

June 26, 2020

GCTA Family,

The Greater Columbus Tennis Association (GCTA) 2020 SEASON IS UNDERWAY!!! Our matches started this week and it is great to see everyone on the courts!!

As the President of our volunteer association I cannot thank ALL OF YOU enough for the positive comments, ideas, and suggestions that assisted us in making the 2020 summer tennis season a reality. Many members of the Board and Executive Committee received calls from facility owners, pros, club representatives, captains, and players. The Executive Committee started meeting “virtually” just over 90 days ago. I will spare you details of what the effort entailed but I do know that the Executive Committee members, the Women’s and Men’s chairpersons, level chairs, and captains have collectively invested thousands of hours since mid-March to enable all of us to play this year. These include weekly conference calls and virtual meetings between the Executive Committee, the Executive Director and the Women’s and Men’s Chairs.

As an organization, in the last 90 days, it was necessary to make a concerted effort to educate our state, county and local governments as well as health officials about tennis AND the GCTA. The next paragraph is an excerpt from one of the communications we authored for the government officials and I thought it was appropriate to share with you as a reminder of what GCTA is really about...

The GCTA is the USTA Community Tennis Association for Central Ohio founded over 50 years ago. The GCTA, a non-profit organization, supports tennis in the central Ohio area and is comprised of a volunteer Board of Trustees, and an Executive Director. The organization DONATES over \$20,000 annually to help organizations initiate or expand tennis programs and activities, including our largest recipient, Columbus Rec & Parks Department

Many individuals who are not as fortunate as most of us may have the opportunity to learn and play tennis, sometimes for the first time, because of YOUR generosity. Paying GCTA dues is a \$15 investment that can help others learn and enjoy a lifelong sport! All of you are aware that the GCTA organizes summer tennis for you; however, some of you might not know the details above and how your dues help others! ☺

The GCTA will follow the Governor’s mandates for safe tennis play. Rather than restate the details here, I have simply included a link to the state of Ohio website and encourage you to review it: <https://coronavirus.ohio.gov/static/responsible/Tennis-Court-Operators.pdf>

Doing anything in a normal manner (work, school, visiting relatives, shopping, going to restaurants, travel, sports, etc.) in the midst of the current global pandemic, is the definition of unprecedented – an overused word but certainly appropriate in our current situation. Playing tennis is no different – tennis is also different this year.

As noted above, with the mission of the GCTA in mind as well as the worldwide pandemic, I ask you to consider the following for the 2020 GCTA Summer Tennis season:

- Have fun
- Be friendly
- Be tolerant
- Laugh at yourself
- ATTITUDE matters – go onto court EVERY time with a good attitude
- Remember the first time you played tennis? You must have liked it – you are still out there

Perhaps most of all, RELAX, BE FLEXIBLE, and ENJOY the activity of playing tennis with your friends AND helping others experience tennis, perhaps for the first time!

Have a great summer!

Sincerely,

Geoffrey Bibo
President, Greater Columbus Tennis Association