



Minutes of the USTA NorCal Adult Tournament Committee Meeting Tuesday, January 24, 2023

NOTE: *The resolutions in these minutes were approved by USTA NorCal Board of Directors on February 15, 2023. These minutes were approved by the Committee on March 28, 2023.*

Luis Reis, chair of the Adult Tournament Committee ("ATC" or "Committee"), called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm and a roll call was conducted. The meeting was held by Google Meet video conference.

Committee Members Present: Luis Reis (chair), Leslie Airola, Chris Aria, Darrin Cohen, Steve Cornell, Mark Fairchild, Mariko Fritz-Krockow, Brian Martinez, Andie Mouzes, Marina Wills

USTA NorCal Staff Present: Michelle Wilson, Joanna Broda-Schunck

1. Approval of December 7, 2022 Minutes. The Committee reviewed the draft of the minutes of the meeting held December 7, 2022.

The Committee considered approval of the minutes of the meeting held December 7, 2022. The following motion was duly made by Leslie Airola, seconded by Mariko Fritz-Krockow, and **approved** by a vote of 9 in favor, 0 opposed, and 0 abstentions:

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the ATC meeting held December 7, 2022 be approved as presented.

2. Approval of January 11, 2023 Minutes. The Committee reviewed the draft of the minutes of the meeting held January 11, 2023.

The Committee considered approval of the minutes of the meeting held January 11, 2023. The following motion was duly made by Marina Wills, seconded by Mariko Fritz-Krockow, and **approved** by a vote of 9 in favor, 0 opposed, and 0 abstentions:

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the ATC meeting held January 11, 2023 be approved as presented.

7:10 Mark Fairchild joined the meeting during the approval of the minutes

3. Staff Updates

- The staff informed the Committee members that all action items from both previous meetings were approved by the Board of Directors.
- Staff updated the Committee members on the ongoing process of endorsements for the NTRP National Championship. They were informed that some players USTA NorCal wanted to endorse were not eligible due to lack of current ranking points.
- Staff informed the Committee members that per conversation with National all open tournaments count now towards the National Top 500 List
- Staff informed the Committee that the New/Returning Tournament Director survey was sent out to previous tournament directors but unfortunately, so far there were no responses. A suggestion was made by Leslie Airola to send the list of past tournament directors to the committee members, so they can reach out and urge the tennis directors to give answers.

4. Adult Tournament Stipends

At 7:19pm, due to a potential conflict of interest, the following members left the meeting for the duration of the discussion: Luis Reis, Mark Fairchilds, Brian Martinez.

The motion to move into a closed session was made by Marina Wills, seconded by Mariko Fritz-Krockow, and **approved** by a vote of 7 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstentions, and 3 recusals. Committee Members who recused themselves: Luis Reis, Mark Fairchilds, and Brian Martinez.

At 7:20 the Committee went into a closed session

A. Open Tournaments – Gold Stipends

In closed session, the remaining committee members reviewed and discussed the applications presented from Tournament Directors requesting Gold stipends for Open Tournaments. When the Committee came out of closed session, the approved resolutions were authorized to be reported as part of the minutes of the meeting.

Following discussion, the following motion was made by Leslie Airola, seconded by Darrin Cohen and approved by a vote of 7 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstentions, and 3 recusals. Committee Members who recused themselves: Luis Reis, Mark Fairchilds, and Brian Martinez.

RESOLVED: that the 2023 Gold stipends (\$5,000) be awarded to the following organizations:

- Johnson Ranch Sports Club
- Chamisal Tennis and Fitness Club. Chamisal would receive the stipend under the stipulation that they would adjust the dates to a 3-day event and add mixed doubles division.

Rationale: These selections were made based on the Adult Tournament Stipend Criteria with the consideration of geographic distribution.

B. Open Tournaments – Silver Stipends

In closed session, the remaining committee members reviewed and discussed the applications presented from Tournament Directors requesting Silver stipends for Open Tournaments. When the Committee came out of closed session, the approved resolutions were authorized to be reported as part of the minutes of the meeting.

Following discussion, the following motion was made by Steven Cornell, seconded by Mariko Fritz-Krockow and approved by a vote of 7 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstentions, and 3 recusals. Committee Members who recused themselves: Luis Reis, Mark Fairchilds, and Brian Martinez.

RESOLVED: that the 2023 Silver stipends (\$2,500) be awarded to the following organizations:

- Moraga Country Club
- Mountain View Tennis Academy

Rationale: These selections were made based on the Adult Tournament Stipend Criteria with the consideration of geographic distribution.

C. Open Tournaments – Bronze Stipends

In closed session, the remaining committee members reviewed and discussed the applications presented from Tournament Directors requesting Bronze stipends for Open Tournaments. When the Committee came out of closed session, the approved resolutions were authorized to be reported as part of the minutes of the meeting.

Following discussion, the following motion was made by Darrin Cohen, seconded by Steven Cornell and approved by a vote of 7 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstentions, and 3 recusals. Committee Members who recused themselves: Luis Reis, Mark Fairchilds, and Brian Martinez.

