

NOTE: *These minutes were approved by the committee on May 16, 2023 and are the final version. The USTA NorCal Board reviewed and voted on the Committee Recommendations included in these minutes at its meeting on May 17, 2023*

Luis Reis chair of the Adult Tournament Committee, called the meeting to order at 7:09pm and roll call was conducted. The meeting was held by Google Meet video conference.

Committee Members Present: Luis Reis (Chair), Mark Fairchilds (Vice Chair), Christopher Aria, Darrin Cohen, Steven Cornell, Mariko Fritz-Krockow, Andie Mouzes, Wendell Pierce, Marina Wills

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

Guests Present: n/a

1. Approval of Minutes. The Committee considered approval of the minutes of the meeting held January 24, 2023. The following motion was duly made by Mariko Fritz-Krockow, seconded by Marina Wills and approved by a vote of 8 in favor, 0 opposed, and 0 abstentions:

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the Adult Tournament Committee meeting held January 24, 2023 be approved as presented

2. Staff Report

- Item 1: Joanna Broda-Schunck reported that the WTT pilot tournament needed to be postponed due to the fact that Serve Tennis currently does not support Team tournaments in the NTRP category
- Item 2: Joanna Broda-Schunck reported the process of endorsements for the NTRP National Championships, the challenges that happened and the resolution of the issues
- Item 3: Joanna Broda-Schunck reported on the current effort regarding promotion of tournaments: banner for Senior Games, Marketing working on email reminder about tournaments closing registration, email promotion of tournaments
- Item 4: Michelle Wilson reported the discussions held during the Annual Meeting in Arizona, including the numbers of tournaments held in NorCal. As of 2/28/2023 there were only 4 adult tournaments held in NorCal. This is mostly due to it being winter months and many tournaments being rained out.
- Item 5: Michelle Wilson reported on the National Tournament Director workshop organized by National and the plans to hold Tournament Director workshop in the NorCal section as well
- Item 6: Michelle Wilson reported on the updated Adult and Family Tournament Regulations and on the procedure to suggest changes for 2024

3. **Open/Age Group Series Budget Increase.** Mark Fairchilds informed the committee about previous discussions relating to the Open and Age Group Series stipends intended to grow the number of those tournaments and

participation. Mark Fairchilds motioned to request from the Budget Committee to approve the increase the budget for the Open and Age Series by \$16,250 to total at \$46,750. This increase would include

- 2 additional Open Gold stipends (\$5,000 each)
- 1 additional Open Silver stipend (\$2,500)
- 1 additional Age Group Gold stipend (\$2,500)
- 1 additional Age Group Silver stipend (\$1,250)

The motioned was seconded by Wendell Pierce.

During the discussion a suggestion was made to amend the motion to make 1 Open Gold stipend go towards the Grand Prix, as the finale of the Open Series.

7:34 Steve Cornell joined the meeting during the discussion

Following discussion, the following motion was approved by a vote of 8 in favor, 0 opposed, and 0 abstentions and 1 recusal (Mark Fairchilds).

RESOLVED: That the following Adult Tournament Stipends be approved to be added for 2023

Open:

Two (2) GOLD Open Tournament (Level 4) (\$5,000) (1 Gold Open stipend would be assigned to the Grand Prix)
One (1) SILVER Open Tournament (Level 5) (\$2,500)

Age Group:

One (1) Gold stipend (Level 5) (\$2,500)
One (1) Silver stipend (Level 5) (\$1,250)

It is being requested that a total of \$16,250 be added to the 2023 Adult Leagues budget to award these stipends.

