



THE MET
AT DOWNTOWN

A Member of the ClubCorp Family



2021 Tennis
Staff and Guide

The Downtown Club at the Met Tennis Staff



Keith Christman
Director of Tennis

Is the Director of Tennis at the Downtown Club at the [Met](#). Keith has been with the Met since 1991. He has over 40 years of experience in the tennis industry. Keith has coached players on the professional circuit, as well as junior players at the national level. He has been the Episcopal High School tennis coach for the past 17 years. One of Keith's priorities is his involvement in the Houston community.



Dan Valentincic
Head Tennis Professional

Is the Head Tennis Professional at the Downtown Club at the [Met](#). Dan has been with the Met since 1998. A former Director of Tennis with 30 years of teaching experience. He played his college tennis at the University of Houston as a #1 singles and doubles player. He was a former Southwest Conference Champion at U of H. After graduating he played on the ATP Tour with several wins over top 100 players.



Troy Toole
Tennis Staff Professional

Is a Tennis Staff Professional at the Downtown Club at the [Met](#). Troy is from Chicago, Illinois. He has over 18 years teaching experience. Before coming to the Met he was a club manager and head professional. Troy coached with the USTA Midwest Section, working with Sectional, National, and ITF ranked juniors.
for adults.



Michael Riley
Tennis Staff Professional

Is a Tennis Staff Professional at the Downtown Club at the [Met](#). He grew up in Richmond, Virginia and played tennis at the University of Incarnate Word, San Antonio. Michael has been teaching in the industry for over 35 years. He is a Dartfish Certified Technologist and USPTA Certified Tennis Professional.



Claude Panzeri
Tennis Staff Professional

Is a Tennis Staff Professional at the Downtown Club at the [Met](#). Claude has been teaching tennis for 25 years. He has coached in Switzerland, France and the United States. He has dedicated his career to individual instruction with adults and juniors of all levels. These players include sectional, national and ITF ranked juniors who have played professionally.



Julie Chao
Tennis Staff Professional

Is a Tennis Staff Professional at the Downtown Club at the [Met](#). Julie grew up in junior tennis in San Diego, CA and was a top nationally ranked player before getting recruited to play for Rice University. During her 4 years at Rice she held the #1 singles and doubles positions on the team. She ended her senior year ranked in the top 25 in doubles in the nation.



Chris Jackson
Tennis Staff Professional

Is a Tennis Staff Professional at the Downtown Club at the [Met](#). Chris is from Trinidad & Tobago. He has over 29 years of Teaching experience at the Houston City Club and Downtown Club. Chris worked with projects with the USTA and NJTL.



Barbie Bramblett
Tennis Staff Professional



Kasey Wright
Tennis Staff Professional

Is a Tennis Staff Professional at the Downtown Club at the [Met](#). Kasey formerly played for the University of Mississippi. She played professional tennis on the Mizuno and Avon Futures Tour. She was a teaching professional at Hilton Head Island, hired by Rod Laver and Rod Laver Tennis. The Downtown Club at the Met is excited to have Kasey as a leader in the Saturday Kids' Program.



2021 Programs / Events Calendar

19th Annual Alumni Tennis Challenge – 2021 TBD

- The tournament will feature Men's and Ladies Doubles for all levels of play. The divisions will include Open, 9.0, 8.0, 7.0, and 6.0. All players will represent their college or university in a round robin tournament.

18th Annual Episcopal High School Invitational Tennis Tournament – 2021 TBD

- The tournament will feature all of the Private High Schools in the Houston area competing for the City Championships.

USTA National Senior Men's 70–75 Championships – 2021 TBD

- The Met is excited this year to host a National Seniors Tournament. The event will feature Men's singles and doubles ages 70–75 for this National Championship. All members and local players are welcomed to participate. Open to the public.

19th Annual Metropolitan Energy Tournament – August 6–7, 2021

- Welcome all members and guests to this great tradition at the Downtown Club. All levels of play welcome. Tournament includes Food, Drink, and Prizes!

The Downtown Club Monthly Tennis Mixers – Monthly

- The Third Friday of each month the Met will host the “Friday Night Mixer. The mixers will be for all groups from 3.0–3.5, 3.5–4.0, 4.0–4.5 and 4.5–5.0. It will be open to all members and guest in a round robin doubles format for each flight. The times are 7:00–9:00 on Fridays. The mixer includes Tennis, Food and Drink! Please R.S.V.P. each month!