RESOLVED: that the 2023 Bronze stipends (\$1,000) be awarded to the following organizations:

- Laguna Creek Sports Club
- Rollingwood YMCA
- Sutter Lawn Tennis Club

Rationale: These selections were made based on the Adult Tournament Stipend Criteria.

D. Age Division Tournaments – NTRP Bronze Stipends

In closed session, the remaining committee members reviewed and discussed the applications presented from Tournament Directors requesting bronze stipends for Age Division NTRP Tournaments. When the Committee came out of closed session, the approved resolutions were authorized to be reported as part of the minutes of the meeting.

Following discussion, the following motion was made by Marina Wills, seconded by Leslie Airola and approved by a vote of 7 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstentions, and 3 recusals. Committee Members who recused themselves: Luis Reis, Mark Fairchilds, and Brian Martinez.

RESOLVED: that the 2023 Bronze stipends (\$500) for Age Division NTRP Tournaments be awarded to the following organizations:

- Chamisal Tennis and Fitness Club

Rationale: These selections were made based on the Adult Tournament Stipend Criteria

At this time the motion to come out of the closed session was made by Marina Will, seconded by Leslie Airola, and **approved** by a vote of 7 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstentions, and 3 recusals Committee Members who recused themselves: Luis Reis, Mark Fairchilds, and Brian Martinez. The Committee came out of the closed session at 8:47pm

9:00 Luis Reis, Brian Martinez, and Mark Fairchilds joined the meeting

5. Tournament Level Criteria and Open tournament levels

The discussion on the criteria for levels of Age tournaments has been tabled. Staff informed the committee members that the Open tournaments will be assigned levels following the current criteria, which is based on prize money.

6. WTT 5.0 Pilot tournament

Staff presented the plan to run a pilot World Team Tennis tournament at the NTRP 5.0 level, with the possibility of adding more divisions depending on court availability. It was noted that team events were already planned into the current budget. The tournament is currently planned for the weekend April 1-2, 2023. Some Committee members had questions about the format and draw limits which were addressed by staff.

9:05 Andie Mouzes left the meeting during the presentation of the WTT pilot event

After a discussion about the WTT event, the following motion was duly made by Mariko Fritz-Krockow, seconded by Leslie Airola, and **approved** by a vote of 9 in favor, 0 opposed, and 0 abstentions:

RESOLVED: That USTA NorCal staff will run a Level 6 NTRP 18+ 5.0 World Team Tennis sanctioned tournament as a Pilot on April 1-2, 2023, at a site yet to be determined and the NorCal staff has the discretion to add additional divisions.

Rationale: This pilot tournament at the 18+ 5.0 NTRP level is aimed at increasing play opportunities for the higher-level players. It is also hoped that offering team events may increase league player participation in tournaments.

7. Bay Area Senior Games

Staff informed the Committee that USTA NorCal will run the Bay Area Senior Games for Tennis. The Senior Games are a legacy of the 2009 Summer National Senior Games in the San Francisco Bay Area. The Senior Games is a tournament for players 50-85 and is planned for April 28-30 at the Rinconada Tennis Courts. Some Committee members have questions about the format and draw limits which were addressed by staff.

After a discussion about the Bay Area Senior Games, the following motion was duly made by Steve Cornel, seconded by Marina Wills, and **approved** by a vote of 9 in favor, 0 opposed, and 0 abstentions:

RESOLVED: That USTA NorCal staff will run the tennis events at the Bay Area Senior Games tennis events, as an Adult Age Group Tournament (level to be determined at a later date) at the Rinconada Tennis Courts on April 28-30, 2023.

Rationale: The Bay Area Senior Games have a long-standing tradition. USTA NorCal partners with this organization in order for tennis to be included in the Games.

9:20 Mark Fairchild left the meeting during the presentation of the Bay Area Senior Games tournament

8. Maximum Entry Fee for 1-Day tournaments

A proposed amendment to the rule regarding the maximum fee for 1-day, level 7, tournaments was presented to the Committee members. It was explained that the price has not changed in many years, and that due to inflation and increased cost of hosting tournaments, tournament directors should be allowed to charge \$5 more for singles. The doubles price will remain the same.

Following discussion, the following motion was duly made by Leslie Airola, seconded by Mariko Fritz-Krockow, and **approved** by a vote of 8 in favor, none opposed, and no abstentions:

RESOLVED: That, effective immediately, for all previously-sanctioned, but not yet held Adult Level 7 One-Day Tournaments, and all future Adult Level 7 One-Day Tournaments, USTA NorCal Adult Tournament Rule 28.a. is hereby amended as set forth below to increase the maximum entry fee for Level 7 One-Day Tournaments by \$5.00 (stricken through language is proposed to be deleted; underlined language is proposed to be added):

28. Level 7: One-Day Tournaments. Below are special provisions for one-day singles and/or doubles tournaments. Except as provided below, these tournaments shall comply with all other Adult Tournament Rules and Sanction Rules:

- a. *Maximum Entry Fee.* The maximum entry fee for a one-day tournament shall be \$30 per player in doubles and ~~\$35~~ \$40.00 per player in singles.
- b. *Multiple Flights Permitted.* [unchanged]
- c. *Cancellation of a One Day Tournament.* [unchanged]

Rationale: NorCal has not made changes to the singles entry fee for a long time. Increasing the maximum singles entry fee that an organization can charge will help offset the increased costs of running a tournament due to inflation.

