

DOUBLING DOWN ON PICKLEBALL

**RacquetUp
Detroit**

2024

ABOUT RUD

For 14 years, Racquet Up Detroit has been helping young people in Northwest Detroit define what success looks like to them and supporting them in reaching their goals. Although the game of squash has always been our hook, long-term education and personal development have always been our priorities. As we've fully settled into our new world-class headquarters, featuring six educational spaces and eight squash courts, we are excited to share that we have consistently increased the number of youth we serve. In November, we recruited 30 new students to participate in our program, totaling 150 students. As we continue to support more young people, we hope you will help us in our capacity-building efforts.

In case this is your first time learning about Racquet Up Detroit, we start with students in the 5th grade and work with them through their senior year of high school and into post-secondary education. As they transition from adolescents to young adults, for most of them, it is college; for others, it is seeking a career path. As we continue to provide support, we look to our graduates to be the next leaders of our program and lift up the cohorts that follow.

Our program is holistic, long-term, and intensive. Yes, they learn the game, and many of them love it, but academic enrichment, community service, and leadership opportunities are just as significant. Our program operates six days a week, and each student must attend three weekly sessions. In addition to academic support and squash, we offer career exposure activities, cultural field trips, travel opportunities, and more.

Almost 2 million dollars in scholarships and financial aid have been awarded to five classes of high school graduates to date, and over 800 hours of education, health, and character programming are completed by Racquet Up students every year. We are committed to our students and expect them to dedicate themselves to our program.

Why Double Down for Detroit Youth?

The 2024 Double Down, Racquet Up Detroit's largest annual fundraiser, is just around the corner. Every year, the community comes together to raise funds to provide our students with game-changing opportunities. Please consider joining the pickleball tournament to support our youth.

Sincerely,



Derek Aguirre

President & CEO

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PICKLEBALL WITH A PURPOSE

Join us in putting your passion for pickleball to work on behalf of a great youth development program in Detroit through a regional pickleball competition!

Racquet Up Detroit uses the sport of squash, combined with educational programming, to help young people fulfill their potential. The annual Double Down squash tournament has helped Racquet Up raise funds for over 10 years. With the addition of pickleball, we aim to spread the word to an even broader audience.

Learn more at www.racquetup.org

STRUCTURE

- Two pickleball events will be held in April, one hosted at Court4 and one hosted at UWM Sports Complex
- There is capacity for 48 mixed doubles teams at each venue (East and West); two levels - below 4.0 and above 4.0
- Both competitions will begin with round robin pool play with the top team in each round robin advancing to the main draw

KEY DATES

- Entries close Sunday, April 21st, 2024
- The **West Tournament** will take place on **Sunday, April 28, 2024** at **UWM Sports Complex | 9am-2pm**
- Winners and finalists of the East and West Tournaments will compete at Racquet Up Detroit in the culminating Double Down event on Saturday, May 11th, 2024

ENTRY FEE

- Entry fee is \$90/team and includes a t-shirt and refreshments
- All players and teams will be invited to give additional donations and raise funds for Racquet Up Detroit
- All proceeds will benefit Racquet Up Detroit's proven education and youth development program



**SCAN THE QR
CODE TO REGISTER
(West Tournament)**



Contact Rosemary O'Connor with questions:
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