



April 10, 2012

Dear USPTA Board of Directors:

The United States Tennis Association believes it is important that it weigh in on the many unsubstantiated rumors being circulated through the mail and on the internet about the USTA and the USTA's intentions relative to the USPTA. While any organization can have internal disputes, the USPTA's seem to have taken on a life of its own and, unfortunately, is being played out in public. It is particularly disconcerting that the USTA has been dragged into this fray. Over the past year, a great deal of misinformation and false accusations have been spread via, among other channels, anonymous letters, e-mails and websites/social media. During this time, the USTA chose to take the high road by not responding. Given, however, the recent escalation of these rumors, we can no longer remain silent and feel it is imperative that we set the record straight. Therefore, for the record:

- The USTA has no intention of "taking over the USPTA" or any other tennis teaching organization. The USTA has not had any discussions with Tom Daglis or anyone else at the USPTA relative to this subject. If the USTA wanted to get into the business of certification and offering memberships to teaching professionals, it could do so without "taking over" any organization. The USTA has always believed that working cooperatively with independent teaching organizations to carry out its mission is preferable to starting its own tennis teaching organization.
- Would the USTA like to see better coaching education in this country? Yes. The USTA is particularly interested in ensuring that both high performance players and 10 and under players have the best coaching available at all levels. That is why the USTA is working with both the USPTA and the PTR to improve coaching education in these areas. The USTA has been very up front regarding its goals and objectives and has worked with both organizations with total transparency.
- The USTA appreciates the significant number of USPTA Board and Executive Committee members who work collaboratively with the USTA and the tennis industry. Unfortunately, there remains a faction within USPTA that views many of the USTA's grow the game efforts as direct threats to the USPTA. This faction and some of their allies have been very aggressive in promulgating a negative misinformation campaign. For more than a decade, these individuals, in lieu of any real facts, have been quick to cast the USTA as "*big brother*" whenever it is convenient in order to advance their point of view. It is disappointing that instead of honest dialogue they believe these harmful, worn out conspiracy theories will carry the day.

Finally, the USTA urges the USPTA Board, as well as the USPTA Executive Committee, to take a very hard look at what has transpired over the past year. The airing of USPTA internal disputes via anonymous letters, e-mails and websites that have misrepresented the facts and spread patently false rumors has been a huge distraction and has significantly damaged the USPTA's reputation. This approach speaks volumes about those who choose to handle their disputes in this manner. The USTA hopes that the USPTA Board and Executive Committee will take the steps required to put the USPTA's house in order soon. It is important to TENNIS and the USTA for the USPTA to be a significant contributor in our collective efforts to grow the game.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Jon Vegosen". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Jon Vegosen  
Chairman of the Board and President

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Gordon A. Smith". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Gordon Smith  
Executive Director & Chief Operating Officer