
Glossary of Terms and Definitions

- **Little Linksters:** Members who are between the ages of 4 & 6; First introductions to the game of golf and our life skills curriculum, use of SNAG equipment (STARTING NEW AT GOLF)
- **PLAYer 3,6,9:** The introductory level at which **ALL** participants (over the age of 7) join TFTCV and learn the basic fundamentals of the golf game including etiquette and rules. This is also the first introduction to the 9 core values learned in the program. PLAYer 3 uses SNAG in all 8 weeks of programming and focuses on 3 of the 9 core values, PLAYer 6 uses SNAG equipment in the first 4 weeks of class and focuses on 6 of the 9 core values and PLAYer 9 utilizes standard golf clubs and focuses on all 9 core values for all 8 weeks. **ALL participants must complete each level twice.**
- **Par Level:** The next level of programming that focuses on interpersonal and self-management life skills (must pass PLAYer certification to enroll). Instruction on the driving range and the golf course.
- **Birdie Level:** The next level of programming that helps your child discover what it takes to make and achieve goals both on and off the golf course. (must pass Par certification to enroll). This course is taught at an affiliate golf course.
- **Eagle Level:** The next level of the program that focuses on resilient skills and a healthy lifestyle. Also, at this level there is focus on giving back by mentoring new members in the program. (must pass Birdie certification to enroll). This course is taught at an affiliate golf course.
- **Certification:** The process of moving through the different advanced levels of our program. Each member will schedule an appointment with an instructor to certify that the member's golf and life skills have advanced them to the next level of the program.



74-945 Sheryl Avenue
Palm Desert, CA 92260
(760) 779-1877

www.thefirstteecoachellavalley.org

Parent Handbook

Founded as a chapter of The First Tee's national program in January of 2008, we now have reached over 3000 juniors through our life skills program. As a program of the Desert Recreation District, we hope to continue to impact the lives of youngsters throughout the Coachella Valley.

We provide a safe, healthy, and positive environment in which students learn golf skills and are shaped by the excellent life skills that the game embodies. We aim to hook our kids as a life-long amateur sport, teach them how the rules of the game can be applied to everyday life situations, and empower them to excel in school. Youth programs operate Monday through Saturday.

Thank you so much for your involvement and support in our organization and for investing in your child's future!

Staff Directory

- **Dustin Smith, PGA**, Program Director, dsmith@drd.us.com
- **Lexi Ward, MA**, Fund Development Coordinator, lward@drd.us.com

TFT Coaching Staff

- **Eric Solander, PGA**, Life Skills Coach Level III, esolander@iwgr.com
- **Jonathan Ruiz**, Life Skills Coach Level I, joanthanruiz@gmail.com
- **Mauricio Alvarez**, Life Skills Coach Level I, Alvarez.mauricio@rocketmail.com
- **Donell Griffin**, Life Skills Coach Level I, dgriffin30@gmail.com
- **Beatrice Padilla**, Life Skills Coach Level I, bpadilla@drd.us.com
- **James Baxter**, Life Skills Coach

Fees & Discounts

- See insert for schedule of fees.
- Sibling discount – 50% discount on annual membership for 3rd sibling. Discount does not apply to per session fee.
- School free or reduced lunch program discount – 50% discount on annual membership fee and per session fees with proof of enrollment.

*The **actual** cost for a child to participate in our program is much more than we ask of parents and families. It is through fundraising efforts that we are able to keep this cost down for families of the Coachella Valley.*

Membership to TFTCV includes:

- A full year membership from the date that the membership fee was paid.
- Full access to The First Tee of the Coachella Valley course including Green Fees, use of the Practice Greens and Bunkers.
- Equipment use including golf clubs, and a small bucket of balls (1 per child per day).
- Access to general programming that runs in 8-week sessions throughout the year (fall, winter, spring) including Summer Camps (does not include Little Linksters)
- Reduced Green Fees for Parents or Guardians of TFTCV members of **\$8** when playing with a member (rate good for one adult per round).
- All special event activities produced by TFTCV including clinics, tournament visits and field trips (age requirement may apply)
- Community service and volunteer opportunities for juniors 11&up.
- Parent orientations and open houses throughout the season.

