

**Directors Present:** Andrea Barnes, Shaun Chaudhuri, Christine Costamagna (Vice President/President Elect), Martha Ehrenfeld, Jack Hesotian, Andrea Norman (Secretary), Michelle Nicholson, David Panconi, Jason Scalse (Delegate), Caroline Sheu, Pam Sloan (President), Scott Winn

**Directors Absent:** Leslie Airola-Murveit, Nancy DeSchane (Treasurer), Larry Olmstead, Craig Pasqua, Keith Wheeler (Parliamentarian)

**Advisory Directors Present:** Suzy Cossette and Jack Walker

**Legal Counsel Present:** Jonathan Madison

**USTA NorCal Staff Present:** Summer Verhoeven (Executive Director), Darren Wenger (Director of Operations), Rebecca Bauer (Senior Manager, Marketing)

**1. Call to Order**

President Sloan called the meeting to order at 6:33 pm and roll call was conducted. She then asked Mr. Winn to read the NorCal Mission Statement and Vision.

**2. Approval of Agenda**

There being no persons present to make public comments and no public comments submitted in advance of the meeting, the Board considered approval of the agenda, a copy of which was distributed with the meeting packet. There being no recommended changes, the agenda was announced approved as distributed to the Board.

**3. Approval of Minutes**

The Board considered approval of the minutes of the meeting held June 20, 2024. Following discussion, the following motion was duly made by Ms. Norman, seconded by Ms. Costamagna, and **approved** by a vote of 11 in favor, none opposed, and no abstentions.

**RESOLVED:** That the minutes of the meeting of the USTA NorCal Board of Directors held June 20, 2024, are hereby approved as corrected.

*Mr. Madison joined following approval of the minutes.*

*Mr. Walker left the meeting for the closed session.*

*Ms. Cossette remained in the closed session during the tournament sanction report.*

**4. Closed Session**

President Sloan announced that the Board would be going into closed session. Following the conclusion of the closed session, President Sloan announced all discussion held during the session was to remain confidential; however, it was agreed that the following would be reported in the public minutes:

- Approval of Tournament Sanctions. The following sanctions were **approved** following a motion duly made by Ms. Sheu and seconded by Mr. Panconi. The vote was 11 in favor, none opposed, and no abstentions.

Junior Tournament Sanctions								
Date	Level	Divisions	Events	Organizer	Director	Location	Courts	Limit
August 26	Level 7	BG12-16	Singles	Bay Area Wheelchair TA	RL Scott	San Jose	7	8
September 16	Level 7	BG12-16	Singles	Bay Area Wheelchair TA	RL Scott	San Jose	7	8
October 13	Level 7	BG12-16	Singles	Bay Area Wheelchair TA	RL Scott	San Jose	7	8
November 2-3	Level 6	BG12-18	Singles	Carmel Valley Athletic Club	Zack Juhre	Carmel	6	8
November 10	Level 7	BG12-16	Singles	Bay Area Wheelchair TA	RL Scott	San Jose	7	8
December 15	Level 7	BG12-16	Singles	Bay Area Wheelchair TA	RL Scott	San Jose	7	8

Adult Tournament Sanctions								
Date	Level	Divisions	Events	Organizer	Director	Location	Courts	Limit
August 25-26	Level 6	NTRP 18+ 3.5 to 4.5	MS, WS, MD, WD	Chamisal Tennis & Fitness Club	Brian Pybas	Salinas	10	16

Adult Tournament Sanctions								
Date	Level	Divisions	Events	Organizer	Director	Location	Courts	Limit
September 13	Level 7	NTRP 18+ 3.0 to 5.0	MS, WS, MD, WD	Bay Area Wheelchair Tennis Association	RL Scott	San Jose	7	8
September 20	Level 7	NTRP 18+ 3.0 to 5.0	MS, WS, MD, WD	Bay Area Wheelchair Tennis Association	RL Scott	San Jose	7	8
September 27	Level 7	NTRP 18+ 3.0 to 5.0	MS, WS, MD, WD	Bay Area Wheelchair Tennis Association	RL Scott	San Jose	7	8
October 4	Level 7	NTRP 18+ 3.0 to 5.0	MS, WS, MD, WD	Bay Area Wheelchair Tennis Association	RL Scott	San Jose	7	8
October 11	Level 7	NTRP 18+ 3.0 to 5.0	MS, WS, MD, WD	Bay Area Wheelchair Tennis Association	RL Scott	San Jose	7	8
October 18	Level 7	NTRP 18+ 3.0 to 5.0	MS, WS, MD, WD	Bay Area Wheelchair Tennis Association	RL Scott	San Jose	7	8
October 25	Level 7	NTRP 18+ 3.0 to 5.0	MS, WS, MD, WD	Bay Area Wheelchair Tennis Association	RL Scott	San Jose	7	8

Ms. Cossette left the closed session following the Sanction & Schedule Report.  
 Ms. Ehrenfeld joined the meeting following approval of the sanctions.

