



**2026 RSPA MID-ATLANTIC DIVISION
ANNUAL CONFERENCE**

**February 27 & 28, 2026
Westwood Country Club
Vienna, Virginia**

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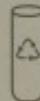
OFFICIAL BALL OF RSPA TENNIS COACHING



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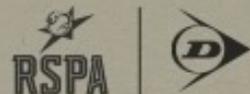


PAPER LABEL



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*Based on Dunlop supplying tennis balls to more ATP Tour tournaments than any other brand.

PRESIDENT'S WELCOME MESSAGE

Mark DiChiara
RSPA Mid-Atlantic Division President



Dear Members of the RSPA Mid-Atlantic Division:

It is my pleasure to welcome you to Westwood Country Club for the 2026 RSPA Mid-Atlantic Annual Conference! This event represents everything that makes our organization special — a commitment to professional growth, collaboration, and continually evolving together as an industry.

What truly sets this conference apart is *you*. Because of your willingness to step away from your busy schedules to share best practices, explore job opportunities, exchange ideas, and learn from one another, this weekend becomes a powerful catalyst for growth and progress in our section. Thank you for being here and for investing in the future of our profession through investing in *you*.

Let's also take a moment to recognize and thank our Executive Director, Joni Hannah, and the entire RSPA Board of Directors. Their tireless work over the past six months has made this incredible professional opportunity possible.

I encourage each of you to use this weekend to strengthen your current professional journey, explore new possibilities, connect with newer members, and learn from the seasoned professionals among us. And to those of you who have been in the industry for years — now is the time to lead, mentor, and inspire the next generation of RSPA professionals.

I am incredibly excited to serve you and help lead positive change in our section over the next two years as your President. Let's make this conference inspiring, impactful, and the start of something truly special.

Have a fantastic conference!

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Friday, February 27, 2026

- 8:00 am – 8:30 am **Registration**
- 8:30 am – 9:30 am **Justin Cerny**
Navigating Tournament Pathways
- 9:30 am – 10:30 am **Taylor Newman & Alyssa Sollenberger**
The Ins and Outs of Event Planning
- 10:30 am – 11:30 am **Nobu Tanaka**
Outside the Lines – Inside the Wires
- 11:30 am – 12:25 pm **Alex Justianini**
Numbers That Create FOMO
- 12:30 pm – 1:55 pm **Jenny Gray**
RSPA National Update
Division Awards & Hall of Fame Luncheon
- 2:00 pm – 3:00 pm **Iosua Malaki**
(*On Court*) 10 and Under Tennis
- 3:00 pm – 3:30 pm **Luke Kairys**
(*On Court*) Babolat Demo Court
- 3:30 pm – 4:00 pm **Glenn Gerbino**
(*On Court*) Typti Demonstration
- 4:00 pm – 5:00 pm **Damien Spizzo**
(*On Court*) Pickleball Drills & Skills

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Saturday, February 28, 2025

- 8:00 am – 8:30 am **Registration**
- 8:30 am – 9:30 am **Jenny Gray**
Engaging Events for Adults
- 9:30 am – 10:30 am **Dr. Tim Harvey & Dr. Hiza Mbwana**
Two Pillars of Performance Relating to All Athletes
- 10:30 am – 11:30 am **Tim Fitzgerald**
Planning and Executing Racquet Facility Projects
- 11:30 am – 12:25 pm **Harry Gilbert**
What General Managers are Looking For
- 12:30 pm – 1:25 pm **Lauren Woods**
CourtReserve Overview
Lunch
- 1:30 pm – 2:30 pm **Alex Torok**
(On Court) Pickleball Progressions for Level Based Programming
- 2:30 pm – 3:30 pm **Alex Justianini & Congressional Teaching Pros**
(On Court) Building Participation Through Movement & Momentum
- 3:30 pm – 4:30 pm **Hernan Hatem**
(On Court) Doubles Positioning – Transition & Volley



Want to Get More Involved with the RSPA?

Volunteer!

The Mid-Atlantic Division of the RSPA has long been committed to the promotion, development, and support of racquet sports professionals. Our success is attributed to the dedication and hard work of our volunteers. As we continue to grow and evolve, we invite you to join us by volunteering your time and expertise to one of our committees. Your new ideas and input are what make our division stronger.