The Downtown Club Right Start Ball Machine Clinic – Weekly

- Tennis and Athletic Club Members are invited to come out, get some tips for your game, and let us introduce you to ongoing programs at the Met. Join in on Saturdays from 11:00–12:00p.m. This is complimentary to all members! Hope to see new players on the courts!

Tennis Programs 2021

Men's and Ladies Clinics

Weekly Clinics

Monday (Ladies)	6:00 – 7:00pm	3.5 – 4.0
Wednesday (Mens)	6:00 - 7:00pm	3.5 – 4.0

Right Start Clinic/ Ball Machine

For New Members – Complimentary

Saturday (Men's and Ladies)	11:00 – 12:00pm	All Levels
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Junior Boys and Girls Workouts

Tuesday	4:00 – 5:30pm	Ages 7–15
Thursday	4:00 – 5:30pm	Ages 7–15
Saturday	12:00 – 2:00pm	Ages 12–17

Leagues

Met and City Leagues

Monday (HLTA Ladies)	9:00 – 12:30pm	4.0 – 4.5
Monday (Men's Doubles)	7:00 – 9:00pm	3.5 – 4
Tuesday (Ladies Doubles)	9:00 – 11:00pm	2.5 – 3.0
Tuesday (Men's Doubles)	7:00 – 9:00pm	4.0 – 4.5
Tuesday (HTA Ladies)	8:00 – 10:00pm	4.0 – 4.5
Wednesday (Ladies Doubles)	7:00 – 9:00pm	3.0 – 3.5
Wednesday (HTA Ladies)	8:00 – 10:00pm	4.0 – 4.5
Friday (Ladies Doubles)	9:30 – 11:00pm	3.5 – 4.5
Friday Indoor Ladies League	9:00 – 12:00pm	3.5 – 4.0
Weekly (Men's and Ladies Singles)	TBA	3.5 – 5.0

(note: Some leagues will resume play in Jan 2021)

Friday Night Mixers

3rd Friday of Each Month/ Guest welcome

Friday (Men's and Ladies Doubles)	7:00–9:00 p.m.	All Levels
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The Downtown Club at the Met

2021 Tennis Calendar

January

- 1 New Year's Day Round Robin
- 4 2.5–3.0 Ladies Singles and Doubles League
- 4 3.5–4.5 Men's Ladies Singles and Doubles League
- 15 Friday Night Mixer

February

- 8 HLTA Ladies Season Begin
- 8 USTA Ladies Evening Leagues
- 12 Ladies Friday Indoor Leagues
- 19 Friday Night Mixer
- 15th Annual Alumni Tennis Challenge (TBD)
- Episcopal High School Invitational (TBD)
- Friday Night Mixer
- 15 2.5–3.0 Ladies Singles and Doubles League
- 15 3.5–4.5 Men's Ladies Singles and Doubles League

March

- 19 St. Patrick's Day Friday Night Mixer
- USTA National 70–75 Senior Men's Indoors (TBD)

April

- 5 2.5–3.0 Ladies Singles and Doubles League
- 16 Friday Night Mixer
- 5 3.5–4.5 Men's Ladies Singles and Doubles League

May

- 14 Friday Night Mixer
- 17 2.5–3.0 Ladies Singles and Doubles League
- 17 3.5–4.5 Men's Ladies Singles and Doubles League

June

- May 30 – June 25 Kid's Summer Tennis / Sports Camp
- 9 USTA Ladies Evening League
- 18 "Summer Kick Off" Friday Night Mixer

July

- 5-30 Kid's Summer Tennis / Sports Camp
- 5 2.5-3.0 Ladies Singles and Doubles League
- 5 3.5-4.5 Men's Ladies Singles and Doubles League
- 16 "Hotter than July" Friday Night Mixer

August

- 2-27 Kid's Summer Tennis / Sports Camp
- 6-7 Metropolitan Energy Tennis Tournament
- 20 Friday Night Mixer
- 23 2.5-3.0 Ladies Singles and Doubles League
- 23 3.5-4.5 Men's Ladies Singles and Doubles League

September

- 6 Labor Day Mixer
- 13 HLTA Ladies League
- 13 USTA Ladies Evening Leagues
- 17 Friday Ladies Indoor League
- 18 Fall Friday Night Mixer

October

- 11 2.5-3.0 Ladies Singles and Doubles League
- 11 3.5-4.5 Men's/Ladies Singles and Doubles League
- 15 Oktoberfest: Friday Night Mixer

November

- 15 3.5-4.5 Men's and Ladies Singles and Doubles Leagues
- 19 Turkey Trot! Friday Night Mixer

December

- 3 Holiday Foods, Gifts, and Tennis Friday Night Mixer
- 20-31 Kid's Holiday Sports Camp

Hours of Operation

Monday – Friday	5:00 a.m. – 10:00 p.m.
Saturday – Sunday	8:00 a.m. – 8:00 p.m.