- Legal Updates. The Board heard updates on outstanding legal issues.

Legal Counsel Jonathan Madison left the meeting following Closed Session.  
 Ms. Cossette and Mr. Walker returned to the meeting following Closed Session.

## 5. Consent Calendar

President Sloan directed the Board’s attention to the Consent Calendar that was distributed with the meeting packet and noted that there are:

- 2 recommendations being made by the Adult Tournament Committee
- 7 recommendations being made by the Adult League Committee

President Sloan explained that any Director may unilaterally request that an item be removed from the Consent Calendar for individual consideration apart from the Consent Calendar. She also noted that simple questions, clarifications, or short amounts of dialogue relative to an item on the Consent Calendar may be discussed after the motion to approve the Consent Calendar.

President Sloan asked if any Director intended to pull the recommendation. There being no interest in doing so, a motion to adopt the Consent Calendar was duly made by Ms. Barnes and seconded by Ms. Nicholson. Following discussion, the following motion was **approved** by a vote of 12 in favor, none opposed, and no abstentions.

**RESOLVED:** That items listed on the Consent Calendar attached as Exhibit A are hereby approved.

## 6. Action Item: Pete Sharkey Award

Ms. Verhoeven presented the Action Item of the Adult Tournament Committee to recommend changes to the Pete Sharkey Award and to move the restricted funds to a Money Market Account. She explained that the award was made possible by a contribution from the late Earl Cooper in honor of his good friend, the late Pete Sharkey, a former president of the Northern California Senior Tennis Association, avid player, and advocate of senior tennis. Mr. Cooper donated \$5,000 and USTA NorCal invested it in a Treasury Bond. The Bond matured last year and the money was deposited into NorCal’s Comerica account.

This proposal changes the annual Sharkey Award from one based on the interest earned to a specific amount, \$75, because a specific amount is a more consistent award each year. There may be some years where NorCal does not have any awardees, and other years where NorCal may have up to 3 or 4. The amount of \$75 was chosen because many tournament singles entry fees are between \$65 and \$70 and by awarding the recipient \$75, it would be the approximate equivalent of one entry fee.

It is also being recommended that the \$5,000 donation be moved to a Money Market account to help grow interest to keep the award going. Money Market funds are currently yielding roughly 5% interest as of late June 2024.

This proposal, as it relates to the transfer of the money to a Money Market Account, was submitted to the Budget & Finance Committee for review and it is in support of this proposal.

Following discussion, the following motion was duly made by Mr. Winn, seconded by Mr. Chaudhuri, and **approved** by a vote of 13 in favor, none opposed, and no abstentions.

**RESOLVED:** That effective immediately, the recipient(s) of the Pete Sharkey Award will receive \$75.

<p><b>Pete Sharkey Award</b>          Monetary award given annually to <del>a man</del> <b>one or more men</b>, aged 55 and over, who <del>has have</del> won <del>his their</del> first NorCal Age Group singles tournament in the preceding calendar year.</p> <p>Award amount is <del>\$75 per award recipient determined by the number of recipients and the amount in the bank account.</del></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Recipient must be current USTA member.</li> <li>• For tournament to qualify as a player’s first win, it must have at least 5 players in the draw.</li> <li>• Player must apply for the award by the end of the tournament season.</li> <li>• Player must be a man aged 55 and over who has won his first NorCal Age Group singles tournament in the preceding calendar year.</li> </ul>	<p><i>Objective determination made by staff following a review of the players and eligibility criteria.</i></p>
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**RESOLVED FURTHER:** That the \$5,000 in funds donated for the Pete Sharkey Award, originally received as a restricted donation, and currently sitting in the USTA NorCal Comerica account, be invested in an interest-bearing Schwab Money Market account.