Rules & Expectations

- Children under the age of 12 must be supervised by a parent or guardian over the age of 18 at all times.
- Parents are expected to sign their child in and out for each class for children under the age of 12.
- Members will show respect and follow staff instructions.
- Member behavior may not disrupt the operation of the golf shop, golf course, or class sessions
- Members will demonstrate respect for the facilities, equipment, and property of others
- Members will leave areas cleaner than when you arrived (trash picked up, chairs pushed in, recycle, etc.)
- No running or roughhousing
- Keep voices at a reasonable level
- Return all borrowed golf equipment to staff clean and with the pockets in each golf bag emptied of trash
- Check in at the front desk and sign in before using any facilities
- Use proper golf safety and etiquette at all times
- **Inclement Weather:** We will make every effort to hold the class as scheduled. Please call the Pro Shop before you come for updates.

Consequences

- 5-minute “time-out” from the activity
 - Immediate removal from the class. Parents will then be contacted and will be expected to pick up their children
 - Mandatory meeting with TFTCV staff member discussing the problem and the solutions we see fit as a consensus.
 - A written letter of apology written by the TFTCV member stating their understanding of the infraction and corrective actions.
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The First Tee of the Coachella Valley

Rate Schedule

Effective September 01, 2016

Annual Membership.....\$140.00

Membership includes:

- **Includes (3) 8-week sessions and 1 free Summer Camp (ages 7-Up).**
- Full access to The First Tee of the Coachella Valley facility including golf course, practice greens and bunkers.
- Free course play for members
- Small bucket of balls (1 free per child per day).
- Equipment use including golf clubs
- Access to general programming that runs in 8-week sessions throughout the year including summer camps.
- Reduced green fees \$8.00 for parents or guardians of TFTCV members when playing with a member (one adult per round).
- All special event activities produced by TFTCV including clinics, tournament visits and field trips (age requirement)

Little Linksters (ages 4-6) Annual Membership.....\$140.00

- Includes (3) 8-week sessions and benefits referenced above.

Golf Team Fee.....\$30.00

(Must be 11 years & older to try-out. Must be enrolled in a regular TFT class to participate. Try-outs are held every 8-week session).

LPGA*USGA Girls Golf.....\$30.00

(Per 8-week session. TFT Annual Membership **is not** required)

Membership Card Replacement.....\$5.00

Existing current memberships will remain the same until the membership is due for renewal

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THE FIRST TEE OF THE COACHELLA VALLEY COACHING STAFF



Dustin Smith, PGA Program Director - Life Skills Coach Level III

- * TFT Level III Certified Coach
- * BA in Education from University of Reno, NV
- * 2017 PGA Youth Player Development Award Winner
- * Goals: TFT National and TFT Master Coach



Eric Solander, PGA - Life Skills Coach Level III

- * BA in Accounting from Cal-State University San Bernardino
- * PGA Class A Professional
- * Lead Teaching Professional at Indian Wells Golf Resort
- * Goals: Continued Education through The First Tee Network



Jonathan Ruiz, PGA Apprentic - Life Skills Coach Level I

- * First Tee Alumni
- * Tournament Coordinator at SilverRock Resort
- * Completed The First Tee Level I training in Phoenix, AZ
- * Goals: Become a First Tee Level II Coach



Mauricio Alvarez - Life Skills Coach Level I

- * First Tee Alumni
- * Currently attending at College of the Desert
- * Outside Service Attendant at Shadow Mountain Resort and Club
- * Goals: Learn The First Tee Teaching Philosophy



Donell Griffin, MA - Life Skills Coach Level I

- * BA in Psychology from The University of Redlands
- * Master's in Forensic Psychology from California Baptist Church
- * Played Football for The University of Redlands
- * Goals: Learn The First Tee Teaching Philosophy



Beatrice Padilla - Life Skills Coach Level I

- * USAG Certified Gymnastics Coach for 11 years
- * Certified Personal Trainer
- * Completed The First Tee Level I training in Fort Worth, TX
- * Goals: Learn The First Tee Teaching Philosophy



James Baxter - Life Skills Coach Level I

- * U.S. Navy Veteran
- * BS in Kinesiology
- * A.S. Recreation, Leisure, and Sports Management
- * Goals: Currently completing M.S. in Kinesiology

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