Court Reservations

All players and their accompanied guests must register at the Service Desk upon arrival or you may forfeit your reservations for the court. Failure to register within ten minutes of the court time will result in forfeiture of the court reservation if other Members are available to use the court. If we do not show you as registered on your court, your court will be reassigned to another Member.

Courts can be reserved a week in advance. We will make every effort to reserve the court of your choice, but we cannot guarantee which court you will be assigned. We reserve the right to move you to another court at any time.

Junior players are defined as any dependent son or daughter of a Member or Guest under the age of 18. Junior players must play with a parent or senior Member on reserved courts during prime time.

No Member may reserve the courts for more than two hours per day (Members are defined as one membership to a family). Members may, however, register for open courts. No Member may reserve more than one court at a time. Members playing with another Member who has reserved a court are allowed to reserve a court immediately following if open courts are available.

At all times Members who have not played during the day are considered for reserved and open courts before Members who have already played.

Guest and Court Fees

Guest fees (\$25), are charged for guests on a per visit basis. Any one guest is allotted a maximum of 4 visits per calendar year.

There are no standing court fees, but there are late cancellation and no-show fees.

The tennis court may be for regulation play, approved tournaments, competitions and tennis instruction. The above mentioned activities are used to sufficiently satisfy the requirements and best interests of the entire membership.

Non-Members, unless sponsored and/or accompanied by a Member, may not use courts to play or use practice ball machines.

Late Cancellation Policy

Morning reservations between 5:00 am to 1:00 p.m. must be canceled by 4:00 p.m. the day before the reservation. Courts reserved 1:00 p.m. to close must be canceled by 12:00 on the day of the reservations. Weekend reservations from 8:00 am to 1:00 p.m. must be canceled by 4:00 p.m. the day before and reservations from 1:00 to close must be canceled by 12 noon the day of. If a member fails to cancel his/her court within the proper time period there is a penalty of \$5 in addition to the \$5 per hour charge for a "No-Show" i.e. not canceling by not showing or not calling to cancel your court reservation.

Dress Code

Appropriate tennis attire (shorts or pants with pockets) must be worn – no gym shorts, cutoffs or muscle shirts. Only smooth soled regulation shoes are allowed on the courts; NO JOGGING OR BLACK SOLED SHOES.

Conduct

Courtesy and consideration should be observed at all times. Foul language and unsportsmanlike conduct are forbidden. Children are expected not to disturb or disrupt play. No more than four people are allowed on a court at one time, unless supervised by a Pro. No toddlers or infants are allowed on court during play.

Lesson Rates

Private Lessons: The professional staff offers a variety of lesson programs for beginners to championship level players. Our private lesson rates are as follow:

\$40/\$50 per half hour

\$70/ \$80 per hour

Group Lessons: Group lesson programs and classes are scheduled throughout the year for all levels of play.

\$30 –\$35 per session

Right Start Lessons: For all members to drop in throughout the year. Lessons for all beginners and start up players.

Complimentary for all members!

Tennis Leagues

The Club offers a variety of leagues for beginners to championship level players. Leagues include singles and doubles play throughout the year. If you want to participate in the leagues please contact a Tennis Professional.

\$30 entry fee

Lesson Cancellation Policy

If a tennis lesson is booked and canceled 24 hours in advance there will be no charge.

If a tennis lesson is scheduled and a cancellation is made on the day of the lesson, or a no-show, the Member will be billed the full charge.

Pro Shop

Our Pro Shop offers a complete selection of top of the line tennis equipment and the finest tennis attire for men and women at the best prices anywhere. All Downtown Club members receive an extra 20% off all Pro-Shop merchandise (excluding rackets, watches, and balls).

Monday – Friday 5:00 a.m. – 10:00 p.m.

Saturday – Sunday 8:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.