**RESOLVED FURTHER:** That the 2025 Budget will include \$300 for awarding the Pete Sharkey Award, an amount that will be funded (in full or in part) by interest earned from the \$5,000 Pete Sharkey donation.

**7. Action Item: Approval of Diversity & Inclusion Scholarships**

Ms. Verhoeven presented the Action Item of the Diversity & Inclusion Committee to award college scholarships. The Committee’s recommended recipients were chosen based on criteria in place for many years, but that may not have been approved by the Board in the past. A copy of the criteria was included in the Board materials. She noted that one of the scholarships had no applications and the recommendation includes awarding two scholarships in a different category as funds are available and there was a worthy applicant.

Following discussion, the following motion was duly made by Ms. Ehrenfeld, seconded by Ms. Sheu, and **approved** by a vote of 12 in favor, none opposed, and no abstentions.

**WHEREAS:** No applications for the Althea Gibson Scholarship were received in 2024 and the Diversity & Inclusion Committee determined that there were two excellent candidates among those applications received for the Michael Chang Scholarship.

**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:** That the following individuals shall be the recipients of the 2024 Michael Chang Scholarship, each in the amount of \$8,000 which shall be awarded over four years in the amount of \$2,000 each year provided the students remain enrolled in school:

Vincent Huang  
 Marguerette Bui

**RESOLVED FURTHER:** That Nureyczi Gonzalez shall be the recipient of the 2024 Arthur Ashe Scholarship, in the amount of \$8,000 which shall be awarded over four years in the amount of \$2,000 each year provided the student remains enrolled in school.

**RESOLVED FURTHER:** That Farida Sadat shall be the recipient of the 2024 Pancho Gonzalez Scholarship, in the amount of \$8,000 which shall be awarded over four years in the amount of \$2,000 each year, provided the student remains enrolled in school.

**8. Action Item: Wheelchair Player Grant**

Ms. Verhoeven presented the Action Item of the Wheelchair Committee to create a grant program that will help fund players’ participation in tournaments, clinics, and exhibitions, both within and outside of our section. These new grants will help offset travel costs and ensure wheelchair tennis players in Northern California can receive the highest quality of tennis training at USTA wheelchair tournaments both in section and nationally.

This proposal was submitted to the Budget & Finance Committee for review and it is in support of this proposal.

Following discussion, the following motion was duly made by Ms. Norman, seconded by Ms. Barnes, and **approved** by a vote of 12 in favor, none opposed, and no abstentions.

**RESOLVED:** That, effective immediately, a \$5,000 be added to the Wheelchair budget to create a wheelchair tennis player grant program.

**RESOLVED FURTHER:** That guidelines for the grant include:

- the restriction that wheelchair tennis players may apply for one, \$500 player grant, per calendar year to help aid in tournament costs, travel, accommodations, and meals; and
- the requirement that grant recipients send a report on how the grant funds were used.

## 9. Delegated Authority Decision Report

President Sloan directed the Board's attention to the report of decisions made by Committees that were within the clearly defined scope of authority that the Board has delegated to the Committees in the applicable Committee Charters, a copy of which was distributed with the meeting packet. She noted that the report contains the following decisions:

- Consideration of 26 grievances filed with the Adult Leagues Grievance Committee
- Consideration of 1 grievance filed with the Adult Leagues Grievance Appeals Committee
- Consideration of 36 NTRP Self-Rate appeals filed with the NTRP Self-Rate Appeals Committee

President Sloan explained that if the Board disagrees with any action, it may consider taking further action as it deems appropriate. Following the presentation of the Report, the Directors had neither questions, comments, nor objections to the actions taken by the Committees.

## 10. USTA NorCal Strategic Plan Update

Ms. Verhoeven gave an overview of the NorCal Strategic Plan which was adopted in November 2022, and an update on several of the initiatives that were begun as part of the Strategic Plan:

- **Community Park Day (Tennis Party):** To date, four of these events have been hosted between August 2023 and May 2024. These are city-wide events at public parks that are fun, engaging tennis and non-tennis activities for junior and adult players of all ages and skill levels, while leveraging partnerships with parks and recreation agencies and providers within the community.
- **Youth Team Tennis Leagues:** This initiative to build a community-based and volunteer driven entry-level league for juniors of various ages is pending, based on the developing relationship between the USTA and RCX, a company that collaborates with premier sports brands to provide resources, training, and tools for youth sports.
- **Adult Social Play:** To lead the implementation of this initiative to create pop-up events and leagues on non-traditional surfaces such as parking lots, NorCal has hired a Community Program staff person. Red Ball Leagues, for all levels of player, will be included in the program.
- **Tennis Ambassador Program ("TAP 18+"):** This initiative has begun as a combined effort of both the League and Community Programs departments. The program recruits NorCal players to become Tennis Ambassadors and promote Social Play pilots, Tennis on Campus, Adult Leagues and Tournaments to their own networks to attract new, returning and existing players to participate.
- **Enhanced Get Connected Program:** NorCal has a dedicated staff person focusing on this program, a customer-focused service that helps connect new and returning players with our USTA NorCal staff who will facilitate with finding program opportunities for all.
- **NorCal E-Store:** The NorCal E-Store is in development and will be launched by the end of the year, currently projected for August 2024. It is intended to enhance brand visibility, customer engagements and generate additional revenue.
- **First League Free:** This program was launched in June 2023. It gives first-time Adult League players free registration for their first League. In 2023, there were 68 players received the benefit, and approximately 55 played another league (80% retention). Some of these players have gone on to participate in 4-6 additional leagues.
- **Free Agent List for Adult Leagues:** NorCal staff have launched a Free Agent List that publicizes the names of players who are looking for a League team.
- **New Player Webinars (Adult Leagues):** NorCal staff are hosting quarterly webinars to help educate new players on the league program.
- **Adult Red Ball Pilot:** Pilots are being organized by two NorCal organizations, with interest from four additional organizations, all under the guidance of the USTA. The pilots provide a fun adult social experience designed to bring in new players and have them playing within 10 minutes.
- **Social Nets - May 2024 National Tennis Month:** During National Tennis Month in May 2024, NorCal partnered with eight facilities throughout the section to host introductory and non-competitive tennis

socials utilizing cardio tennis. For introductory players, NorCal uses cardio tennis drills to get people playing and active.

It was also noted that three additional event-related initiatives, US Open Watch Party/MatchPint Event, Section Connection, and the She Rallies: Serve & Sip Summit were implemented successfully in September 2023, November 2023 and May 2024, respectively.

*Ms. Costamagna left the meeting following the presentation of the Strategic Plan.*

#### **11. New & Returning Organization Members**

Mr. Wenger presented the report of 2 new and 5 returning Organization Members since the last time the Board met on June 20, 2024, so that the Board may fulfill its obligation to review such report pursuant to USTA NorCal Bylaw III.D. He noted that there continues to be a decline in the number of Organization Members.

The Board went into close session to discuss the status of one of the Organization Members.

*Ms. Nicholson left the meeting during the closed session discussion related to New and Returning Organization Members.*

#### **12. Treasurer's Report**

As Ms. DeSchane was not in attendance at the meeting, Mr. Wenger provided an update in her absence. He directed the Board's attention to the financial statements distributed with the meeting packet.

- The cash/cash equivalents balance as of May 31, 2024 was \$5,171,812 as compared to the April 30, 2024 balance of \$5,304,790.
- Net income for the month of May 2024 was (\$55,535) versus the April 2024 balance of \$154,094.
- The income statement for April 2024 plus ROY Forecast was (\$219,890) as compared to the April 2024 plus ROY Forecast balance of (\$203,108)

#### **13. President's Report**

- Advocacy Task Force. Mr. Panconi has been appointed chair of a newly created Advocacy Task Force. The group will brainstorm on how to deal with loss of courts and programming losses - anything that is an advocacy effort. The group will discuss strategies and come up with a plan for action.
- NorCal Public Parks Tournament. President Sloan attended this event at Oak Park in Stockton. The 50+ entrants had a wonderful experience.
- Jessica Gonzales-Peralez. Jessica, a player from Elk Grove, has been given a wild card into the International Blind Tennis Association Tennis Championships in Italy. This is the first time a woman from the US has participated in this tournament.
- USTA Advisory Group on Committees. President Sloan had the opportunity to meet with this group, which is looking into having the USTA putting together task forces in the place of formal USTA committees, as well as the possibility of sunseting several committees, and reducing the size of the committees that remain.