Please scan the code below to volunteer for the Member Engagement Committee, Education Committee, Women's Committee or Diversity and Inclusion Committee. Thank you for your continued support and dedication.

The RSPA Mid-Atlantic Board &
Joni Hannah, Executive Director



Friday, February 27th @ 8:30 am – 9:30 am

Justin Cerny

NAVIGATING TOURNAMENT PATHWAYS



Justin Cerny is the Senior Manager of Competition at the USTA Mid-Atlantic Foundation, where he leads the Junior and Adult tournament pathways. A Richmond local and Christopher Newport University alumnus, Justin joined the Foundation in 2023 following a five-year tenure at the Intercollegiate Tennis Association (ITA).

Driven by a mission to increase tournament availability, Justin oversaw a 28% growth in adult tournament participation in 2025. An active player himself, Justin brings a first-hand perspective to his work and the growth of the game across the Mid-Atlantic Section.



Seminar/Specialty Course Title
**Navigating the Mid-Atlantic
Tournament Pathway: Strategic**

Date **Fri 2/27/2026**

Start Time **8:30 AM**

End Time **9:25 AM**

Speaker

APC Credits
1.50

APC Form Course Number

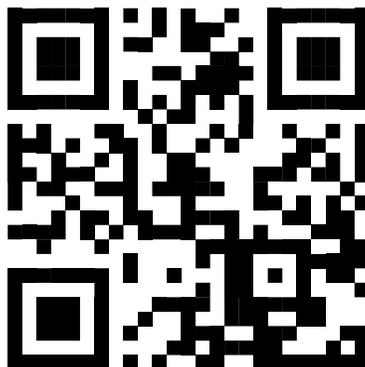
Friday, February 27th @ 9:30 am – 10:30 am
Taylor Newman & Alyssa Sollenberger

THE INS AND OUTS OF EVENT PLANNING

Taylor is the Assistant Director of Racquets at Chevy Chase Club. She has completed the Director of Racquets certificate course through the University of Florida and is RSPA certified in tennis, platform tennis, and pickleball. Additionally, Taylor won the Maryland Professional of the Year award in 2025. She formerly played Division I college tennis at Radford University and earned a degree in Journalism and Spanish.



Alyssa Sollenberger is currently the Head Racquets Professional at Baltimore Country Club. She holds RSPA (tennis), PTR, PPR, PPTR, and US Squash Level 1 certifications. She has been the Head Racquets Professional at Baltimore Country Club for nearly 2 years, and was previously the Head Men's and Women's Tennis Coach at Alvernia University immediately prior to Baltimore Country Club. Alyssa has been a certified tennis professional for over 10 years and has worked in various club settings. She played Division I tennis for Army.



Seminar/Specialty Course Title
The Ins and Outs of Event Planning

Date **Fri 2/27/2026**

Start Time **9:30 AM**

End Time **10:25 AM**

Speaker

AFC Credits

1.50

AFC Form Course Number

Friday, February 27th @ 10:30 am – 11:30 am

Nobu Tanaka

OUTSIDE THE LINES – INSIDE THE WIRES



Nobu was born and raised in the Washington, DC area. He attended St. John's College High School (SJC) and earned a scholarship to play for NCAA D1 program Longwood University (LU). He finished his career as the all-time record holder for their tennis program and the first player ever to be ranked in the NCAA Division 1 tennis rankings. Upon graduating from LU, Nobu served as the Volunteer Assistant Coach for #49 George Washington University in addition to working with WTA world #4, Maria Kirilenko.

In December of 2024, Nobu was offered and accepted his dream role as the Director of Racquets at Bethesda Country Club. Nobu believes that a successful Racquets Program is rooted in providing high-quality on-court instruction to give players a platform to excel and top-notch member service. He is excited for the opportunity to enhance upon BCC's stellar tennis program, grow the Platform Tennis and Pickleball programs, and to contribute and elevate Bethesda's Racquets Program as one of the premier racquets clubs in the country.



