

Junior Parents Meeting

Recap | September 2026

Meeting purpose: To explain Frog Hollow's junior development pathway, clarify how players are evaluated and moved between levels, and help families understand training, match play, tournaments, and communication.

Program Philosophy

- Frog Hollow aims to meet each player where they are. The program serves beginners, recreational players, school-team players, and children pursuing high-performance tennis.
- The goal is a positive environment where players learn, compete, have fun, and develop alongside appropriate peers without being pushed into pressure they did not choose.
- Progress is individual. Children develop at different rates, and advancement should protect confidence, technique, and long-term enjoyment of the sport.

Junior Development Pathway

The pathway includes both recreational and performance tracks:

- Recreational/developmental: Drop Shots 1, Drop Shots 2, Aces 1, Aces 2, Top Spinners, Beginner Series, Middle School, and High School.
- Performance: New Balance Satellite, New Balance Player, and New Balance Team.

Ball progression is intentional: each class primarily uses one ball while introducing the next level so players can adjust gradually rather than starting over after every move.

Class	Primary Ball / Introduction
Drop Shots 1	Soft red ball; introduction to standard red
Drop Shots 2	Standard red ball; introduction to orange
Aces 1	Orange ball; introduction to green-dot
Aces 2	Green-dot ball; introduction to yellow
Top Spinners	Green-dot ball; introduction to yellow
Middle/High School	Yellow ball
New Balance	Yellow ball; placement also reflects age, readiness, and peer group

Evaluations and Movement Between Levels

- Coaches monitor players and recommend evaluations when they believe a child may be ready to advance.
- Arsenio, the Junior Program Director, conducts and approves formal evaluations and level changes. Evaluations consider age, temperament, strokes and grips, footwork, movement, rally consistency, point play, tennis IQ, work ethic, and sportsmanship.
- A player's UTR is useful but is not the only factor. Strong players without a rating may still be placed appropriately based on an evaluation.

- Families returning from summer camp should not assume summer group placement carries into the indoor fall program. If placement is unclear, schedule a fall evaluation through Arsenio or the front desk.
- Coaches should provide meaningful progress feedback approximately every six weeks, including what a player is working on, readiness for the next level, and any remaining developmental needs.

Building a Complete Player

Three parts work together:

- **Group clinics** provide repetition, instruction, and practice with peers at a consistent level.
- **Private lessons** target a player's individual technical or tactical needs.
- **Match play and tournaments** teach players to apply skills under pressure, manage scoring, analyze opponents, and handle winning and losing.

New Balance benchmarks discussed: Satellite begins at UTR 2.0, Player at UTR 3.0, and Team at UTR 4.0.

These are benchmarks rather than substitutes for professional judgment about age, maturity, readiness, and fit.

- Match play generally runs for five weeks, followed by an on-site UTR tournament opportunity. Tournament registration information will be sent separately.
- Tournament participation should fit the child and family's goals and schedule. The recreational path in our program does not intend to force a rigid tournament requirement on every player.
- For highly ambitious players, development requires a combination of group training, private instruction, competition, consistent court time, coachability, athletic development, and the ability to handle setbacks.

Private Lessons

- Choose a coach who connects well with your child and matches the temperament and teaching style your child needs. Coach profiles are available online, and Arsenio can help match families with a coach based on preferred tier, schedule, and personality.
- All coaches can work with different skill levels, but availability varies. Popular after-school times fill quickly during the indoor season.
- Coaches can generally book lessons two weeks in advance. Families seeking a recurring time should communicate clearly and attend consistently; an unused weekly time may be offered to another client.
- Private lessons do not guarantee advancement, and players taking lessons should not receive preferential attention in clinics.

Scheduling, Communication, and Policies

- Clinics generally need at least three players to run. Families will be notified as early as possible if enrollment may require a schedule change or cancellation.
- Training-day changes may be possible when another appropriate clinic has space.
- For school-age performance players, participation on a middle school or high school team may count as one required group training commitment during the school season.
- Makeups: we allow one makeup per session for a missed class and the club must be notified in advanced of the missed class.
- Membership and pricing questions should be directed to the front desk for the most accurate information.

- The club plans to explore level-based parent communication groups to share practice opportunities, court availability, tournament reminders, and other relevant updates.

Expectations for Players and Coaches

- Players are expected to show effort, good sportsmanship, respectful communication, and appropriate behavior. Racket throwing, disruptive conduct, and poor attitudes are not acceptable.
- Coaches are expected to run organized drills, engage every player, provide equitable attention, identify equipment concerns, and communicate a clear developmental plan.
- Parents should contact Arsenio if they have concerns about coaching quality, placement, progress, tournament selection, UTR/USTA registration, or any part of their child's development.

Parent Action Items

- Schedule an evaluation if your child's fall placement is unclear or you believe a reevaluation is appropriate.
- Ask your child's coach for specific progress feedback and the next developmental goals.
- Consider the right balance of clinic instruction, private lessons, match play, and tournaments for your child's interest and goals.
- Contact the front desk for membership, pricing, registration, and scheduling details.
- Reach out to Arsenio for help with placement, coach selection, UTR/USTA, tournaments, or player-development questions.