This page contains a brief description about the process we use at the DeWitt Tennis Center to determine when players are promoted to the next level of class.

**TENNIS MOVE UP POLICY**

**General guidelines:**

1. Only pros can promote a player to the next level, not the player or the parent.
2. We “graduate” players every summer and depending on what they grade they will be entering that fall. In very rare occasions the pro staff may move a player to a level higher than their grade.
3. We fully admit that there are players in classes that can beat players from the next class higher. It is

never possible to make the cut off 100% accurate. This is also possible when players in the higher

class lose due to style of play or other intangible reasons.

1. We generally do not move up players that are winning and still have a lot of technical deficiencies,

like wrong grips and wrong swing patterns, even if they beat players in the next level class.

1. The best player in a class level does not automatically get promoted to the higher class. Each class has its strongest players and automatically promoting the strongest player would only make someone else the new strongest players and the cycle would never end.
2. We feel that our pro staff are the people with the most expertise and unbiased position to make decisions about which players are promoted. Therefore, we discuss the players that we feel are at the

top of their classes, in a special meeting of the pros.

1. We compare players to all players at their level, not just the ones in the class they attend. It is possible to be the strongest player in a certain class but only be the 5th or 6th player overall at a certain level.
2. **The following is a list of specific things that we look at when deciding whether to promote a player**:
3. **Age**: is the player roughly the same age as the other players and will he be experiencing the same pace on the balls in that class as he will when he plays in tournaments?
4. **Coachability:** does the player accept the ideas and recommendations of the pro staff (new grips) or are they too interested in short term results to accept the advice?
5. **Maturity**: will the player listen and behave in class at the proper maturity level or would he be a distraction to other players?
6. **Commitment level**: has the player made a commitment to play in tournaments and pursue other competitive experiences or are they just “drillers”?
7. **Ability**: is the player’s skill level appropriate for the next class in general and not just compared to the bottom of the next class?

In general, players and parents should consider the child’s overall results, not just their best win. Also pay close attention to whether the child is accepting the pro’s advice, particularly when it comes to technical changes, this holds a lot of players back.

Avoid comparing your child’s skill and progress to other kids, especially friends. Lastly, remember that the pro staff is very competent and has the best interest of each player and the entire program in mind when making these decisions.