

September 29, 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: NOW is the Time to Open S.F.'s Public Tennis Courts to Doubles

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. On behalf of the tennis playing public, we thank you for re-opening the public courts for tennis singles and household doubles.

We write again to encourage the City and County of San Francisco to expand the opportunities for play now to include regular doubles without delay. Among recreational players in the U.S., 80% prefer to play doubles. So long as play is limited to singles or "household" doubles, the majority of players who could benefit from one of the safest options for fresh air and vigorous exercise available during the COVID pandemic won't have that chance.

Regular doubles is supported by the USTA, as well as major public health studies from Michigan and the Texas Medical Association, both of which found tennis, with no distinction made for doubles, among the safest activities one could choose, far safer than a host of other activities now already permitted in San Francisco, including eating outside at a restaurant, swimming outside in a public pool, going to the hair salon or barber or working out in a gym.

When what is permitted and what is not permitted no longer can be squared, the credibility of the public health guidance meant to protect us is diminished. We believe the City has been dealing with this profound health threat in remarkably effective ways. We didn't want to press our case when so many other issues appeared critical. But, it also feels like the simple question of permitting regular doubles play on the public courts with appropriate protocols has been forgotten. It's time to permit regular doubles play so that thousands of San Francisco tennis players can return to one of the safest, healthiest activities available during this pandemic. (Please also see yesterday's article in SF Gate, describing how many new players are turning to the sport because of its safety.) Please move our issue to the front burner and take the simple action of permitting doubles play with appropriate social distancing and sanitation protocols.

With much appreciation for all that you are doing to keep us healthy and safe,

Lois Salisbury

Lois Salisbury, Co-Chair

Martha Ehrenfeld

Martha Ehrenfeld, Co-Chair

Julie Exley

Julie Exley, Executive Director

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



in partnership with

<https://www.usta.com/en/home/stay-current/national/usta-statement-on-safety-of-playing-tennis-during-the-covid-19-v.html>

Michigan Article ranking safety of activities by four public health officials:

<https://www.mlive.com/public-interest/2020/06/from-hair-salons-to-gyms-experts-rank-36-activities-by-coronavirus-risk-level.html>

Texas Medical Association chart:

https://www.texmed.org/uploadedFiles/Current/2016_Public_Health/Infectious_Diseases/309193%20Risk%20Assessment%20Chart%20V2_FINAL.pdf

SF Gate:

<https://www.sfgate.com/sports/article/Tennis-has-a-pandemic-surge-Why-that-s-not-all-15584702.php>

<http://www.insidetennis.com/2020/06/exclusive-usta-ceo-dowse-on-groups-day-of-reckoning/>