



Certification Requirements – Changes in 2022

The various levels of First Tee are meant to mark growth both in life skills and golf skills. Progression through the levels will follow the order below:

Junior Links (5 & 6 year olds) → PLAYer → Par → Birdie → Eagle → ACE (high school)

All certifying levels of First Tee have both Life Skills knowledge and Golf Skills requirements to move on to the next level. The Junior Links level is for participants ages 5 and 6 and is *not* considered a certifying level. Participants will automatically be considered at the PLAYer level once they turn 7 years old. Participants at the PLAYer and Par levels will be responsible for completing their yardage books, attending a specified number of hours within each level, and completing a written test and golf skills test before being eligible to certify to the next level. Participants in upper levels of the program will also be responsible for additional elements including yardage book assignments and playing requirements before being eligible to certify.

Below you will find the requirements for each level that a participant must complete to move on to the next level. Requirements will vary by level but will increase in difficulty as the levels progress.

Beginning in 2022, administration of written life skills and golf knowledge tests will no longer be required to progress to the next level. Coaches will instead monitor participant's knowledge of the game and lessons throughout a session. If a participant demonstrates proficiency in the content of their respective level, participants may be promoted to the next level provided they have met all other requirements.

See the breakdown of level requirements on the next page...

Junior Links

Non-certifying level, no yardage book required

PLAYer Level

24 hours of PLAYer Level programming

Completion of PLAYer Yardage Book

~~Pass 80% of the Life Skills and Golf Skills written assessment~~

Play Requirements – participation in play days during session

Putting – complete 9-holes in 30 strokes or less

Par Level

36 hours of Par Level programming

~~Pass 80% of the Life Skills and Golf Skills written assessment~~

Completion of Par Yardage Book

Play Requirements – participation in play days during session

Putting – complete 9-holes in 27 strokes or less

Up/Down – 3-holes in 12 strokes or less

Fairways Hit – 2 of 6

Birdie Level

48 hours of Birdie Level programming

~~Pass 80% of the Life Skills and Golf Skills written assessment~~

Minimum of 2 activities per Core Lesson completed in the Birdie Yardage Book

Play Requirements – Five 9-hole rounds, score of 63 or less at 1900-2500 yards

Putting – 9-holes in 27 strokes or less

Up/Down – 6-holes in 21 strokes or less

Greens Hit – 3 of 6 from 50-75 yards

Eagle Level

60 hours of Eagle Level programming

~~Pass 80% of the Life Skills and Golf Skills written assessment~~

Minimum of 2 activities per Core Lesson completed in the Eagle Yardage Book

Play Requirements – Ten 18-hole rounds, score of 108 or less at 5000-6000 yards

Putting – 9-holes in 21 strokes or less

Up/Down – 9-holes in 30 strokes or less

Fairways Hit – 3 of 6, ball must travel at least 150 yards

Greens Hit – 3 of 6 from 80-100 yards

ACE Level

Minimum age of 14 or entering 9th grade

Participants work to complete 4 different projects