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| **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE** **MICHAEL DOWSE NAMED USTA CEO AND EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR** **President of Wilson Sporting Goods Selected Due to Successful Track Record and****Long Commitment To the Sport of Tennis** **WHITE PLAINS, N.Y., October 17, 2019**– The USTA today announced that Michael Dowse, President of Wilson Sporting Goods Co., has been named Chief Executive Officer and Executive Director of the United States Tennis Association.  The announcement was made by Patrick Galbraith, USTA Chairman of the Board and President, who led the search for current CEO Gordon Smith’s replacement. As CEO and Executive Director, Dowse will be charged with leading the USTA’s overall vision and its strategy for the growth of tennis participation with juniors and adults at all levels, while also ensuring diversity throughout the sport. He will provide direction and support and collaborate with USTA sections, districts, Community Tennis Associations, and national committees for all of the USTA’s grassroots efforts.  Additionally, he will set the strategic direction and lead the USTA’s involvement in professional tennis in the U.S. and throughout the world, developing strategies to further promote the health and viability of professional tennis in the United States. Dowse has served as President of Wilson since 2013.  He was responsible for the company’s global strategy, corporate operations and manufacturing across more than 160 countries. He oversaw the company’s growth and productivity initiatives, including innovation, digital transformation, product development, the formation of new business and partnerships, and the expansion of Wilson’s footprint in racquet sports, team sports, baseball, softball and golf. “Michael’s experience as a proven industry executive and his long history with our sport make him the ideal candidate for this position,” said Galbraith.  “The USTA is poised for growth, and we believe Michael will be the catalyst we need.”  While leading Wilson, Dowse was instrumental in the company’s year-over-year increases in profitability and market-share gains.  He led the acquisitions of the Louisville Slugger and EvoShield brands, which have significantly bolstered the company’s baseball presence and offerings.  Prior to his role as President of Wilson, Dowse held progressive positions within Amer Sports, and before that he was Director of Tennis Footwear for Nike, Inc. “Having grown up playing tennis and being part of a family committed to community tennis, I feel very fortunate to be in a position to lead the USTA.  I look forward to working collaboratively with the passionate volunteers, professional staff, current and past USTA board members, and industry leaders to promote and develop the growth of tennis,” said Dowse.  “I also would like to recognize the incredible achievements of Gordon Smith and the USTA team over the last several years.  The foundation for growth is well established with proven assets such as the US Open, the USTA National Campus and the recent launch of Net Generation, our new youth tennis initiative.” Starting January 1, 2020, Dowse, 53, will be based at the USTA National Campus in the Lake Nona neighborhood of Orlando, Florida. # # # **The USTA** is the national governing body for the sport of tennis in the U.S. and the leader in promoting and developing the growth of tennis at every level -- from local communities to the highest level of the professional game. A not-for-profit organization with more than 655,000 members, it invests 100% of its proceeds in growing the game. It owns and operates the US Open, one of the highest-attended annual sporting events in the world, and launched the US Open Series, linking six summer WTA and ATP World Tour tournaments to the US Open. In addition, it owns approximately 90 Pro Circuit events throughout the U.S. and selects the teams for the Davis Cup, Fed Cup, Olympic and Paralympic Games. The USTA’s philanthropic entity, the USTA Foundation, provides grants and scholarships in addition to supporting tennis and education programs nationwide to benefit under-resourced youth through the National Junior Tennis & Learning (NJTL) network.For more information about the USTA, go to [USTA.com](https://click.icptrack.com/icp/relay.php?r=31315926&msgid=352131&act=RCXE&c=1296006&destination=http%3A%2F%2Fusta.com%2F) or follow the official accounts on Facebook, Instagram, Twitter and Snapchat. **For more information, contact:**Chris Widmaier, USTA Corporate Communications, (914) 696-7284, widmaier@usta.com    |

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