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June 30, 2020

Dear Adaptive Tennis Leader,

We regret to inform you that the USTA Southern SPUD Championships in Belton, SC originally scheduled for July 23-24, 2020 have been cancelled. Due to the continuing risks of COVID-19 and the dynamics specific to this event, the USTA Southern Adaptive/Special Pops committee has determined it in the best interest of all parties to postpone the 2020 tournament. Based on the advisement of persons with expertise in several relevant fields, it is necessary to continue exercising caution in our travels and activities.

The Committee regrets this decision; but suggests that we all continue to stay safe, healthy, and active as we want to see everyone back on the courts in Belton, SC in 2021 to fellowship, compete, and celebrate Southern Style!

There has been a return to program activities in some areas and we are all encouraged by that notion. However, we ask that you remain diligent in making decisions that best protect yourself and your athletes based on local guidelines and other variables that may factor into making the best decision. If you have questions regarding this decision or other adaptive tennis inquiries, please feel free to direct them to us.

We also want you aware of the USTA Southern Cares Initiative which offers aid to community tennis providers due to the impact of COVID-19. This specific initiative and application provides financial support for those including tournament directors, league coordinators, officials, CTAs, NJTLs, Adaptive Programs, Wheelchair Programs and media who have lost income or revenue due to the cancellation of events and to help defray costs of restarting tennis programs. Funds received are not eligible to cover pro/instructor compensation or facility needs as alternative grant applications were available for that purpose. Only one grant application per person can be accepted. Funding will be determined based on demonstrated need and revenue/income lost. Applications will be evaluated in the order received and funding will be awarded at the sole discretion of USTA Southern. Not all applications may be funded and the deadline to apply is **July 6, 2020**. Visit [www.southern tennis.com](http://www.southern tennis.com)

See you on the courts!

Jim Hamm  
USTA Southern Special Populations/Adaptive Tennis Committee – Chair

Rex Maynard  
USTA Southern Past President  
SPUD Championships Tournament Host

Cee Jai Jones  
USTA Southern – Director Diversity, NJTL, and Grants