Seminar/Specialty Course Title
Outside the Lines, Inside the Wires

Date **Fri 2/27/2026**

Start Time **10:30 AM**

End Time **11:25 AM**

Speaker

APC Credits

1.50

APC Form Course Number

Friday, February 27th @ 11:30 am – 12:25 pm
Alex Justianini

NUMBERS THAT CREATE FOMO

Alex Justiniani serves as the Director of Racquets at Congressional Country Club, where he oversees all tennis, pickleball, and paddle programming, staff leadership, and facility operations. Under his direction, the racquets program has experienced significant growth through expanded leagues, marquee events, junior development, and innovative social programming.



Prior to Congressional, Alex held the role of Director of Racquets at Sea Colony Tennis, where he led one of the country's premier resort tennis destinations and gained extensive experience in large-scale programming, player development, and team management.

Known for his energy, organization, and member-focused approach, Alex is passionate about building vibrant racquets communities and delivering exceptional experiences for players of all ages and levels.



Seminar/Specialty Course Title
Numbers That Create FOMO

Date **Fri 2/27/2026**

Start Time **11:30 AM**

End Time **12:30 PM**

Speaker

APC Credits

1.50

APC Form Course Number

Friday, February 27th @ 12:30 pm – 1:55 pm

Jenny Gray

RSPA NATIONAL UPDATE MID-ATLANTIC DIVISION AWARDS & HALL OF FAME LUNCHEON



Jenny Gray is a RSPA Master Professional and a Vice President on the RSPA National Board. She currently serves as Director of Tennis at The Club at Sonterra in San Antonio, Texas, where she is known for her thoughtful leadership and her ability to build a vibrant tennis community.

Her longstanding involvement with the RSPA includes serving as Texas President and contributing to national initiatives that advance the sport and support racquet sport professionals across the country. Jenny's excellence has been recognized through multiple honors, including being named RSPA Texas Professional of the Year in both 2012 and 2020, as well as receiving the RSPA National Alex Gordon Tennis Professional of the Year Award in 2020.



Seminar/Specialty Course Title
RSPA Update/Awards Luncheon

Date **Fri 2/27/2026**

Start Time **12:30 PM**

End Time **2:00 PM**

Speaker

APC Credits

0.75

APC Form Course Number

Friday, February 27th @ 2:00 pm – 3:00 pm (*On Court*)

Iosua Malaki

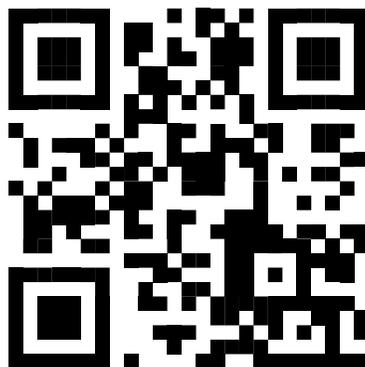
10 AND UNDER TENNIS

Iosua Malaki is the Senior Director of Coach & Curriculum Development at the Junior Tennis Champions Center (JTCC) in College Park, Maryland, where he leads coaching education, curriculum design, and coach development systems across junior, adult, community, and adaptive programs.

Iosua entered the tennis industry through a front-desk role at a public facility and advanced into national coach-development leadership through performance, curiosity, and a deep commitment to helping people grow.



At JTCC, Iosua has built an integrated coaching education system, redesigned onboarding to dramatically accelerate coach readiness, and led the development of research-aligned curricula used across one of the country's largest junior and adult tennis pathways. He previously rebuilt JTCC's 10-and-under pathway from the ground up, increasing participation by 45% and strengthening progression into competitive programs. Iosua is a USTA Certified Professional and nationally recognized coach developer who specializes in translating modern learning science into practical, on-court coaching strategies.



Seminar/Specialty Course Title
10 And Under Tennis

Date **Fri 2/27/2026**

Start Time **2:00 PM**

End Time **2:55 PM**

Speaker

APC Credits

1.50

APC Form Course Number

Friday, February 27th @ 3:00 pm – 3:30 pm (*On Court*)

Luke Kairys

BABOLAT DEMO COURT



Luke Kairys is the Mid-Atlantic Region, Babolat Territory Manager for 13+ years.