Rationale: With this action item the Adult Tournament Committee is adding additional stipends to the Adult Open and Age Tournaments Stipend Program that was originally approved by the Board of Director on [May 18, 2022](#). Currently there are 2 Open Tournament Stipend Gold: \$5,000, 2 Open Tournament Stipend Silver: \$2,500, Age Tournament Gold Stipend - \$2,500, and 2 Age Tournament Silver Stipends: 2 - \$1,250. The additional stipends would serve to create an Open and Age group Series culminating at Grand Prix. The stipends are to go towards prize money and thus attract players to participate. The one stipend going towards the Grand Prix would serve the purpose of adding Prize Money to the Open Grand Prix event

4. Conforming Rule Changes.

Following discussion, a straw vote was taken and unanimously approved to accept the conforming changes to the rules #29, #27, and #34 as follows (underlined language is proposed to be added; stricken through language is proposed to be deleted:

29. **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 \$40 per player in singles.
 - b. *Multiple Flights Permitted.* The tournament may hold more than one flight per division. For example, instead of holding one draw in a division with 16 entries, a tournament may hold 2 draws in

a division of 8 entries each. Teams should be waterfalls by rank into flights (see example below). If no ranking information is available, teams are drawn to flights by lot.

Waterfall Example: If 16 players, ranked 1-16 are entered, players 1, 3, 5, 7, 9, 11, 13, and 15 are waterfalls into one flight and players 2, 4, 6, 8, 10, 12, 14, and 16 are waterfalls into the other flight.

c. Cancellation of a One Day Tournament. The Tournament Committee shall not make the decision to cancel all matches for the remainder of the day until at least 12 Noon of the day in question. In the case of inclement weather, no earlier than two days before the tournament start date, the tournament may contact the USTA NorCal Adult Tournament Coordinator to request a waiver to the cancellation of tournaments rule. Waivers will be determined on a case by case basis.

Rationale: The amendments to the rule regarding the cancellation of a One Day Tournament is being made to make the rule consistent with the cancellation rule for all other tournaments. The Sanctioning Agreement gives the NorCal staff the authority to approve an earlier cancellation of a tournament in the case of inclement weather and hazardous conditions.

27. Minimum Age Requirement to Play in NTRP Tournaments. ~~Players must have reached the age of 18 by the first day of the tournament.~~

~~a. Minimum age of 18 required for Adult NTRP Divisions and 18 & Over Adult NTRP Divisions.~~

~~A player, if otherwise eligible, may enter if the player will reach the age of 18 by the first day of the month during which any event in the tournament is scheduled to start.~~

~~b. 40 & Over Adult NTRP Division and 55 & Over Adult NTRP Division with minimum age restriction.~~

~~A player, if otherwise eligible, may enter if the player will reach the minimum age by December 31 of the year during which the division is scheduled to start.~~

Rationale: Conforming change due to changes in National regulations

~~34. Adult Open Top 500 Ranking List Designations. Each year, 4 NorCal Men's and Women's Tournaments are designated to count toward the USTA National Top 500 List. These lists are used for selection into ITF World Tour events when the lists of players who have an ATP, WTA, or ITF World Tour Ranking have been exhausted. The 4 NorCal Men's and Women's Open Tournaments will be designated to count toward the National Top 500 list based on the following criteria:~~

- ~~Level of the players in the draws for the previous year's tournament~~
- ~~Size of the draws from the previous year's tournament~~
- ~~Tournaments should offer all Men's and Women's Open Events.~~

34. Top 500 National Singles Ranking Category

~~Please refer to the USTA Adult and Family Tournament, Ranking & Sanctioning Regulations for the Top 500 National Singles Ranking Category.~~

Rationale: Conforming change due to changes in National regulations

New rule from National:

X. TOP 500 NATIONAL SINGLES RANKING CATEGORY

For so long as the ITF permits the USTA to fill vacancies in draws of USTA Pro Circuit Events the USTA shall issue rankings in the Men's and Women's Top 500 categories to players who meet the eligibility requirements of USTA Regulation VIII.D. Details of the Top 500 list including calculation and publish dates can be found at www.playerdevelopment.usta.com/Top500

5. Amendments to Rule #8 – Tournament Levels.

The current criteria in the NorCal regulations are not entirely the same as in the National regulations. Updating them to conform with the national regulations gives the tournament directors more options.

Following discussion, the following motion was duly made by Marina Wills, seconded by Andie Mouzes, and approved by a vote of 9 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstentions, and 0 recusals:

RESOLVED: That effective immediately, USTA NorCal Adult Tournament Rule #8 is amended to read as follows (underlined language is proposed to be added; stricken through language is proposed to be deleted).

