**OCC Tennis Update 9-10-2020**

Dear Members – What a great start we’ve had elevating the Tennis Program here at Onion Creek Club! Despite the pandemic restrictions, people are anxious to be on the courts and enjoying outdoor activities. We are in **Phase One**…building our name! Months ago, when someone mentioned tennis in South Austin, Onion Creek Club wasn’t even on the map! I am happy to say we are steadily working our way to having a strong tennis program. With that, there will always be questions and concerns, change and growth are challenging. We have had several common questions and I thought it would be a great time to address these and share some additional general information. Here are some of the most recent:

**How long before we can return to normal programming?**

Unfortunately, it is hard to know when things will return to “normal”, we are following all State and Local regulations – but we are actively looking at ways to get back to our regular activities while maintaining social distancing and upholding the safety of all players. We are lucky that tennis and golf have proven to be some of the safest ways to remain healthy and active! A version of our in house leagues will begin in approximately 2 weeks.

**How do I use the ball machine?**

We are now able to use the ball machine on Court 1 or Court 3 so you can book that court and make a notation on your reservation in Foretees to reserve the machine. We have added an additional machine so now we have 2 available! If you want to use the machine and a professional or other member has Court 1 or Court 3 booked, please contact Kelly – many times a lesson or individual play can be moved to allow for ball machine use. The cost to rent the machine is $15 per hour or you can have an automatic ball machine billing, you can get unlimited use for $15 per month with a minimum of 3 months commitment.

**How do I sign up for a drill group?**

We have been experiencing some technical difficulties with our online reservation system in taking reservations for drills compared to regular court reservations. This will be worked out in the coming days. Meanwhile you can reserve your spot with the actual professional who is teaching the drill or go directly to Kelly.

\*Did you know? Members always take priority when signing up for a drill or clinic! A member may sign up any time before a clinic and non-members can only sign up a week in advance – a member will always take priority until the drill is full. Sign up early to ensure your spot.

**What is our non-member policy?**

At this time non-members are only allowed to take part in drills and events. The non-member will pay a higher rate for the drill or event fee. These guest fees have been intentionally low in a trial period to entice others to join the Club and as our program matures, guest fees are going to be substantially different. In fact beginning September 7th, we are reducing the member fee for clinics - this is an added advantage to your membership and we appreciate the support you have shown us! I also want to make it clear that Guests may not book courts, play before or after lessons, use the ball machine, enjoy food services or have any additional privileges that come with a club membership. When a guest come to play tennis outside of schedule clinics they must always be accompanied by a member. Currently the prime-time guest fee is $10 and a non-prime time (12pm – 4pm) fee of $5. Each non-member may play with a member up to 12 times in a calendar year.

**What happens in Phase Two of your plan?**

If it weren’t for Covid we would be in **Phase Two** by now! That means we would be having actual fun events, tournaments and mixers regularly. You would see even more benefits of being a tennis member and especially as a member of the OCC Tennis Association. Non-member fees will increase in this Phase and keep increasing as we work towards new membership goals. We won’t always allow non-member play, especially in our prime hours. We have very clear drivers and maximums to reach in member growth, as well as revenue and member activities.

**What changes/improvements can I see soon?**

I have already mentioned the changes in non-member fees that are coming. Another improvement you will be able to see is new light bulbs! We will be changing light bulbs on all courts in the next couple of weeks, we are just waiting for the bulbs to get here. I also have a clay court company coming to assess our 2 courts and give us a bid to redo them, which should be done every 6-8 years…it is past that time! Look for that specific capital improvement early 2021. As the program grows, we’ll have the ability to continue to make improvements and look forward to your input to make this our Tennis Program in best in Austin!

**Any more questions?**

In addition to myself or any of our great staff of pros, don’t forget our Onion Creek Tennis Association Board Members. They are here supporting our program, being your voice for activities, events and improvements and always open for a discussion. Sandra Parét, Vince Farelli, Sarah Edgecomb, Kim Campbell, Cathy Salinas, Cory Konieczny and Susan Correll thank you all for your participation and look forward to the days we can share our love for tennis as a collective group again!

See you on the courts!

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