

May 18, 2020

Dr. Grant Colfax, Director  
San Francisco Department of Public Health

Mr. Phil Ginsburg, General Manager  
San Francisco Recreation and Parks Department

Ms. Dana Ketcham, Director  
Property Management, Permits and Reservations



Re: Opening S.F.'s Public Tennis Courts

Dear Dr. Colfax, Mr. Ginsburg and Ms. Ketcham,

The Tennis Coalition of San Francisco represents the thousands of people in our City who enjoy playing tennis on San Francisco's 150 public courts. For Dr. Colfax's benefit, please know that we work closely with RPD to strengthen and sustain playing tennis on our public courts. Our most prominent collaboration with RPD is the \$27 million renovation of the historic tennis center in Golden Gate Park, scheduled to re-open later this year.

We write to encourage the City and County of San Francisco to join our neighboring counties and begin to open up our public tennis courts for safe, outdoor recreation under public health protocols that the U.S.T.A. recommends and which are already being implemented locally in Marin, Alameda and San Mateo counties (see links below).

San Francisco public court tennis players are anxious to get back on the courts, but only in safe conditions. Tennis is inherently one of the safest outdoor sports that can be resumed during the shelter-in-place orders. We recommend that our public courts be re-opened as soon as possible, emphasizing these protocols:

1. Singles only, doubles soon thereafter
2. Social distancing at all times
3. Each player uses their own set of balls and does not touch the other player's balls with their hands, only their feet and racquet
4. Appropriate sanitization of the common areas of the court by the arriving players and appropriate hand washing and other precautions afterwards

We also encourage S.F.R.P.D. to re-activate its excellent reservation system and perhaps to expand it, at least during the shelter-in-place order. The more courts the reservation system covers, the less courts will be subject to folks gathering to wait for a walk-on opportunity. Reserved courts will also turn over to the next set of players in a more orderly and predictable way, enhancing everyone's ability to follow the protocols.

1074 Folsom Street  
San Francisco, CA 94103  
[www.tenniscoalitionsf.org](http://www.tenniscoalitionsf.org)  
415.710.6279

in partnership with The logo for the San Francisco Parks Alliance features a stylized green and yellow 'P' and 'A' intertwined. To the right of the logo, the text "SAN FRANCISCO Parks Alliance" is written in a sans-serif font, with "SAN FRANCISCO" in a smaller font size above "Parks Alliance". Below the logo and text, the slogan "OUR CITY, OUR PARKS." is written in a smaller, all-caps font.

We do not know what the thinking is behind San Francisco's current decision not to open the courts, even though our immediate neighboring counties have done so in accordance with U.S.T.A. guidelines. If the City and County has some reservations about opening the courts in San Francisco, we would be pleased to discuss your concerns. Given our broad reach and active communication tools, we would gladly help set out and re-enforce with the tennis community the expectations and guidance needed to resume play safely.

Please let us know where this issue stands and how we can be helpful.

With deep appreciation for all you are doing to keep us safe,

*Martha Ehrenfeld*    *Lois Salisbury*

Martha Ehrenfeld and Lois Salisbury  
Co-Chairs Tennis Coalition SF

cc. San Francisco Board of Supervisors  
San Francisco Recreation and Park Commissioners  
San Francisco Parks Alliance  
Tennis Coalition Board Members + Staff

SAN MATEO:	<a href="https://www.smcgov.org/shelter-place-faqs">https://www.smcgov.org/shelter-place-faqs</a>
ALAMEDA	<a href="http://www.acphd.org/media/572718/health-officer-order-20-10-shelter-in-place-20200429.pdf">http://www.acphd.org/media/572718/health-officer-order-20-10-shelter-in-place-20200429.pdf</a>
MARIN	<a href="https://www.cityofsanrafael.org/tennis-courts-whats-the-scoop/">https://www.cityofsanrafael.org/tennis-courts-whats-the-scoop/</a>
SANTA CLARA	<a href="https://www.sccgov.org/sites/covid19/Pages/order-health-officer-050420.aspx">https://www.sccgov.org/sites/covid19/Pages/order-health-officer-050420.aspx</a>

1074 Folsom Street  
San Francisco, CA 94103  
[www.tenniscoalitionsf.org](http://www.tenniscoalitionsf.org)  
415.710.6279

in partnership with 

The logo for the San Francisco Parks Alliance features a stylized green and yellow 'P' and 'A' icon to the left of the text 'SAN FRANCISCO Parks Alliance' and 'OUR CITY, OUR PARKS.' below it.