

April 29, 2026

USTA Arkansas Calls for Reconsideration of Decision to Eliminate Arkansas Razorback Tennis Programs

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USTA Arkansas expresses deep disappointment and profound concern regarding the decision by the University of Arkansas to discontinue its Razorback men's and women's tennis programs following the current academic year.

The Razorback tennis program has long been a source of pride for our state, representing a rich tradition of excellence, sportsmanship and opportunity for student-athletes. Its impact extends far beyond the court — serving as an inspiration for generations of young players across Arkansas. To see a program with such a rich and meaningful legacy eliminated is disheartening. The manner in which this decision was made — without meaningful public discussion, engagement with alumni, the tennis community and key stakeholders, or a transparent effort to explore viable options to sustain the program — is deeply concerning.

This decision is especially troubling given the continued growth of tennis both nationally and within our state. USTA Arkansas proudly serves nearly 10,000 members, including more than 4,000 junior players who look to programs like Arkansas as a pathway for their development and dreams. And this number isn't reflective of the estimated 250,000 recreational players in the state or the hundreds of high school players in more than 135 Arkansas high school tennis programs. Nationally, participation in tennis continues to rise, with more than 27 million players actively engaged in the sport. The demand, the pipeline and the passion for tennis have never been stronger.

Tennis is not only a competitive collegiate sport but also one of the healthiest and most accessible lifetime activities, offering physical, mental and social benefits that extend well beyond college athletics. Eliminating this program sends a discouraging message to the thousands of young athletes who compete in various sports across Arkansas and who aspire to compete at the highest levels.

We respectfully urge University leadership to reconsider this decision and explore all options to preserve Razorback tennis. The impact and future of the sport in Arkansas are too significant to overlook, and the legacy too important to allow Razorback tennis to simply disappear.

USTA Arkansas stands ready to be part of the solution and to work collaboratively to ensure that tennis continues to have a rightful place at the University of Arkansas.