

May 16, 2020

Dear Pros, Club Reps and Captains:

The purpose of this communication is to update you on the status of the GCTA season and the efforts of the Executive Committee this spring.

As you are almost certainly aware, tennis is slated to “open” on May 26th per an order of the Governor. While we are excited about this announcement, there are still many items to address before play can begin. Fortunately, the Executive Committee has been meeting planning for this eventuality since March 19th so we are well prepared to have a tennis season. To that end, we have set tentative start dates of June 20 for the men’s league and June 22 for the women’s league in anticipation that we will be able to check all the boxes necessary to begin GCTA play.

We will publish and distribute safety protocols that meet and exceed the standards recently announced by the state of Ohio. You can view the Governor’s safety standards at <https://coronavirus.ohio.gov/wps/portal/gov/covid-19/responsible-restart-ohio/Sector-Specific-Operating-Requirements/Sector-Specific-Operating-Requirements>. Secondly, the Governor’s guidance calls for a certain amount of local control of decision making so we will need to communicate with local health authorities on the nuances of the order. Finally, we will need to ascertain which facilities will be opening and when they will be opening. This could have a significant impact on scheduling. **If you have information about whether your club or facility will be opening its courts and when that will be occurring, please reach out to Bill Curry (wjcurry@hotmail.com) and Lori Brown (columbus.loribrown@gmail.com), our men’s and women’s chairs, as they are collecting that information and working on schedules.**

Bill and Lori will be in touch in the next week or so to provide additional information about new safety protocols, scheduling issues, roster and payment information and other logistics. Certainly, we want to be available to answer any questions that you have. If there are items specific to your team or facility that will have an impact on our season, please let us know so we can plan accordingly.

Finally, I want to emphasize that tennis will look different this year than previous years, as does everything else in our lives. There are certainly people who will not be comfortable playing this summer, and we are 100% empathetic and understanding to those individual’s feelings. Tennis is not, and has never been, mandatory. The theme for tennis this year will be FLEXIBILITY and we will be striving to incorporate measures into our rules that allow for greater flexibility in play to accommodate the many unknown variables that exist as we live and play tennis with COVID-19 amongst us. As ambassadors for Columbus tennis, we ask that you work with your teams to remind them that now, more than ever, we need to respect each other and treat each other kindly. They will look to you to provide answers and guidance, and we want to help you provide that. The success of the season will depend, in no small part, on the tone and tenor

that you set with your teams and players. We need to be flexible and understanding and ENJOY the exercise, competition and camaraderie that tennis brings.

We will be posting all of this information to our website in the near future.

Sincerely,

Geoffrey Bibo
President
GCTA