Special Orders

If you find an item that you want, but we do not have in stock, then ask one of the Pro-Shop attendants about special ordering. We can special order any item whose brand we carry. There is a minimum fee of \$5, which covers the cost of shipping and handling.

Tennis Pro Shop Return Policy

We are always willing to accept or exchange returned or defective merchandise. We will either exchange the product or give you credit for the amount of purchase. No returns or credits will be accepted on special orders unless the item is defective. All sale on clearance (sale) items are final.

Gift Certificates

Gift certificates are available from the Downtown Club at the Service Desk. These gift certificates may be used for merchandise, tennis lessons or personal training sessions.

Demo Racquets

The Downtown Club at the Met offers a wide variety of the latest racquets available. Take advantage of playing with our demos in order to test the racquets before you make a decision on a purchase. Demo racquets are available at the service desk.

Ball Machine and Club

For those players enthusiastic about practicing on the ball machine the normal rate is \$5 per half-hour. The ball machine can be reserved up to one week in advance and up to one and one-half hours except during Prime Times Mon.–Thurs., 5–7 p.m. which is walk-in only. You can also join the Ball Machine Club which includes the entire family for the following rates.

Quarterly – \$45

Semi – Annual – \$90

Annual – \$180

Locker Rental

Lockers are available for use by The Downtown Club members. The locker fee is \$25, which will be billed on your monthly statement. Daily locker rentals are also available for \$2, please inquire at the Service Desk.

Tennis Outings

If you are interested in holding a company tennis tournament or a charitable tennis event, don't forget your Club. The Downtown Club at the Met has many package rates available that include guest fees, court time, administrative fees, and complete food and beverage service. The Tennis Director can help with your format, rule sheet, pairings, scoring, and special requests. Please contact the Tennis Director for further information.

Friday Night Mixers

The Downtown Club members and their guests are invited to all of our Friday Night Mixers. Held the 3rd Friday from 7:00–9:00p.m. of each month, the mixers will feature tennis play, food, and fun. The format consists of Men's and Ladies doubles 2.5–4.5. The Friday Night Mixers are a great way to meet other members at the Met!!

Member Onboarding

The Tennis staff will be onboarding all new members and current members into the new schedule of activities and groups. Dan Valentincic will offer a complimentary quick start for all members to get involved in current programs.

Member Drop-In Play

Reminder, all tennis members of drop-in play throughout the week. Stop by and pick up a game with the men's 4.0 – 4.5 doubles group every Friday afternoon from 3:00 to 7:00 pm, Saturday morning men's doubles 4.0 – 4.5 from 9:00 to 11:00 am, or Sunday morning 4.0 men's and ladies doubles from 9:00 to 10:30 am. Stop by and meet your fellow tennis members! Contact Keith Christman to help you find your group here at the club!

Right Start/ Ball Machine Clinic

Keith and Kasey will hold court and offer complimentary ball machine clinic from 11:00 – 12:00 pm every Saturday. Members come on out, and get some tips for your game, and let us introduce you to the ongoing programs at the MET.

Quick Start Program

The Tennis Staff offers a complimentary tennis lesson to evaluate your level of play for all Programs, leagues and clinics for you at the club. A great way to get involved in all the Club activities available! Sign up for your Quick Start now!

Kids Carnival Tournaments

The Downtown Club will feature kid's carnival one Saturday each month with kids of all ages playing quick start tennis tournaments. The tournament format will apply for kids of all ages. Not only does this give kids a chance to play and work on their skills, but gives them a chance to play for prizes, food and drinks.

Saturday Kids Day

Parents and kids are invited to come out each Saturday throughout the year for Saturday morning kid's day at the Downtown Club at the Met. Kids ages 4-11 get started in tennis with our quick start program designed to help kids get in the game. And don't forget to get your ice cream kids!! (*note: due to current situation, we will kickoff the kids Saturday program on Jan 1st.*)

Kid's Tennis and Sports Clinic

The Met offers a fun and interactive full or half day clinics specializing in basketball, jiu jitsu, soccer, and more fun fitness oriented games. The morning kicks off the day for the kids with athletic events and then is followed in the afternoon with the kids hitting the tennis courts. This is a great way for your kids to enjoy our great holiday and summer clinics to "beat the heat" at The Downtown Club.

If you have any questions concerning the listed programs and services, please call the Tennis Department.

We are ready to serve your needs at any time!

(713) 652-0700