8. **Tournament Levels.** The levels in the chart are sanctioned by USTA NorCal. Please refer to the USTA Adult and Family Tournament, Ranking & Sanctioning Regulations for a description of all tournament levels.

Tournament Levels

Closed Level 4

Age Group, Adult Open, NTRP (up to 2)

Event Notes:

5 Day Maximum
Limited to NorCal residents

Closed Level 4 Tournaments:

Age Group Division:

- Grand Prix

Open Division:

- Grand Prix

- Cal State Qualifier

NTRP Division:

- Grand Prix

- NTRP National Qualifying Tournament

Draw Format:

- One or more round robins
- Multiple round robins with playoff
- Compass draw
- Feed-in Championship
- First Match Consolation
- Team format
- Voluntary Sign-up for Consolation
- Single Elimination if approved in advance by USTA NorCal.

Match Format (no-ad scoring may be used):

- Best of 3 tiebreak sets;
- Best of 3 tiebreak sets with a 10-Point Match Tiebreak played in lieu of the 3rd set.
- Best of 3 short sets (with a 5-Point Short Set Tiebreak played at 3-games all)
- 8-game pro set with a 7-Point Tiebreak at 8 games all

Open Level 4

Age Group, Adult Open, NTRP, Family

<p><u>Event Notes:</u> 5 Day Maximum</p> <p><u>Open Level 4 Tournaments:</u></p> <p>Age Group Division: 4-5 Day Tournaments</p> <p>*Criteria: Number of players from previous year's tournament. Player Experience Enhancements. Player Evaluations</p> <p>Open Division: NorCal Open Tournaments that count toward the National Top 500 List</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Tournaments with Total Prize Money of \$5,000 or above with Adult Tournament Committee approval at the time the tournament is approved online <p>NTRP Division:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - NTRP Gold Cup Series Tournaments <p>Family Division: 4-5 Day Tournaments</p>	<p>Draw Format:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · One or more round robins · Multiple round robins with playoff · Compass draw · <u>Feed-in Championship</u> · First Match Consolation · <u>Team format</u> · Voluntary Sign-up for Consolation · Single Elimination if approved in advance by USTA NorCal. 	<p>Match Format (no-ad scoring may be used):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Best of 3 tiebreak sets; · Best of 3 tiebreak sets with a 10-Point Match Tiebreak played in lieu of the 3rd set. · Best of 3 short sets (with a 5-Point Short Set Tiebreak played at 3-games all) · 8-game pro set with a 7-Point Tiebreak at 8 games all
<p>Open Level 5</p> <p>Age Division, Adult Open, NTRP, Family</p> <p><u>Event Notes:</u> 5 Day Maximum</p> <p><u>Open Level 5 Tournaments:</u></p> <p>Age Group Division: 4-5 Day Tournaments</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Team Tournaments <p>Open Division:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Tournaments with Total Prize Money of \$2000 - \$4999 at the time the tournament is approved online - Team Tournaments <p>NTRP Division:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Tournaments of the Year - Team Tournaments <p>Family Division: 4-5 Day Tournaments</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Team Tournaments 	<p>Draw Format:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · One or more round robins · Multiple round robins with playoff · Compass draw · <u>Feed-in Championship</u> · First Match Consolation · <u>Team format</u> · Voluntary Sign-up for Consolation · Single Elimination if approved in advance by USTA NorCal. 	<p>Match Format (no-ad scoring may be used):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Best of 3 tiebreak sets; · Best of 3 tiebreak sets with a 10-Point Match Tiebreak played in lieu of the 3rd set. · Best of 3 short sets (with a 5-Point Short Set Tiebreak played at 3-games all) · 8-game pro set with a 7-Point Tiebreak at 8 games all
<p>Open Level 6</p> <p>Age Group, Adult Open, NTRP, Family</p>		

Event Notes:

2-3 Day Event

2 Match Minimum

Draw Format:

- One or more round robins
- Multiple round robins with playoff
- Compass draw
- Feed-in Championship
- First Match Consolation
- Team format
- Voluntary Sign-up for Consolation
 - Single Elimination if approved in advance by USTA NorCal

Match Format:

