

What is your typical process for working with a new student?

New students are a clean slate and working with them is great. Our goal is for them to learn in as short a period of time as possible the basics so they not only can start to enjoy the game, but they learn how to self evaluate. Getting new students to learn the basics is easy. Getting them to understand WHY they do certain things and by watching the ball AFTER they have hit they can appreciate how the ball was struck to produce that result. We almost always video instructions so they can see what actually happens rather than being told how they hit. We also record a couple of my swings so they have a frame of reference.

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What education and/or training do you have that relates to your work?

My perspective is based on my experience as a touring pro and significant success in translating tennis this knowledge, strokes and tactics to my students regardless of skill level. I find many instructors teach as if they read a book or watched YouTube videos. They may even be teaching proper strokes, but the student does not learn why they are doing what they are doing.

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Do you have a standard pricing system for your lessons?

The hourly rate is \$75 for a private lesson and slightly more for semi privates or groups. For competitive players who want a rally lesson where the two of us really go at it, the fee is \$100. Students can buy packages of 5 or 10 lesson blocks which offer discounts.

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How did you get started teaching?

My college coach was aware of a club in Syracuse that needed a summer instructor to run the kids camps. I really enjoyed the kids and they seemed to enjoy it as well. The light bulb went off in my head that helping others learn how to play could be meaningful for them and fun for us both!

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What types of students have you worked with?

BEGINNERS- all ages, shapes and sizes, both groups and individual lessons.

CLUB PLAYERS- trying to move up to the next level and beat their nemesis. This is also groups and individual lessons but those taking their improvement seriously benefit from private lessons. These lessons frequently include more time spent on strategy: maximizing strengths and weakness, running plays and reducing errors. Similarly, many club teams want to improve their doubles so we work on doubles strategies of signals, serve placement, poaching, anticipation, etc

SERIOUS PLAYERS- mostly juniors, who want to be the best player they can be. This is individual lessons but can also manage drills between multiple competitive students at the same time. This lowers the costs for each student and allows me work with the students in live ball circumstances.

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What advice would you give a student looking to hire a teacher?

Consider what you want to get out of it. There are tons of hit and giggle assembly line tennis clinics. There are a never-ending list of tennis instructors who can provide you instruction on what to do, I would estimate much of that instructions is barely helpful and sometimes unhelpful but its wrapped in a fun clinic and lots of balls are hit. And that may be fine for many people. However, if you want to really learn and get a sound framework to enjoy tennis for years to come, or if you want to go to the next level competitively.....we should give it a go.

Additionally, being a great player does not automatically translate into being a good teacher. Fortunately, I have had great success quickly spotting weakness or issues and communicating the improvements in a way they can be digested by my students. This holds true in my professional career over decades as an advisor and mentor to entrepreneurs and startups.

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