#### **14. Executive Director's Report**

In addition to the NorCal program statistics and written report included in the meeting packet, Ms. Verhoeven's in-meeting presentation included the following:

- 2024 Section Connection in Fremont - November 2-3. Section Connection planning is underway, including the development of a preliminary schedule, and the planning committee is in the process of finalizing topics and speakers. The keynote speaker for the event will be Martin Blackman, the USTA General Manager of Player Development. Outreach to vendors is underway and recommendations for any businesses that may be a good fit should be sent to Becca Bauer, NorCal Senior Manager of Marketing.
- Player Development Summit. Martin Blackman will be joining NorCal staff and a group of coaches to provide an update on the status of Player Development. NorCal will use this opportunity to get feedback from our coaches on how to enhance our coaching community and their vision for the future of Player Development.
- Safe Play Procedures. In October 2023, the USTA retained the law firm of Debevoise & Plimpton LLP to conduct an independent review of its policies and procedures for preventing, reporting, and responding to reports of abuse, including sexual misconduct, and to make recommendations to the USTA. The full findings of that review, without modifications or omissions, has been made available to the Sections. NorCal is

currently reviewing its existing procedures and making necessary adjustments to align with these recommendations.

NorCal staff is currently working with national staff on the logistics of implementing a Safe Play education program in partnership with various junior tournaments. The goal is to encourage as many parents as possible to complete the new Safe Sport Parent education course found on the USTA website. NorCal staff will host a table at the selected tournaments to discuss the importance of Safe Play and coordinate the various incentives provided by NorCal and National for parents who come to the table to learn more.

- Operations & Strategy. NorCal is beginning the vetting process to fill the open positions for a Junior Competition Coordinator and the Officials Specialist position.

Ms. Verhoeven asked the Directors to review her written report for other important information, including important events happening during the next several months.

#### **15. Delegate's Report**

Mr. Scalese reported there are no call items for the meetings in New York. There were no other issues to be reported as the national delegate meeting was cancelled in July.

#### **16. Adjournment**

Prior to adjourning, members shared the following:

- Ms. Norman announced that both of the NorCal juniors whose names were submitted into nomination for the Bill Talbert Sportsmanship Award were selected - Karan Raghavendra and Natasha Rajaram.
- Mr. Panconi reported he participated in the NJTL/DEI Camp at UC Davis, which was a wonderful experience for the players.

Following the announcement that the next meeting will be on Wednesday, August 17, 2024. With no objection, the meeting was adjourned at 8:27 pm.

Respectfully submitted,  
Andrea Norman, Secretary

This document contains all committee recommendations made (or not included) since the previous board meeting on June 20, 2024.

## **Adult Tournament Committee**

- 1. Amendment to NorCal Endorsement Criteria for NTRP National Championships.** Approved at the June 25, 2024, meeting by a vote of 8 in favor, 0 opposed, and 0 abstentions.

**RESOLVED:** That effective immediately, the following amendments to Endorsement Criteria for the NTRP National Championships be approved (stricken-through language is proposed to be deleted; underlined language is proposed addition).

### **HOW TO QUALIFY FOR THE NTRP NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS FROM THE NORTHERN CALIFORNIA SECTION**

#### **Divisions:**

- 18 & Over Men's & Women's 2.5, 3.0, 3.5, 4.0, 4.5, 5.0, 5.5 Singles/Doubles/Mixed
- 40 & Over Men's & Women's 3.0, 3.5, 4.0, 4.5, 5.0 Singles/Doubles
- 55 & Over Men's & Women's 3.0, 3.5, 4.0, 4.5, 5.0 Singles/Doubles

**Northern California's Quota:** Northern California's quota is 2 players in each singles division, and 2 teams in each doubles division. Players for the 2 quota spots will be selected using the following criteria:

#### **Selection Criteria**

Qualifying events:

- For the 18 & Over 2.5, 3.0, 3.5, 4.0, 4.5, 5.0, 5.5 Singles/Doubles/Mixed divisions - USTA NorCal will host a Grand Prix tournament
- For the 40 & Over and 55 & Over (all divisions) - A NorCal Qualifying event will be held.

**Spot #1:** The **Champion** of the Grand Prix or NorCal Qualifying event will receive NorCal's endorsement to the 2024 NTRP National Championships. The 2nd place finisher will be the #1 alternate. The 3<sup>rd</sup> place finisher will be the #2 alternate and the 4<sup>th</sup> place finisher will be alternate #3. If a draw is not possible due to lack of entries, or if the champion and all three alternates cannot participate, Spot #1 will be filled using the same criteria as spot #2.