Tennis Retail Industry Expert since 1997.

Tennis-Padel-Pickleball product focus.



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- + That addicting Pure Drive power, optimized by racquet model
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Friday, February 27th @ 3:30 pm – 4:00 pm (*On Court*)
Glenn Gerbino

TYPTI DEMONSTRATION

Glenn Gerbino is a USPTA Elite Professional with more than 35 years' teaching experience. He was born and raised in Patchogue, New York (Long Island), and began playing tennis at age nine at a public facility just three blocks from his home. After playing for Slippery Rock University, Glenn began his teaching career in 1991 at the Saddlebrook Resort in Wesley Chapel, FL. He moved to the Southwest in 1992, where he was the Director of Tennis at El Paso Country Club, Troon Country Club, and Carefree Resort & Conference Center.



During this time Glenn became active in the USPTA, serving in many positions on the Southwest Division Board and as Southwest Conference Chairman for six years. Glenn was inducted into Valley Lutheran's Athletic Hall of Fame in 2020. He was named the USPTA Southwest Division "Pro of the Year" in 2008 and the USPTA Southwest Division "High School Coach of the Year" in 2009. Since 2014, Glenn has taught privately in the DC area as well as in Maryland with the JTCC, Columbia Tennis Association, and Georgetown Prep. He has served on the Mid-Atlantic Division board since 2016, becoming Vice President in 2022 and President in 2024.



Seminar/Specialty Course Title
Typti Demonstration

Date **Fri 2/27/2026**

Start Time **3:30 PM**

End Time **4:00 PM**

Speaker

APC Credits
0.75

APC Form Course Number

Friday, February 27th @ 4:00 pm – 5:00 pm (*On Court*)

Damien Spizzo

PICKLEBALL DRILLS & SKILLS



Damien Spizzo is an RSPA Professional and Head Professional of Adult Programming and Pickleball at Westwood Country Club in Vienna, Virginia.

Damien reached a ranking of 977 on the ATP Pro Tour. In college, he was part of the 2002 Division 1 USC Trojans Championship team and earned All-SEC 1st Team and ALL-AMERICAN 2004 honors at the University of Tennessee. He has also won US Gold balls in Singles, Mixed, and Men's doubles and holds elite certifications as PPR Master of Tennis and PPR Pickleball-Certified Professional. In Pickleball, he reached a world ranking of 25 in men's pro singles.

Damien has coached over 100 Division 1 athletes, including WTA Pro player Catherine Harrison. You might recognize him as a tennis and pickleball expert on ESPN SA radio and a Pickleball Pro on the PPA Tour. Aside from sports, he is a proud father and a Spinbelden Ping Pong Championship winner, with a love for Fantasy Football. Damien says he is here to share his passion and journey in a relatable way, connecting with players of all levels.



Seminar/Specialty Course Title
Pickleball Drills & Skills

Date **Fri 2/27/2026**

Start Time **4:00 PM**

End Time **5:00 PM**

Speaker

APC Credits

1.50

APC Form Course Number

Saturday, February 28th @ 8:30 pm – 9:30 am

Jenny Gray

ENGAGING EVENTS FOR ADULTS

Jenny Gray is a RSPA Master Professional and a Vice President on the RSPA National Board. She currently serves as Director of Tennis at The Club at Sonterra in San Antonio, Texas, where she is known for her thoughtful leadership and her ability to build a vibrant tennis community.



Her longstanding involvement with the RSPA includes serving as Texas President and contributing to national initiatives that advance the sport and support racquet sport professionals across the country. Jenny's excellence has been recognized through multiple honors, including being named RSPA Texas Professional of the Year in both 2012 and 2020, as well as receiving the RSPA National Alex Gordon Tennis Professional of the Year Award in 2020.



