



Suffolk County Tennis and Education Foundation

33 Sheppard Lane

Smithtown, New York 11787

Office: 631/ 360-8047 Fax: 631/ 590-5019

Web: SCTEF.ORG

Email: pres@sctef.org

April 28, 2020

Re: Appeal to consider opening Suffolk County tennis courts.

Dear Executive Bellone,

Thank you for your leadership in this time of crisis. I am among the many Suffolk County residents happy that we are entering the opening phase of this crisis. I also understand there is still a long way to go.

During this crisis, I have been at the forefront of all developments affecting tennis in Suffolk County.

This included coordinating and rescheduling the annual county tennis awards dinner in order to provide recognition resulting from of any possible spring tennis season.

I have heard from hundreds of tennis players and family members disappointed with the cancellation of the 2020 boys varsity tennis season.

In addition, the United States Tennis Association (USTA) suspended all sanctioned programs and events until at least May 31st, eliminating organized competition play for hundreds of tournament and team league players.

The closing of all public tennis courts in Suffolk County, leaves our families no place to enjoy the lifetime sport of tennis!

The reopening of recreation by opening golf courses and marinas in the first phase has many in the tennis community are wondering why opening public tennis courts is not included.

Please considered the information provided on the following pages to help illustrate there is every reason why public tennis courts should be included in the first phase of re-opening.

Based on existing Social Distancing guidelines, tennis is equal to, if not more amenable to opening in phase 1 as golf and marinas.

May is National Tennis Month. It would be great to celebrate this annual event by opening the Suffolk County tennis courts and get everyone back outside to tennis.

The following facts presented are a small list of the many reasons we should be on the tennis courts sooner than later.

I hope this offers enough evidence to include opening Suffolk County tennis courts now rather than later.

I also offer to volunteer my experience and services to aid and support Suffolk County's return to tennis.

Social Distancing Manageability:

Considering the limited number of players involved from 1 to up to 4 people on a 5000+ square foot area, the same consideration to open should be given as other low participation activities.



Suffolk County Tennis and Education Foundation

33 Sheppard Lane

Smithtown, New York 11787

Office: 631/ 360-8047 Fax: 631/ 590-5019

Web: SCTEF.ORG

Email: pres@sctef.org

Here are some facts:

- Tennis has limited number of players from 1 to 4 people. Tennis has limited social interaction as there is very little to no contact or communication during practice or point play.
- The square footage of a full size tennis court (including back court and between court. tennis (120 x 48) is approximately 5760 feet.
 - This space is occupied by a relatively small number of participants usually on separate side of the net.
 - Double partners are always on opposite halves of the tennis court.
- Tennis court size and number of players:
 - Practicing serve = 1 player
 - Singles = 2 players (ave 2880 sq. ft./ player)
 - Closest distance possible is 8 feet across the net.
 - Doubles maximum = 4 players (ave 1440 sq. ft. per player.
 - Closest distances possible:
 - Across the net = 40 feet. A rare playing style.
 - 12 feet between partners (rarely if at all) on the same side. Doubles partners do not face each other during play.
 - The room need to effectively and even minimally swing a tennis racquet at a tennis ball while playing doubles is at 2 racquet lengths plus a person's width measures at least 7 feet.
 - Scalable tennis courts for children*:
 - Red ball court = up to 8 years old - low compression ball = 1344 sq. ft.
 - Orange ball court = 8 to 10 year olds - 60 ft. regulation court is embedded inside a full size tennis court = 2800 sq. ft.

Compared to a golf tee/green square footage (from approx.300 to 5000 sq. ft.), and amount of room at a marina launch, dock, and on a typical boat, tennis provides the more adequate space to manage responsible social distancing.

- Tennis ball:
 - Handling of the tennis ball the only questionable (although not conclusively) factor. This is minimal and easily managed.
 - Requirement of one gloved hand is possible.
 - Players can use their racquet to pick up a ball
 - Players handle one ball at a time for no more than 5 seconds before putting in play. Players, especially 2-handed backhand players do not keep an extra ball in their hand during play.



Suffolk County Tennis and Education Foundation

33 Sheppard Lane
Smithtown, New York 11787
Office: 631/ 360-8047 Fax: 631/ 590-5019

Web: SCTEF.ORG
Email: pres@sctef.org

Health benefits of Tennis:

It is widely known the health benefits of tennis activity.

To name a few:

- Increasing aerobic capacities.
- Lowering resting heart rate and blood pressure.
- Improving metabolic function.
- Lowering body fat.
- Improving muscle tone, strength and flexibility.

After staying at home with limited exercise capability, playing tennis is the healthiest activity that should be available “now” for everyone.

Accessibility of Tennis:

- The affordability of tennis equipment makes it possible for every demographic to get equipment
 - A tennis racquets can be as little as \$30.
 - Tennis balls can be purchased for as little as \$3 for a can of 3 balls.
- Tennis is a sport possible for the whole family can get on a tennis court and play together.

All that is needed is a tennis court to play on.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter.

I hope to hear from you.

Sincerely,

Joe Arias

President, Suffolk County Tennis & Education Foundation
President, Suffolk County Tennis Coaches Association
Founder and Executive Director, Suffolk County Junior Tennis league

The Suffolk County Tennis and Education (sctef.org) is a 501c3 non-profit and USTA Community Tennis Organization sponsoring tennis events in Suffolk County since 2003. SCTEF is sponsor of the annual Suffolk County Varsity Tennis Awards dinner (attended by 400+ boys and 500+ girls, coaches and families). Suffolk County Tennis Coaches Association (suffolktenniscoaches.org) supports varsity tennis in all Suffolk County school districts.

**The Suffolk County Junior Tennis League (scjtl.org) is Long Island's oldest and largest outdoor tennis program provider. First on Long Island and one of the first 27 programs in the US to incorporate live ball, scalable tennis in all tennis programs, since 2006.*