- \* Doubles players qualify **as a team**. If one player from the team cannot go to the NTRP National Championship, the spot will go to the team in 2<sup>nd</sup> place, followed by the 3<sup>rd</sup> and then 4<sup>th</sup> place. If a draw is not possible due to lack of entries, or if the champion and all three alternates cannot participate, spot #1 will be filled using the same criteria as spot #2.

**NOTE: If a qualifying event is not held, both spots will be selected using criteria for spot #2**

**Spot #2:** The **highest ranked NorCal player on the last published National Standings List prior to entries closing** will be selected into the 2024 NTRP National Championships. If the top player already received the endorsement as champion of the Grand Prix, the spot will go to the player in 2<sup>nd</sup> position.

**Important:** Players must have played at least one (1) tournament in the NorCal section

~~\* For Doubles, the spot will go to the registered **individual** who is the highest ranked NorCal player on the NSL prior to entries closing. They will be able to choose their partner. However, the partner **MUST** also be on the standings list for the same division.~~

~~\* For Mixed doubles players, the spot will go to the NorCal player who has the largest number of ranking points on the NSL prior to entries closing. They will be able to choose their partner. However, the partner **MUST** also be on the standings list for the same division. If a tie exists between the male and female player, the players will be asked to designate their partner—the team with the higher number of points will be endorsed~~

\* For Doubles, the team with the best combined ranking, using the NTRP Individual Doubles National Standings List, will be selected. For example, if Player A is ranked #1/Player B is Ranked #74 and Player C is ranked #5/Player D is ranked #10 then Player C/D will be selected first because their combined NSL ranking is 15 as opposed to Player A/B which has a combined NSL ranking of 75.

\* For Mixed Doubles, the team with the best combined ranking, using the NTRP Mixed Doubles National Standings Lists, will also be listed using the NSL from the Men's and Women's Mixed Doubles lists. If a tie exists, the team with the highest ranked player will be selected

**NTRP Rating Validation (important changes):**

- Players will use their most CURRENT year-end rating, valid in the year of the NTRP National Championship. Players will NOT be allowed to play below their CURRENT level. If a player qualifies for spot #1 or spot #2, but is moved up a rating level, they will be able to participate at the NTRP National Championship at their NEW level. Their spot at the prior level will be given to the player next in line. (see criteria above)
- Self-rated players are not eligible to participate.

**Rationale:** The amendments are made to clarify that these endorsement criteria will be in place until further amendments are needed. In addition, the changes in the divisions offered are in concordance with divisions offered at the NTRP National Championships

- 2. Increase in Level 7: One-Day Tournament Maximum Entry Fee.** Approved at a meeting held April 23, 2024, by a vote of 8 in favor, 0 opposed, and 0 abstentions. Craig Pasqua recused himself from voting because he is a tournament director.

**RESOLVED:** That, effective with tournaments held in 2025, USTA NorCal Adult Tournament Regulation 29.a. be amended as follows to increase the maximum entry fee for singles from \$40 to \$50 and to increase the maximum entry fee for doubles from \$30 to \$40 (underlined language is proposed addition, stricken-through language is proposed to be deleted).

**29. Level 7: One-Day Tournaments.**

Maximum Entry Fee. The maximum entry fee for a one-day tournament shall be ~~\$30~~ \$40.00 per player in doubles and \$50.00 per player in singles.

**Rationale:** Increasing the maximum entry fee that an organization can charge will help offset the increased costs of running a tournament due to inflation and improve player experience. *(This item was already partially approved at the Board Meeting in May. However, the increase for doubles was not noted)*

## Adult League Committee

- 1. (NorCal LLAR) Match Tiebreak in Lieu of a Third Set.** Approved at a meeting held on June 24, 2024, by a vote of 4 in favor, 2 opposed and no abstentions.

**RESOLVED:** That, effective with the 2025 League season the (NorCal LLAR) Match Tiebreak in Lieu of a Third Set is amended as follows (Stricken-through language is the proposed deletion and underlined language is the proposed addition):

**(NorCal LLAR) Match Tiebreak In Lieu of a Third Set.**

1. A third set match tiebreak is mandatory under the following conditions:
  - a) when mandated by the host facility
  - b) when an individual match starts play with 2 hours or less of available court time (e.g., facility closing, another match scheduled on the courts, daylight, etc.)
2. When a match tiebreak is not mandatory, ~~the home team decides whether to play a full third set or a match tiebreak and must notify the opponent at the beginning of the match. If no decision is made at the beginning of the match, the match format shall be the best of three tiebreak sets with a match tiebreak in lieu of the third set. a match tiebreak will be played unless both players/teams agree to play a full third set at the beginning of the match.~~
3. The home team shall decide which tiebreak format will be used and must notify the opponent at the beginning of the match (note: the Coman tiebreak is the recommended format). If no decision is made at the beginning of the match, the tiebreak format will default to the Coman tiebreak.