Seminar/Specialty Course Title
Engaging Events for Adults

Date **Sat 2/28/2026**

Start Time **8:30 AM**

End Time **9:25 AM**

Speaker

APC Credits

1.50

APC Form Course Number

Saturday, February 28th @ 9:30 am – 10:30 am

Dr. Tim Harvey & Dr. Hiza Mbwana

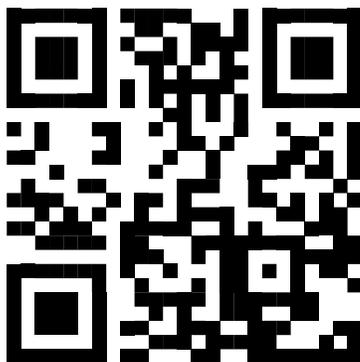
TWO PILLARS OF PERFORMANCE RELATING TO ALL ATHLETES



Dr. Tim Harvey is Executive Director Emeritus and Senior Advisor at Quince Orchard Swim and Tennis Club and the owner and sole practitioner at Peak Performance Concepts. Dr. Harvey graduated with a Ph.D. from The University of Maryland with a focus on the psychology of sport. Tim was selected as one of four Head Tennis Coaches for the United States Olympic Committee's US Olympic Festivals leading up to the Atlanta Games. Tim has been selected RSPA Professional of the Year in the Mid-Atlantic.



Dr. Hiza R. Mbwana is a performance-driven physical therapist who helps athletes build strength, durability, and long-term availability for the demands of sport. As the founder of KIMBIA PHYSIO, LLC, he blends clinical expertise with real-world training insight to keep athletes progressing with purpose. His work centers on strength as the foundation for performance, bone health as a competitive advantage, and movement efficiency for repeatable speed, power, and resilience.



Seminar/Specialty Course Title
2 Pillars of Performance Relating to All Athletes: Injury

Date **Sat 2/28/2026**

Start Time **9:30 AM**

End Time **10:25 AM**

Speaker

APC Credits
1.50

APC Form Course Number

Saturday, February 28th @ 10:30 am – 11:30 am

Tim Fitzgerald

PLANNING AND EXECUTING RACQUET FACILITY PROJECTS



Tim Fitzgerald has been involved in the Racquets Sports Industry for over 20 years as a certified racquets teaching professional. Working at numerous clubs throughout the Delaware area, he has gained experience on and off the court through competing, coaching, customer service, pro shop management, and facility maintenance. Tim was the Director of Racquets Sports at the DuPont Country Club from 2018-2022 where he oversaw major capital projects that enhanced the tennis, pickleball, and paddle facilities at the club.

Starting in 2023, Tim transitioned to a sales position at Keystone Sports Construction, a growing company that focuses on athletic facility improvements. He currently helps organizations through the process of developing world class sports amenities in the Mid- Atlantic region, and his customers range from small local country clubs to top 10 universities



Seminar/Specialty Course Title
**Planning & Executing Racquet
Facility Projects**

Date **Sat 2/28/2026**

Start Time **10:30 AM**

End Time **11:25 AM**

Speaker

APC Credits

1.50

APC Form Course Number

Saturday, February 28th @ 11:30 am – 12:25 pm

Harry Gilbert

WHAT GENERAL MANAGERS ARE LOOKING FOR



Harry Gilbert brings 40+ years of expertise in the private club, resort, and tennis industry. His philosophy of “a complete commitment to customer service” is the guiding principle behind all his work in the tennis and hospitality arenas. He is the Owner/Principal of Harry Gilbert Tennis which provides consulting services for tennis clubs, country clubs and resorts.

Harry has extensive experience delivering memorable experiences to members and guests at the private clubs and resorts that he has directed. He serves as Director of Tennis at Waccabuc Country Club, a member owned country club in Westchester County, NY. where he is beginning his 27th season.

Responsible for all aspects of the tennis program, Harry creates the “service first” culture which permeates every aspect of the program. Harry is a certified RSPA Elite Professional and PTR Professional and served on the USPTA FL Board of directors for 12 years, including a 3- year term as President of the Division. He was twice named FL Division Pro of the Year and served for 14 years on the RSPA National Board of Directors, including a 2-year term as National President.



Seminar/Specialty Course Title
What GMs Are Looking For

Date **Sat 2/28/2026**

Start Time **11:30 AM**

End Time **12:25 PM**

Speaker

APC Credits

1.50

APC Form Course Number

Saturday, February 28th @ 12:30 pm – 1:25 pm
Lauren Woods

COURTRESERVE OVEVIEW

Lauren Woods is a Senior Account Manager at CourtReserve, where she partners with clubs and facilities to implement and optimize technology solutions for racquet sports operations.