- Best of 3 tiebreak sets with a 10-Point Match Tiebreak played in lieu of the 3rd set.
- Best of 3 short sets (with a 5-Point Short Set Tiebreak played at 3-games all)
- Best of 3 short sets with a 7-Point Match Tiebreak played in lieu of the 3rd set (a 5-Point Short Set Tiebreak played at 3 games all)
- 8-game pro set with a 7-Point Tiebreak at 8 games all
- One 6-game set with a 7-Point Tiebreak at 6 games all
- One short set with a 5-Point Short Set Tiebreak at 3 games

Open Level 7 – One Day Tournaments

Age Group, Adult Open, NTRP, Family

Recommended for Players who want to play a one day tournament

Event Notes:

1 Day Event

2 Match Minimum

Maximum number of matches will be determined by the scheduling guidelines in the Friend at Court.

Draw Format:

- One or more round robins
- Multiple round robins with playoff
- Compass draw
- Feed-in Championship
- First Match Consolation
- Team format
- Voluntary Sign-up for Consolation
 - Single Elimination if approved in advance by USTA NorCal

Match Format:

- Best of 3 short sets with a 7-Point Match Tiebreak played in lieu of the 3rd set (a 5-Point Short Set Tiebreak played at 3 games all)
- 8-game pro set with a 7-Point Tiebreak at 8 games all
- One 6-game set with a 7-Point Tiebreak at 6 games all
- One short set with a 5-Point Short Set Tiebreak at 3 games
- Timed matches (game format) of 20 minutes or longer

Rationale: Conforming with National Regulations and giving tournament directors more options. The amendments are being made to the Tournament Levels rule to give tournament directors more options when hosting their events and to conform with the National Regulations. National has made changes to the regulations to allow tournament directors more flexibility when hosting tournaments. NorCal agrees with the changes that were made and are now applying them to the NorCal rules.

6. Grand Prix Rule.

Staff updated the Committee on the plans of hosting the 2023 Grand Prix. While discussing the Grand Prix, the number of 2023 sanctioned tournaments in NTRP, Age Group and Open divisions were discussed. It was also brought up that the current rule requires USTA NorCal to host Grand Prix for the NTRP, Age Group and Open Divisions and does not give NorCal flexibility on what divisions would be held. One of the other concerns is there are not many tournaments for certain divisions.

Following discussion, the following motion was duly made by Marina Wills, seconded by Mark Fairchilds, and approved by a vote of 9 in favor, 0 opposed, and 0 abstentions:

RESOLVED: That effective immediately, USTA NorCal Adult Tournament Rules # 35 is amended to read as follows (underlined language is proposed to be added; stricken through language is proposed to be deleted).

35. Grand Prix Tournaments.

a. Grand Prix Tournaments Held. Grand Prix Tournaments shall be held in all Adult Open, Age Group, and the NTRP 18+ divisions for which there are two or more eligible entrants. A Grand Prix Tournament in the Family division shall only be held if authorized by USTA NorCal. may be held also in the Open, Age Group and Family division, if approved by USTA NorCal.

b. Minimum Tournament Participation Requirement for Grand Prix Tournaments. The minimum tournament participation requirement for Grand Prix Tournaments is one tournament in the respective division during the Grand Prix season. Doubles teams do not have to play together as a team to meet the minimum requirement; doubles players can play with different partners than they are entered with in a NTRP Grand Prix Tournament, but each must meet the minimum tournament participation requirement.

c. Selection for Grand Prix Tournaments. The National Standings Lists shall be used to select players and teams into the Grand Prix Tournaments from among the players and teams that have entered. The individual National Standings Lists will be used for doubles. The following maximum number of entrants, who have met the residency requirements (if applicable), who have met the minimum participation requirements (if applicable), and who are otherwise eligible to play, shall be selected:

- i. Adult Open (except Men's Open Singles Division), Adult 30, and Age Group Divisions. If held, 8 entries per division
- ii. Men's Open Singles Division. If held, 16 entries
- iii. Family Divisions. If held, no limit to the number of entries per division.
- iv. NTRP 18+ Divisions. 8 entries per division.

