; hence we are using Term 1,2,3 or 4 terminologies when creating a schedule. The Juniors can join the program at any term.

How do we sign up for the program? What’s the process?

Currently our junior program is at full capacity. We are putting names on the waitlist, and when spots become available the golf club staff will get in touch with you to advise you that spots have become available.

You have different levels in your program. How is my child going to progress? How many weeks does it take to move from one level to another?

The levels are here for us to make sure that kids with similar skills are learning together. We do not push any timeframes on children on how fast they should move from one level to another. Everyone has a different pace of learning; therefore, we are looking at each situation individually. SGC has three PGA members running the program and each one of them will be happy to advise you when your child should move to another class.

My child has played golf before. Which class is the most suitable for us?

Level “Beginner” is designed for the youngest golfers from 4 to 7 years old, who are learning about the basics of the golf swing and the golf etiquette. If your child falls under this age group or has never held a golf club in their hands, then the “Beginner” class is for you.

What is the difference between Level A, B, Cadets, and the Junior Pennant Team?

“Beginner” is for the youngest golfers 4-7yo who have never been a part of Southport Junior Program before.

Level A is for the youngest golfers 4-7yo who have been attending our classes for quite some time and are familiar with the structure of the group lesson and know the basics of the golf swing.

Level B is for kids aged 7 to 11yo, who are slightly more experienced with their golf swing and are being introduced to slightly more complex games and skills.

Cadets (7:00 Class) is what you can call an intermediate stage. Juniors from the age of 7 to 14 years old. During the sessions the juniors continue developing their skills and frequently play on the golf course. If your child is feeling confident with their golf swing this level is a perfect environment where your offspring can continue improving their skills while playing with their peers. This is a transitioning stage between the Junior Clinics and the Junior Membership. Cadets start from playing 9 holes and having a competition among themselves. Then as they become more confident, they play 18 holes, which allows them to then get their handicap and join the club as the junior members, which will allow them to participate in the members' comp.

Junior Pennant Team is a group for juniors who have gained their Golf Australia Handicap and can participate not only in the Junior Competition, but can also participate in the Members Comp and represent the Club in the Gold Coast District Matchplay Series.

How much is it? Can I pay for the whole term?

It is \$15 per session (\$25 if you have two or more children). \$15 Junior Competition fee.

You can't pay for the whole trimester upfront. The classes are subject to change due to the weather conditions or a change in the club's calendar. As the number of classes is not strictly allocated per term, we can't take payments in advance.

What sort of equipment do we need to purchase?

Please make sure that your child is wearing a sport appropriate footwear (any type of sneakers is good, you don't need to have golf shoes).

The club provides the junior with the golf clubs and balls during the classes. You don't need to buy any special equipment at the early of your child's learning.

Are you running the program only on Sundays?

Depending on the golf course and staff availability there are midweek classes available. Please check with the golf shop staff the current schedule.

What happens between the terms? Are there any classes during the school holidays?

During the school holidays we normally offer two days back-to-back "golf camp" where juniors can spend more time on the golf course and learn new aspects about the game. Please check with our PGA professionals on the days and time of each holiday camp.