

May 16, 2020

Dear GCTA board:

The purpose of this communication is to update you on the status of the GCTA 2020 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 and 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 for GCTA matches 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 or not your club or facility will be opening their courts, and when that will be occurring, please reach out to Bill Curry (wcurry@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.**

I also wanted you to be aware of the extensive efforts that the Executive Committee has undertaken to educate public officials and advocate for tennis players around the state. I have attached a document “The Case for Tennis” that was prepared by the Executive Committee and circulated to the Franklin and Delaware County Boards of Health and other government officials. It was also shared with members of the state task force looking at tennis safety measures. We have been meeting biweekly, and most recently weekly to continue our planning process and think through the many issues that need to be addressed in order to have a successful season. My sincere thanks to the committee and in particular Bill and Lori for their efforts.

Finally, I want to emphasize that tennis will look different this year than previous years, as does everything else in our lives. You are on the board because you love tennis, and I’m sure you are excited that we will have the opportunity to play again. However, there are certainly people who will not be comfortable playing this summer, and we are 100% understanding and empathetic to those individuals’ 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 other GCTA members to remind them that now more than ever, we

need to respect each other and treat each other with kindness. We need to be flexible and understanding and ENJOY the exercise, competition and camaraderie that tennis brings.

This weekend we will be sending out communications similar to the above to Captains, Player reps, and pros as well as players. All will be posted on our GCTA website and social media channels.

Sincerely,

Geoffrey Bibo

President

GCTA