

## Team Tournament Changes for 2019

Attention NorCal Parents!

The safety of our young players is a moral imperative and every organization, tournament, and program delivering tennis to youth must take an active role in fostering a healthy and safe environment. Federal law requires the U.S. Center for SafeSport (the Center), and the United States Olympic Committee similarly mandates through its Bylaws, that all national governing bodies of sport adopt policies and procedures to prevent abuse of any minor athlete. As the National Governing Body of Tennis, the USTA has taken the steps to be compliant with these laws.

As a result, as of January 1, 2019, USTA Northern California is no longer providing supervision for players by coaches or manager/chaperones at any of the following events:

- 14, 16 Zone Team Championships
- 14, 16 Intersectional Team Championships
- Boys, Girls 18 National Team Championships
- Maze Cup
- Pacific Cup

The section will continue to select teams and hire coaches to represent USTA NorCal; however, with this new federal law, USTA NorCal coaches will not be supervising players at any time while off court. If your player is selected on a team, a parent/legal guardian must be present.

If a parent/legal guardian is not able to attend and their player needs to travel with another guardian, this is not permitted unless otherwise agreed to by the minor athlete's parent/legal guardian's written consent in advance of EACH competition. A consent form will be provided to all players selected on a team and must be completed and sent to the USTA NorCal Office prior to the event.

Parents/legal guardians are required to facilitate all logistical arrangements for their child to participate.

While we understand this is a significant change in our team tournament structure, we hope this notice provides enough time to prepare for this year's scheduled team events.

If you have any questions, please email Beth Workeneh (Player Development Specialist) at [workeneh@norcal.usta.com](mailto:workeneh@norcal.usta.com) or Summer Verhoeven (Manager of Junior Play) at [sverhoeven@norcal.usta.com](mailto:sverhoeven@norcal.usta.com).