9. Adult Open and Age Group Tournaments Seeding Rules and Coordinators

Proposed amendment to the verbiage of the "Adult Open and Age Group Tournaments Seeding Rules and Coordinators" was presented to the Committee members. It was explained that the Grand Prix Points Race List does not exist anymore and the National Standings List is used in its place.

Following discussion, which included the suggestion of looking more in detail at the rules, the following motion was duly made by Mariko Fritz-Krockow, seconded by Marina Wills, and **approved** by a vote of 8 in favor, none opposed, and no abstentions:

RESOLVED: That, effective immediately, USTA NorCal Adult Tournament Rule 9 is hereby amended as set forth below to formally incorporate separate policies related to seeding into the Rules. Included in this amendment is a conforming change to correctly replace reference to the obsolete Grand Prix Points Race Lists with the National Standings List for the Adult Open and Age Group Divisions (stricken through language is proposed to be deleted; underlined language is proposed to be added):

9. Seeding.

a. Adult Open and Adult Age Group Divisions.

i. When Seeding Coordinators Available. USTA NorCal will appoint Seeding Coordinators to seed events in the Adult Open and Adult NTRP Divisions. When Seeding Coordinators are available, the Seeding Coordinators will use the All Factors Method of seeding as described in USTA Regulation II.A.4.b. Among the information that will be considered are head-to-head records, indirect wins and losses, national rankings, sectional rankings, Universal Tennis Ratings (UTR) and any additional information available. (See Adult Open and Age Group Tournament Seeding Rules and Coordinators: <https://www.usta.com/content/dam/usta/sections/northern-california/norcal/pdfs/tournamentdirectors/Adult%20Open-Senior-Tournament-Seeding-Rules-USTA-NorCal-Seeding-Coordinators.pdf>)

ii. When Seeding Coordinators Not Designated or Available. If a Seeding Coordinator in a Division is not designated or available, the Tournament Committee will seed the event using the most currently available National Standings List of the Division. Singles National Standings Lists will be used for singles events; Individual Doubles National Standings Lists will be used for doubles events; and Individual Mixed Doubles National Standings Lists will be used for mixed doubles.

iii. Special Instructions for Doubles and Mixed Doubles When Seeding Coordinators Not Available. Teams will be seeded in the order of their combined ranking using the most recently published Individual Doubles or Individual Mixed Doubles National Standings List. For example, if Partner A holds the #1 ranking and Partner B holds the #10 ranking, the Team of A&B would have a combined ranking of 11.

Teams that have the same combined ranking shall be seeded in the order of the total number of ranking points held by each team.

If one partner does not have a ranking, for the purposes of calculating the combined ranking, the unranked player shall be assigned a rank that is equivalent to one lower than the lowest ranked player on the National Standings List. For example, if Partner C holds the #1 ranking, Partner D does not have a ranking, and the National Standings List has a total of 100 players on the list, Partner D is assigned a ranking of 101 and Team C&D have a combined ranking of 102.

b. Adult NTRP Divisions. Please refer to the USTA Adult and Family Tournament, Ranking & Sanctioning Regulations for the seeding rules.

Rule 9.b. Comment. The USTA Adult and Family Tournament, Ranking & Sanctioning Regulations require Adult NTRP Divisions to be seeded as follows:

The Computerized List Method of seeding as described in USTA Regulation II.A.4.a. will be used to seed as follows:

- Singles events. Seeding will be done using the most recently published singles National Standings List of the Division.
- Doubles events. Seeding will be done by using the most recently published doubles National Standing List of the Division. Teams will be seeded in the order of their combined standings (For example, Player A holds the #1 standing and Player B holds

the #10 standing. The Team of A&B would have the combined standing of 11). If there is a tie, the team with the player that has the highest doubles standing on the list must be seeded in the higher position. If a player has no standing, for the purpose of determining the combined standing, this player will be assigned a standing one lower than the last player on the doubles National Standing List.

- c. Family Divisions. Please refer to the USTA Adult and Family Tournament, Ranking & Sanctioning Regulations for the seeding rules.

Rule 9.c. Comment. The USTA Adult and Family Tournament, Ranking & Sanctioning Regulations require Family Divisions to be seeded as follows:
The All Factors Method of seeding as described in USTA Regulation II.A.4.b. will be used to seed.

Rationale: The amendment formally incorporates separate and previously Board-approved policies related to seeding into the Rules. Included in this amendment is a conforming change to correctly replace reference to the obsolete Grand Prix Points Race Lists with the National Standings List for the Adult Open and Age Group Divisions

The Adult Tournament Committee meeting was adjourned at 9:22pm