Rationale:

The amendment would give NorCal the option of hosting Grand Prix for the Age Group and Open Division instead of requiring it. While staff and the Committee agrees that it would be good to host a Grand Prix and are working towards that, there needs to be enough tournaments on the schedule for players to play to have a program that includes Grand Prix. Staff and the ATC plans on hosting an NTRP 18+ and Open Grand Prix for 2023 but cannot justify at this time to host an NTRP 40+, NTRP 50+, Age Group, or Family Grand Prix this year as there are currently four or less tournaments in each of these divisions on the schedule. For these divisions, staff is focusing their efforts on trying to sanction more tournaments with these divisions for 2023 and into 2024. Grand Prix is supposed to be the year-end event that players are excited to qualify for and play. In order to make that happen, there needs to be enough tournaments for players to play leading up to Grand Prix so that players can qualify.

7. Player Selection Method.

Staff informed the ATC of the new National Adult & Family Tournament Regulations that give the Sections the option to choose the method for player selection for the Open, NTRP, Age and Family tournaments. The choice is between a) by National Standing List or b) by rating. Another option is to give the choice to tournament directors. During

discussion, the Committee was made aware that while NorCal has been informed that this National Regulation passed on March 15, National has not released updated regulations yet.

Following discussion, 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 effective with Tournaments opening their registration May 1, 2023, pending the National rules being publicized, USTA NorCal Adult Tournament Rules # 9 is amended to read as follows (underlined language is proposed to be added; stricken through language is proposed to be deleted).

9. Limited Draw Tournaments. Tournament Directors may choose whether the National Standings List or player rating will be used as the method of player selection, provided they specify the method on the tournament website before player registration opens. Please refer to the USTA Adult and Family Tournament, Ranking & Sanctioning Regulations for player selection rules for limited draw tournaments.

Rationale:

National has recently amended the National Rules to give section the option to determine the method of player selection into tournaments. The section can also defer the choice to the tournament directors. With this rule amendment, NorCal will be allowing the tournament directors the option to determine the method of player selection into tournaments. The tournament directors have a vision for their tournament and they may prefer to use one or the other method of player selection based on the goal of the tournament. Not choosing one method of player selection for all tournaments, gives also the opportunity for a different set of players to qualify for the tournaments.

8. Adult Tournament Stipend Criteria 2024 – subcommittee

During the previous committee meeting, when discussing the adult tournament stipends, the need for a revision of the criteria was brought up. It was suggested to create a subcommittee to work on the criteria for 2024. The volunteers for the subcommittee are:

Christopher Aria, Mariko Fritz-Krockow, Andie Mouzes, Marina Wills

It was decided that Joanna Broda-Schunck will reach out to the members of the subcommittee to arrange a meeting. The subcommittee will present the new criteria during the next Adult Tournament Committee meeting.

9. Grand Prix Rule – Open Series participation requirement.

During the Question-and-Answer part, the discussion returned to the Grand Prix rule and how players qualify for the event. The suggestion was made to require Open players to have participated in a tournament in the Open Series (a recipient of a Gold, Silver or Bronze stipend).

Following discussion, the following motion was duly made by Mark Fairchilds, seconded by Steven Cornell, and approved by a vote of 9 in favor, 0 opposed, and 0 abstentions:

RESOLVED: That effective immediately, USTA NorCal Adult Tournament Rules # 35 b is amended to read as follows (underlined language is proposed to be added; stricken through language is proposed to be deleted).

35. Grand Prix Tournaments.

b. Minimum Tournament Participation Requirement for Grand Prix Tournaments. The minimum tournament participation requirement for Grand Prix Tournaments is one tournament in the respective division during the Grand Prix season. Doubles teams do not have to play together as a team to meet the minimum requirement; doubles players can play with different partners than they are entered with in a NTRP Grand Prix Tournament, but each must meet the minimum tournament participation requirement. Open players need to have participated in at least one tournament in the Open Series (a recipient of a Gold, Silver, or Bronze stipend).

Rationale:

The amendment would ensure that the Grand Prix in the Open division is a “finale” to the Open Series

10. Old Business. n/a

11. New Business. n/a

There being no further issues or discussion to come before the Committee, the meeting was adjourned at 9:38pm.