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President
Kevin Pope

May 4, 2020

Vice President,
President-Elect
Jason Scalese

Dear Members of the Board of Supervisors,

Secretary
Anoosh Davoudzadeh

My name is Jason Scalese, I am a 22 year resident of Northern California (Burlingame) with my wife and two children, 7 and 5.

Treasurer
Joshua Conlin

Delegate
Alvin Hom

I am proud to serve as the Vice President/President-Elect of the United States Tennis Association, Northern California Section. The USTA is the national governing body for the sport of tennis and the recognized leader in promoting and developing the sport's growth on every level in the U.S. The Northern California Section alone boasts 42,072 individual members. Tens of thousands of additional players enjoy this sport here in California.

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As Supervisors, you are on the front line of the COVID-19 battleground, emphasizing the importance of your roles as community leaders more than ever before. We are thankful for your leadership during all of this chaos. As these are indeed unprecedented times, it's important that industry leaders work with local governments as we begin to reopen the Golden State.

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I write to you today on behalf of USTA NorCal asking that you please consider allowing tennis play, both at public and private facilities, as soon as possible with the expectation that proper social distancing policies will be in place.

Executive Director, Interim
Kevin Craig

Let's face it, few sports allow the great exercise that tennis does that still meet the requirements of social distancing. Additionally, other concerns related to the sport are easily addressed.

Legal Counsel &
Parliamentarian
Les Hausrath

Please consider there is increasing evidence that COVID-19 is spreading very little outside especially in warm weather. It is rare that people participate in tennis that are not familiar with their partners, allowing for more efficient "vetting" of other participants than many of the activities already allowed both outside and inside. Let's face it, how often do you go to a big box store and know everyone around that might be touching similar items that you touch? In tennis, it's pretty safe to say that 95% of recreational play includes people we know and we have a more clear understanding of their activity in the last 60 days than the average passerby at a store, on the beach or on a hiking trail.

Advisory Directors
Rosie Bareis
Jon Toney

Even prior to the "Shelter-In-Place" orders, many tennis facilities had already mastered the safety precautions related to the "shared equipment" involved in tennis. For example:

- Wearing masks.
- Wearing gloves on the non-dominant hand for picking up tennis balls.
- Using unique cans of tennis balls per server.

Additionally, instructors and instructional facilities:

- Agreed to the above if it meant keeping income and will continue to do so.
- Sanitize and cleanse equipment, even when not shared in between lessons and overnight.
- Sanitize and cleanse entryways, door knobs, benches, net posts etc...
- Provide wipes and hand sanitizer for players.
- Disallow players to collect or handle the tennis balls.

In addition, when referring to the impact of the "SIP" on the professional teaching wing of our beloved sport, many tennis instructors are contract workers who like many industries have been decimated during this time, but are not receiving the type of unemployment wages W-2 employees may be receiving. We don't want them to get back to work for the sake of the sport, but for their own benefit. That said, we would never encourage it if it meant compromising their health and safety and their students.

After reviewing the list of approved activities by the state and recognizing that some counties have begun to allow tennis, we hope our county will agree to allow this great source of exercise, stress relief, and activity once again as we emerge from the COVID-19 crisis.

Thank you for your consideration, we wish you good health!

Sincerely,
Jason Scalese