

Member Guide



IVTC

1502 Parker Avenue,

Detroit, MI 48214

(313) 331-9494

www.indianvillagtennis.com

Indian Village Tennis Club Member Guide

Welcome to Indian Village Tennis Club! The information provided here will help you use and enjoy the club.

CLUB PHILOSOPHY

IVTC is a not-for-profit corporation operated entirely by its membership. The energy and participation of the members is the lifeblood of the club. As a volunteer-based organization, we are always looking for members with special skills or talents to contribute to club operations. Please take a look at our list of committees, programs and events, and see if you can't find a place where you might be able to lend us your expertise or assistance.

GETTING IN AND OUT

KEYS

Your key will open the main door on Parker Avenue, the clubhouse door, the shed door and the lock on the pedestrian gate of the parking lot.

SECURITY

Members are responsible for making sure the Parker Street door to the club is closed and locked. The door may be propped open only during scheduled club events. If you are expecting a guest, have them call you or ring the doorbell when they arrive.

If you are the first to arrive at the clubhouse, you will need to deactivate the security alarm inside the clubhouse door by entering the numeric code on the keypad, followed by the "on/off" key. Likewise, if you are the last to leave the club, the system must be activated in the same way. If you have questions about the system, don't hesitate to ask another club member.

PARKING

Twenty-six parking places are available across the street from the club, in the fenced lot of the Parkstone Apartments. The annual parking/security assessment is \$30 per membership and is included in your membership fee each year. The entrance is on Parker between Agnes and Coe, just past the Parkstone building. Entry to the lot is by a remotely activated gate. Remote openers for the gate are available to club members for a partially refundable deposit.

We recommend using the lot, as it makes for better relations with our neighbors, the residents of Parker Avenue. The houses on Parker do not have garages or driveways, so the residents are understandably somewhat proprietary about the limited spots in front of their houses. If you prefer to park on the street, please try to park on Coe, or on Parker south of Coe (toward Agnes).

ATTIRE ON THE COURTS

All players must wear clothing designed for tennis. Please dress neatly and help us to maintain the relaxed but tasteful look and feel of IVTC.

Playing shirtless is not allowed. Use the locker room when changing shirts.

You must wear tennis shoes, which have shallow treads. Running shoes or basketball shoes with deep treads tear up the clay court topping.

ATTIRE AT EVENTS

Club events have varying degrees of formality, and attire should be appropriate to the event. For the sake of brevity, the following guidelines are offered: at Wednesday Night Dinners, the Opening Day Party, and Champagne Brunch, "dressy" is in order (sports coat and tie). At Saturday Parties casual attire is appropriate (khakis, slacks, polo shirt). At barbecues and Bourbon and Blend parties, relaxed attire, such as tennis cloths, warm-ups and jeans, is appropriate.

TOURNAMENTS

IVTC traditionally holds three doubles tournaments each year: the Member-Guest Tournament on the first weekend in June, the Club Tournament in July, and the Mixed Doubles Tournament in late September or early October. Each tournament has multiple divisions determined by level of play, so that more players have a chance to advance and win. The Tennis Committee also organizes a one-day 'fun' tournament, usually in August.

All players are encouraged to participate in these competitive yet friendly events. There is no open play while tournaments are in progress.

TENNIS ACTIVITIES

- **MONDAY LESSONS** - 6:30pm to 8:00, June through August. Tennis drills and instruction offered by tennis pros, for a bargain price of \$5. A 'Lite Bite' dinner organized by club members, also \$5, occurs afterwards.
- **MORNING PICK-UP DOUBLES** – Open doubles play Monday, Wednesday and Friday, 9am to noon.
- **PICK-UP DOUBLES** – Open doubles play Tuesday, Thursday and Friday after work, and Saturday and Sunday afternoon starting at 3pm. No need to set up a foursome, just show up!
- **PRE-ARRANGED FOURSOMES** – Tuesday and Thursday 9-noon, Wednesday 3 'til dusk, and Saturday 9 to 1 are set aside for pre-arranged foursomes. (This is not the time to show up on your own and expect to mix in.)
- **SUNDAY SOCIAL TENNIS** - 4pm, followed by potluck, then card and board games.

COURT AVAILABILITY

The courts are available for open play from 9am until dusk, except during court maintenance and the reserved times mentioned above. There are no hourly court fees at IVTC. The nets go up (weather permitting) in late April and come down in November.

