Consent Form for Participation in a Research Project
United States Tennis Association

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United States Tennis Association

Study Title: USTA National Injury Database for Elite Tennis Players Project

Invitation to Participate
Your child is invited to participate in the USTA’s national injury database project because he or she is considered an elite tennis player by the United States Tennis Association (USTA). This is a USTA sponsored project designed to enhance training and rehabilitation programs for all tennis players.

Purpose
This project is designed to establish a national database of the injuries elite tennis players sustain as a result of playing or practicing for tennis competition. This will also allow the USTA to study the specific type or types of injuries that groups of players may sustain as a result of playing tennis. For instance do girls have a different type of injuries than boys, or do younger players have different types of injuries than older players?

Description of Procedures
As a participant your son or daughter will be asked to complete a web-based survey that focuses on demographic information such as age, gender, dominant hand, and on a description of any injuries you may have had within the last year. The general type of injury, such as shoulder, and the length of time that it impacted your son or daughter, will be recorded. They will also be asked about some of their training procedures, such as warm-ups and cycles of training. Even if you have not had an injury in the last year, this is important information, and you are asked to participate in the survey. The survey may be found on the web at:
http://137.99.90.132:8060/survey/usta/usta.htm

Risks and Inconveniences
The entire survey should take about 15 minutes to complete and may be completed with the assistance of a parent or coach, if the player has questions or problems with the wording or technology. Responses will enable the USTA to make informed decisions about training and rehabilitation programs designed to reduce tennis related injuries and to provide a fast and complete return to tennis.

Benefits
While there are no immediate benefits to the individual player completing this form, the establishment of a national database of injuries of elite tennis players will enable the USTA to develop specific training and rehabilitation programs to reduce injuries and the impact of injuries on players in the near future. It will also provide evidence about the amount and severity of injuries suffered by elite tennis players for the very first time.
Confidentiality
All data will be completely confidential and will not be used in any way to impact a player in the USTA. Names will not be revealed to anyone outside of the research team. Each participant’s data will be entered into the USTA database. All analysis of the injury data will be based on aggregate groups of players, for instance girls and boys. No individual data will ever be reported, and no individual names or other types of identification will be revealed to anyone outside the research team of Drs. Brown and Riewald.

Voluntary Participation
Your consent to your child’s participation in this study is required before your child may complete the survey. Your son or daughter does not have to be in this study if you do not want to. If you and your son or daughter agrees to be in the study, but later you change your mind or they change their mind, the player may drop out of the study at any time. There are no penalties or consequences of any kind if anyone decides that they do not want to participate. If you, or your son or daughter, wish to drop out after they have completed the survey, just contact Dr. Riewald at the USTA and he will see to it that all of your child’s personal information is destroyed. His phone number and email are listed below.

Do You Have Any Questions?
Take as long as you like before you make a decision. We will be happy to answer any question you have about this study. If you have further questions about this project or if you have a research-related problem, you may contact Dr. Scott Riewald ((305) 365-8760; Riewald@USTA.com). A Frequently Asked Questions sheet is attached to answer some questions you may have.

Authorization:
I have read this form and consent to the participation of _________________________________ (name of player) in the USTA National Injury Database project described above. Its general purposes, the particulars of involvement and possible hazards and inconveniences have been explained to my satisfaction. My signature also indicates that I have received a copy of this consent form.

Signature: ____________________________________________________________

Parent or guardian

Relationship to Player: ____________________________________________

Phone Number: ____________________________________________

E-mail address: ____________________________________________

Date: ____________________________________________