

**MELISSA APPLEBAUM-DALLAU**  
**Member of Royal Palm since 2018**

Melissa received her Bachelor of Science in Communications in Advertising/PR with a second major in History and a minor in Marketing from the University of Miami in 2006.

Melissa was a member of the University of Miami Women's Tennis Team from 2002-2006. She was elected captain of the team by her teammates in her senior year, 2005-2006. She played an integral part in helping her team reach the NCAA Team Finals in 2006 and finish #2 in the country, by playing #1 doubles & #2 singles. During her time at the University of Miami, she was honored as an All-Conference Player in two different conferences and was named an All-American. She finished her college career by being named an NCAA All-Star in doubles, an honor bestowed on only the top 3 players of each playing division (singles & doubles).

**Employment**

Due to a bad shoulder injury, Melissa retired from playing competitive tennis in 2006. Upon recovery from shoulder surgery, she coached tennis at Gulliver Prep (the Academy) from 2006-2008. She worked in the daily tennis program as well as being the Head Middle School Tennis Coach for both the boys' and girls' teams. She also coached adults and children privately at that time.

In 2008, at the age of 23, she was hired by FIU to be the Women's Head Tennis Coach, making her the youngest Division I Head Coach in NCAA sports. She held that position for four years, coaching the team to two conference championship wins, and two runner-up finishes. During her four years as Head Coach, she was twice voted by her peers to be Conference Coach of the Year.

In 2012, at the age of 27, Melissa retired to become a full-time mom. From 2012-2015, Melissa coached part-time privately while expanding her family. All the while she has owned and run, along with her parents, a real estate management company founded by her family in the 1970's and runs the company to this day.

**Leadership and Affiliations**

Melissa has been involved in the Florida Tennis Association and the USTA from the age of 8, as both a player, a national team member, coach, and mentor. She has won many accolades from tournaments as a player on the State and National Level and has also been named and served as a USTA Florida National Coach.

At the University of Miami, she represented her team as a member of the Student-Athletic Advisory Committee, from 2003-2005, an honor bestowed on student-athletes who are respected by both their peers and coaches.

As the Head Coach at FIU from 2008-2012, Melissa was in charge of not only day to day tasks, but setting playing schedules with coaches and teams from around the country, running the business/financials of the program from start to finish, and also making sure her team fundraised for any and all extras needed by the team. Most importantly, she made sure to impress upon her student-athletes the value of community service and giving back.

Melissa, as Head Coach at FIU, also ran clinics for local children, both experienced and novice, to spread the love of the game.

From 2013 to present, Melissa has been actively involved in her children's schools, serving as PTA President for multiple years, and VP for over 5 years. She has been Room Parent for each of her children every year they have been in school. Giving back to people and places that make a difference is something that is near and dear to Melissa's heart.

### **Goals/Objectives**

Melissa has loved the game of tennis since the age of 6 years old. She has passed that love on to her children who now play at Royal Palm daily. Her main goal is to help keep facilitating an environment that fosters the love of tennis for all ages and levels. She will focus her attention on keeping the facilities to the highest standards, continuing to offer elite coaching, providing programming for all levels, and creating a great member experience, both socially and/or competitively depending on each member's desires.

Melissa is a true lover of the game, and if elected to be on the board, will do her best to bring her enthusiasm, her hard-work ethic, and overall love for the game to any and all Royal Palm functions, both business and social.