**Rationale:** Playing a match tie-break for the 3<sup>rd</sup> set is currently the typical format used. The National Regulations recommend it and NorCal uses it at all Championships. This clarification will help to reduce confusion as players will know it will be a match tie-break unless both players/teams agree to play a full third set at the beginning of the match.

2. **Procedure for Creating a Split Flight.** Approved at a meeting held on June 24, 2024, by a vote of 6 in favor, none opposed and no abstentions.

**RESOLVED:** That, effective with the 2025 League season, areas of 11 teams will be flighted as one flight.

**Rationale:** A 6-team flight has a 4-team playoff. A 5-team flight has a 2-team playoff. Depending on which flight a team gets put into, their odds of making playoffs (assuming each team has an equal chance of making playoffs) are different if they are put into the 6-team flight or the 5-team flight. Splitting at 12 makes both flights have 4-team playoffs. An 11-team single flight (the maximum size under this proposal) would mean that each team plays every other team in the flight for a total of 10 matches.

In addition, it extends the ability to work within our existing playoff structure. In 2023, the Adult 18 4.0 level had 20 teams in the DS area. This resulted in a 10-10 flight split. If we had had one more team (21 total), it would have been split into 3-flights thus needing an extra round of playoffs and thus complicating the scheduling (currently the playoff schedule allows for a maximum of three rounds).

3. **(NorCal LLAR) Withdrawal from Sectionals.** Approved at a meeting held on June 24, 2024, by a vote of 6 in favor, none opposed and no abstentions.

**RESOLVED:** That, effective with the 2025 League season, the (NorCal LLAR) Withdrawal from Sectionals rule be amended as follows (Stricken-through language is the proposed deletion and underlined language is the proposed addition).

**(NorCal LLAR) Withdrawal from Sectionals.** ~~A team must notify the USTA NorCal office of their withdrawal no later than 24 hours after securing a position in that event.~~ Qualifying teams must register for the Sectional Championships by the published deadlines, otherwise USTA NorCal will attempt to find an alternate by:

- 1) inviting the teams in the flight ~~the withdrawing team advanced out of~~ in order of record;
- 2) If none of those teams are able to attend, USTA NorCal will randomly contact a finalist of another flight. Registration fees will not be refunded after the deadline. A grievance may be filed against a team withdrawing after the Sectional registration deadline.

**Rationale:** Currently, all teams must register and pay to play in Sectionals through the on-line system. Adding language stating that qualifying teams must register for the Sectional Championships by the published deadlines clarifies the process. Under the current rule, teams must notify the USTA NorCal office of their withdrawal no later than 24 hours after securing a position in that event, however a number of teams are not following the rule and Staff has needed to contact the captains (sometimes multiple times) regarding their playing status in Sectionals. Specifying that the teams must register on-line makes it clear that if the teams do not register timely, Staff will reach out to the next alternate to play. Also, adding a refund rule makes it clear of when a withdrawing team would be entitled a refund.

4. **(NorCal LLAR) Other Match Scoring and Formats.** Approved at a meeting held on June 24, 2024, by a vote of 7 in favor, none opposed and no abstentions.

**RESOLVED:** That, effective with the 2025 League season, new (NorCal LLAR) Other Match Scoring and Formats rule be added follows (Stricken-through language is the proposed deletion and underlined language is the proposed addition).

**(NorCal LLAR) Alternate Match and Scoring Formats.** If both captains agree and notify USTA NorCal by email in advance to leagues@norcal.usta.com, the following format may be used: two short sets with a 7-point Set Tiebreak at 4-games all with a 10-Point Match Tiebreak in lieu of the 3rd set. No-Ad scoring can be used with any of the scoring methods. Once a scoring format has been agreed to, the match must be played to completion using the agreed upon format.

When the short set format is used, scores must be reported to leagues@norcal.usta.com by 11:59 PM on the day following the match, except that if a match is played on the last day of the local league season, the scores must be reported no later than 11:59 PM on the day the match is played. USTA NorCal League Staff will enter the scores in the system using the USTA League Approved Conversion Charts.

