

June 8, 2020

Dear GCTA members:

It is hard to believe but we are only TWO weeks away from kicking off the GCTA summer season! As we prepare for play, I wanted to advise you of some changes you can expect this year.

One need look no further than the grocery store or your favorite restaurant to see how much has changed these past couple of months. From sneeze guards, to masks, to “stay six feet apart” signs, every organization is doing its part to help flatten the curve and protect its customers. GCTA is no different. Our executive committee, board of directors and men’s and women’s boards have been busy at work keeping apprised of the various local and state health orders and requirements and figuring out how to make tennis as safe and fun as possible this summer.

I have attached a PDF which contains all the rules changes. Please review them at your convenience. As you are probably aware, the state has instituted a number of rules and regulations for tennis play during the pandemic. We will follow the state mandates. All of these changes by the state have been instituted to keep players safe while attempting to keep tennis as “normal” as possible. Please visit : <https://coronavirus.ohio.gov/static/responsible/Tennis-Court-Operators.pdf> to view the entire list of requirements. I want to highlight just a couple which are very important. This year, we are requiring the signing of an assumption of risk and release of liability waiver. This will likely be no surprise to you as many of us are signing waivers for kids’ sports leagues and numerous other activities. This document focuses on the GCTA board, captains, level chairs, and all of our nearly 3,000 players who compete in GCTA leagues and tournaments. We are also aware that several host facilities are requiring separate waivers, and your captains will be apprising you of those on a week-to-week basis.

Finally, I want to draw your attention to the State of Ohio rules governing the use of tennis balls, towels, and drinks. Each player will have new responsibilities as it relates to these items. Again, I encourage you to familiarize yourself with the changes.

As Ohio opens up for business and other activities, and as we all strive to return to the routines of pre-COVID 19 life, it is good to know that we can once again enjoy the sport we all love. I close with a reminder to be kind to each other, extend grace and understanding and give each other the benefit of the doubt as we begin play. Tennis, like the rest of our lives, will be different this year, and we should expect that. I for one am looking forward to adding lobs and volleys to my daily diet of conference calls and Zoom meetings! I look forward to seeing you on the courts this summer!

Sincerely,

Geoffrey Bibo, President

Greater Columbus Tennis Association