With a focus on member experience, operational efficiency, and long-term success, CourtReserve has supported thousands of clubs across the country and enjoys helping organizations modernize their operations while maintaining a strong community-centered approach.



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Events
Book A Lesson

Announcements

Weather Update
Hurricane warning in effect until 9/6, all courts currently closed!
September 3rd

Cardio Court Monday
Events
Thu, September 14th, 7:30a - 8:30a

Home Reserve Register Alerts More

Saturday, February 28th @ 1:30 pm – 2:30 pm (*On Court*)

Alex Torok

PICKLEBALL PROGRESSIONS FOR LEVEL BASED PROGRAMMING



Alex Torok has over 15 years of coaching and facility management experience teaching all ages, skill levels and center size. He brings high energy to every session and is passionate about the ever-changing coaching landscape and improving on-court coaching across pickleball.

A graduate of The University of Texas with a masters in Sports Management and a proud veteran of the US Coast Guard, he holds numerous certifications in all aspects of racquet sports and fitness to ensure up to date quality in his sessions. Alex is dedicated to enriching the pickleball community through enhancing the member experience.

When he is not on the court, he enjoys mountain biking and spending time with his dogs!



Seminar/Specialty Course Title
Pickleball Progressions for Level Based Programming

Date **Sat 2/28/2026**

Start Time **1:30 PM**

End Time **2:25 PM**

Speaker

APC Credits
1.50

APC Form Course Number

Saturday, February 28th @ 2:30 pm – 3:30 pm (*On Court*)
Alex Justianini & Congressional Teaching Pros

BUILDING PARTICIPATION THROUGH MOVEMENT & MOMENTUM

Alex Justiniani serves as the Director of Racquets at Congressional Country Club, where he oversees all tennis, pickleball, and paddle programming, staff leadership, and facility operations. Under his direction, the racquets program has experienced significant growth through expanded leagues, marquee events, junior development, and innovative social programming.



Prior to Congressional, Alex held the role of Director of Racquets at Sea Colony Tennis, where he led one of the country's premier resort tennis destinations and gained extensive experience in large-scale programming, player development, and team management.

Known for his energy, organization, and member-focused approach, Alex is passionate about building vibrant racquets communities and delivering exceptional experiences for players of all ages and levels.



Seminar/Specialty Course Title
**Building Participation Through
Movement & Momentum**

Date **Sat 2/28/2026**

Start Time **2:30 PM**

End Time **3:25 PM**

Speaker

APC Credits
1.50

APC Form Course Number

Saturday, February 28th @ 3:30 pm – 4:30 pm (*On Court*)

Hernan Hatem

DOUBLES POSITIONING – TRANSITION & VOLLEY



Hernan Hatem, a native of Tucumán, Argentina, played collegiate tennis at Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College, where he was named Georgia Athletic Collegiate Conference Rookie of the Year and earned NJCAA All-American honors, reaching No. 4 in the national singles rankings. He later transferred to Georgia Gwinnett College, serving as team captain and leading the program to its first NAIA National Championship in 2014. Hernan went on to coach at Kennesaw State University (NCAA Division I) where he graduated with A B.B.A (Bachelors of Business Administration) and Southwestern College (NAIA), where he earned his MBA in 2018. An RSPA Elite Professional Coach, PTR Performance Professional and AAT (Asociación Argentina de Tenis) National Certified Coach, Hernan also holds PPTR, PPR, and DORS (Director of Racquet Sports Certification) credentials. Hernan currently serves as Director of Ladies Interclub and Adult Tennis at Chevy Chase Club. Hernan was named the 2021 USPTA Mid-Atlantic Maryland Professional of the Year and 2025 RSPA Maryland State Representative, and has served as a Citi Open Hitting Partner (ATP/WTA 500) from 2023 to 2025.



Seminar/Specialty Course Title
Doubles Positioning + Transition & Volley

Date **Sat 2/28/2026**

Start Time **3:30 PM**

End Time **4:25 PM**

Speaker

APC Credits

1.50

APC Form Course Number



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