**Rationale:** Allowing approved alternative scoring formats that teams can use if the captains agree will give teams more opportunities to complete matches that they are having trouble completing due to reasons such as inclement weather, air quality, court availability, etc. Regardless of approval, Staff will make the heat index chart, air quality index chart, and the USTA League Approved Conversion Charts easier to locate on the NorCal website.

5. **(NorCal LLAR) Reporting Score.** Approved at a meeting held on June 24, 2024, by a vote of 7 in favor, none opposed and no abstentions.

**RESOLVED:** That, effective with the 2025 League season, the (NorCal LLAR) Reporting Scores rule be amended as follows (Stricken-through language is the proposed deletion and underlined language is the proposed addition).

**(NorCal LLAR) Reporting Scores.** Both captains have a duty to report scores to the USTA NorCal website by 11:59 PM on the day ~~after the end of the local league season or by 11:59 PM the day after the completion of a team match for matches played prior to the last day of the local league season~~ following the match, except that if a match is played on the last day of the local league season, the scores must be reported no later than 11:59 PM on the day the match is played. Either captain shall enter the scores. The opposing captain must verify online scores by 11:59 PM the day after scores are entered; if not verified by then, the scores will be auto-verified. Failure by either captain to report scores by the above stated deadline may result in a warning for both captains on the first offense and a grievance for further offenses.

**Rationale:** All match scores must be entered into the system before playoff matches can be generated. This requirement will improve the turnaround time of generating the playoff rounds and reduce the Staff time in resolving match issues at the end of the season.

6. **Adult 65 9.0 Team Waivers Request to attend the Adult 65 National Invitational in 2025.** Approved by unanimous written consent as of July 8, 2024, by a vote of 8 in favor, none opposed and no abstentions.

**RESOLVED:** That NorCal approves waivers to be submitted to National for MCINNIS PK 65AM9.0A and TIBURON PEN C 65AW9.0A for the Adult 65 Invationals hosted in early 2025.

**Rationale:** MCINNIS PK 65AM9.0A and TIBURON PEN C 65AW9.0A were the only teams registered for their league in their respective divisions. National allows Sections that are unable to hold divisions due to lack of registrations to submit a waiver to advance directly to the Invitational event. Since MCINNIS PK 65AM9.0A and ALPINE HILLS 65AW9.0A are the only teams that registered in their respective divisions, a waiver request is deemed appropriate to give them an opportunity to participate in the Invitational. Ultimately, National will have the final decision on whether the waivers are approved and teams are accepted into the event.

7. **Alternative Format Options for Lower Participating Leagues.** Approved by unanimous written consent as of July 8, 2024 by a vote of 8 in favor, none opposed and no abstentions.

**RESOLVED:** That, effective immediately, the following alternative League format option for leagues with lower participation:

For lower participating leagues, as determined by USTA NoCal staff, USTA NorCal may provide local league play for a lower participating league on two dedicated weekends as follows:

- Weekend #1: each team will play up to four matches (two on Saturday, two on Sunday).
- Weekend #2: each team will play up to an additional four matches.

All matches will be held at a designated location for each weekend that will be announced in advance. Depending on the number of teams, either the top 2 or top 4 will advance to a playoff to be held during Sectionals. The winning team will represent USTA NorCal at the 2025 Mixed 55 Nationals.

**Rationale:** Teams prefer a local league season advancing to a Sectionals event. However, for leagues with lower participation, the distribution of players and teams makes it difficult to have a viable local league. Teams don't want to play the same opponent ten times. This proposal allows for creation of teams in any area, all matches are played at designated locations, each team can play 8 matches against different opponents. We believe this concept might inspire more participation of 4.5/5.0 players in this age group.

Similar to local league, there will be no staff or officials at these weekends (unless weekend #2 is at Sectionals). The teams will be informed of the date/time/location/opponent and are expected to play. LACs, if interested and available, would be welcome to be onsite.

To get this program started, USTA NorCal will cover the facility fees initially with the plan of building in the facility fees into the league fee for these types of events as this format grows traction. There are currently funds in the budget to support 1 to 2 events in 2024. To run this type of event, it is anticipated that 6 courts are needed from 9:00 am to 7:00 pm over two weekends. Staff researched court costs and the cost would be between \$1700 (Fremont Tennis Center) and \$3,400 (Goldman Tennis Center).