

Head Professional

Racquet Club of Chicago

Chicago, IL

Onsite

Contact: Richard Duggan, General Manager (richard@racquetclubchicago.org)

Experience Required: 10+ years

Club Overview

The Racquet Club of Chicago officially opened its doors in 1924. For over 100 years, the Club has continued to strengthen its membership and maintain its clubhouse. Today, the Racquet Club of Chicago remains one of the finest private clubs in the world, and the current membership continues to pursue the social and sporting traditions and passions of its founders with enthusiasm and vigor.

The Racquet Club has always prided itself upon a strong and unique program of athletics, boasting two rackets courts, two doubles squash courts, one international squash court, and a beautifully refurbished court tennis facility.

There is a fine history of camaraderie among those who play the games at the Racquet Club and new members are always enthusiastically encouraged as they tackle the challenges of learning the sports. Members also have regular opportunities to witness top level play each season as the club hosts many national and international events.

Position Summary

The Head Professional will be responsible for overseeing and developing the club's racquet sports programs, managing the professional staff, and ensuring exceptional service to our membership. This role requires a passionate leader with a deep understanding of racquet sports and club operations.

Key Responsibilities

- **Program Leadership and Development:**
 - Oversee and enhance programs in rackets, squash, and court tennis
 - Organize and manage tournaments, clinics, and special events
 - Develop strategies to grow participation across all age groups and skill levels
- **Staff Management:**
 - Lead, mentor, and manage a team of racquet sports professionals
 - Oversee scheduling, performance evaluations, and professional development
 - Foster a collaborative and positive work environment
- **Member Relations:**
 - Maintain strong relationships with club members
 - Ensure high levels of member satisfaction with sports programs and pro shop services
 - Balance professionalism with approachability in member interactions
 - Oversee communication efforts between the professional shop and the membership
- **Pro Shop Management:**
 - Oversee pro shop operations, including inventory management and merchandise selection
 - Implement strategies to increase pro shop revenue, including potential online sales initiatives
 - Ensure the pro shop meets the needs and preferences of the membership
- **Administrative Duties:**
 - Implement and maintain effective administrative systems
 - Oversee budgeting for racquet sports programs and pro shop
 - Collaborate with club management on strategic planning and initiatives
- **Instruction and Coaching:**
 - Provide high-level instruction in at least one, preferably all three, of the club's primary racquet sports
 - Develop coaching programs to improve members' skills at all levels

Qualifications

- Extensive experience in racquet sports, with strong preference for proficiency in rackets, squash, and court tennis
- Thorough knowledge and commitment to the game of rackets
- Proven track record of successful program development and management in a club environment
- Strong leadership and team management skills
- Excellent interpersonal and communication abilities
- Business acumen with experience in retail operations
- Ability to balance tradition with innovation in a club setting
- Strong teaching and coaching skills
- Proficiency with technology and willingness to implement new systems

The ideal candidate will have a passion for racquet sports, a commitment to excellence, and the ability to uphold and enhance the prestigious reputation of the Racquet Club of Chicago. They will be expected to be present at the club on a consistent basis; this role requires a full-time, dedicated professional rather than a touring player or part-time instructor.

We offer a competitive compensation package commensurate with experience and the opportunity to work in one of the nation's premier racquet clubs.

The Racquet Club of Chicago is an equal opportunity employer and values diversity in its workforce.

How to Apply

Qualified candidates are invited to submit their resume and cover letter detailing their vision for the role to club General Manager, Richard Duggan (richard@racquetclubchicago.org).