Courts are not reserved at IVTC, rather, we take turns playing when there are more than three foursomes present.

WHO'S UP?

- Play is limited to ONE SET if others are waiting to go on; play a tiebreaker at 6-6. Always use the score cards when others are waiting, so they have a sense of when they will get on. Exit the court after your set so that those waiting know it is available.
- The next-in-line group takes the open court. Please limit your warm-up time to 5 minutes when it's busy.
- Singles play is prohibited when others are waiting to go on, and the singles players do the inviting.
- Players going on with an incomplete foursome must ask someone who is waiting to go on ("next up") to join them, and not select a player who is just coming off.
- **Please be considerate and see that everyone gets a chance to play.**

COURT MAINTENANCE

In order to keep the courts maintained, no tennis is available from 7 to 9am. Additionally, the courts are rolled, brushed and watered on weekdays from 2 to 3 pm, and on Saturdays from 1 to 2pm. Please be prompt in exiting the courts for maintenance which is scheduled so that the courts are available during periods of greatest use. Players are encouraged to drag and brush the courts after playing if no one is waiting to go on.

PLEASE STAY OFF THE COURTS AFTER A HEAVY RAIN

The courts become quite soft after a heavy rain and may be damaged by playing on them. Don't go out on the courts if there are puddles or wet spots, if your foot makes an impression in the clay, or if the nets have been dropped. Unlike hard courts, **clay courts should not be brushed to clear water from them** – this disrupts the topping. The brushes are used to even the court surface when the courts are dry.

If you want to play after a rain, check the website for court conditions, or try calling the clubhouse (313) 331-9494. There will often be someone there who can tell you whether the courts are playable, or when they will likely be ready for play.

CLUB RULES

ON THE COURT

- Please keep your tennis bag in the cubby hole storage unit on the porch.
- No glass drink containers are allowed on the courts.
- Each court has its own entrance. Don't cut behind other players to get to your court.
- Playing shirtless is not allowed. Use the locker room when changing shirts.
- Please keep to your own court. Ask adjacent players to return your errant balls after they have finished their point. Do not return your neighbors' errant ball while their point is in progress.
- Say the score before your first serve to avoid misunderstandings. Serves that are clearly out should not be used for groundstroke practice - this is for the net man's safety. Please signal out balls with a verbal call or hand signal, even if the call seems obvious to you.
- Keep your personal effects by the net posts, and not behind the base line.
- Players are encouraged to drag the court and brush the lines when they are done, if no one is waiting to go on.
- IVTC is located in a residential neighborhood. Excessive noise is discouraged, and profanity will not be tolerated.

IN THE CLUBHOUSE AND ON THE PORCH

- Do not leave your empties on tables, the courts, or the bar. Don't leave your used towel draped over a chair - put it in a hamper on the porch or locker room. Be considerate of those who arrive after you leave, and tidy up.
- Thoroughly remove the clay from your shoes before entering the clubhouse.
- Feel free to use the kitchen, the grills, and the bar, but you must clean up after yourselves.
- We have a limited number of towels. One per customer per day, and DO NOT take them home with you.

SOCIAL EVENTS

Regularly scheduled social events include Wednesday Night Dinners, Thank Heavens It's Saturday (THIS) Parties, and "Bourbon and Blends" parties. Special events are the Opening Party, the Presidents' Party, and the Champagne Brunch.

Signing up is required for all social events. To make your reservation, contact Sue Webb-Dickson, text or voicemail 313 320-3014, email suewebb2@aol.com

Opening Party. The season opener - a chance to renew friendships after the long winter off-season. Complimentary punch and hors d'oeuvres are served. Dressy attire.

Wednesday Night Dinners are held one or two Wednesdays per month. These are multi-course, catered dinners with musical entertainment, and you must sign up beforehand to select a prime rib, fresh fish, chicken or vegetarian entree. These often sell out, so reserve early if you want to attend. Dressy attire.

Thank Heavens It's Saturday (THIS) Parties are held five or six times a season. These dinners are organized by IVTC members, and usually have an interesting

theme. The creativity and skill in the kitchen exhibited at past parties has made them very popular, so be sure to sign up early. Casual attire.

Bourbon and Blends Parties occur on the summer holidays: Memorial Day, Independence Day and Labor Day. A tennis mixer or round robin format is employed, a round of mint juleps is offered, and a relaxed meal follows (no charge to members, guest fee is \$10). Tennis/relaxed attire.

Presidents' Party. Celebrates current and past presidents of IVTC. Live music, a catered sit-down dinner, dancing, and the presentation of the IVTC Distinguished Service Award make for a very elegant evening. Black Tie Preferred.

Steak Roast. Coincides with the club Doubles Tournament in July. Relaxed attire.

Champagne Brunch. Coincides with the Mixed Doubles Finals, in early October. Dressy attire.

Monday 'Lite Bite.' A relaxed meal following the Monday Tennis Lesson.

Sunday Social. Tennis at 4, then a potluck dinner, followed by card and board games.

IMPROMPTU PARTIES

"Potlatch" is a northwest coast Indian term describing a festival or feast at which gifts are exchanged. At IVTC, we use it to refer to our version of a potluck. These informal gatherings usually occur on Saturday afternoons and evenings when a group decides to get together, bring some food, and "throw something on the grill."

- Member picnics and parties are encouraged, but you must clean up after yourselves.
- Any party that includes more than 3 non-members must have Board approval.
- IVTC is not available for private functions.

PURCHASES, BILLING AND PAYMENT

The club is open for business from May 1 to October 31. Financial transactions on the club premises are recorded on chits signed by the member. No cash is used at the club. Items paid for in this manner include social events, guest fees, tennis balls, tournament fees, lessons, and refreshments at the bar. Members are billed monthly for their expenditures, payable on receipt. As the club has regular expenses throughout the season, and it operates on a break-even basis, timely payment of bills is a requirement of membership. A late fee will be applied to bills more than 30 days past due.

Because the bar is a self-service "honor bar," the Michigan Liquor Control Commission prevents us from allowing minors to be members. Minor children visiting the club must be supervised at all times, and are not allowed behind the bar.

GUESTS

Guests are welcome at the club, both on the courts and at social events. The fee for tennis-playing guests is \$5 per player. This fee is excused for the month of May in order to show the club to potential new members. Tennis-playing guests are limited to three visits per season. At social events or parties, the host simply covers their guests' expenses.

FINDING A GAME

Monday lessons are a great way to meet other members while honing your game, and at \$7 they are the best tennis instruction deal in town. 6:30 to 8, June - August. Each Monday after lessons is the 'Lite Bite,' a simple meal prepared by volunteer club members, also \$7.

Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays after work, and Saturday and Sunday after 3pm are popular times for pick-up games - you can just come down without having to set up a foursome beforehand. It's fairly easy to get into a game (don't be shy), but you may have to wait to get on if it is busy. For those not tied to a weekday work schedule, Monday, Wednesday and Friday mornings have been designated for "Morning Doubles" pick-up play.

Wednesdays after work, Tuesday and Thursday 9 to noon, and Saturday mornings from 9 to 1 are set aside for pre-arranged foursomes, so this is not the time to show up solo and expect to mix in.

Weekends can be busy, and many members have set foursomes on these days. Don't expect to "mix in" to a pre-arranged foursome, particularly if there is an open court. At slower times, you may need to get out your directory and make a few calls.

IVTC ONLINE

Website: www.indianvillagetennis.com

Visit our website to check on court conditions, view recent newsletters, a photo gallery, and other club information, or to download an event schedule or membership application.

Facebook

Visit the Indian Village Tennis Club Facebook page to communicate with other members and view or upload photographs.

Email: Indianvillagetennis@gmail.com

Communicate with the club. Please give us your email address so we can contact you about upcoming events.

CLUB MANAGEMENT

Club business is conducted by a nine-member board of directors, which is elected annually by the "A" membership. Board members may serve for two consecutive three-year terms. Club officers are elected annually by the board, and with the

assistance of the board and committee members, manage the day-to-day operations of the club. All members are welcome on committees and to serve as committee chairs. The board welcomes suggestions as to improvements, but even better are suggestions followed by an offer to act to make your idea happen.

“A” members have voting rights and are able to serve on the board and hold office. They are elected from the membership at large, and their number is limited to 50. Criteria for “A” membership include sustained involvement in club events or activities, service on committees, and leadership in organizing club activities. Potential “A” members are nominated in the fall at the annual “A” member meeting, and are elected by the board at its winter meeting.

For specific details of the club’s organization and management, see the “Bylaws of Indian Village Tennis Club” at the website or at the back of the club directory.

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