

NOTE: *The resolutions in these minutes were approved by USTA NorCal Board of Directors on July 19, 2023.
These minutes were approved by the Committee on August 29, 2023.*

Luis Reis, the chair of the Adult Tournament Committee, called the meeting to order at 8:03 pm and roll call was conducted. The meeting was held by Google Meet video conference.

Committee Members Present: Luis Reis (Chair), Mark Fairchild (Vice-Chair), Leslie Airola-Murveit, Darrin Cohen, Steven Cornell, Marina Wills, Wendell Pierce

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 June 6th, 2023. Joanna Broda-Schunck remarked that there is an error in the Minutes listing the wrong amount for the Age Group Silver stipend. The correct amount is \$1,250. After the correction was made, the following motion was duly made by Leslie Airola-Murveit, seconded by Marina Wills, and approved by a vote of 6 in favor, 0 abstentions, and 0 recusals.

RESOLVED: That the amended minutes of the Adult Tournament Committee meeting held June 6th, 2023 be approved.

2. Staff updates:
 - Joanna Broda-Schunck reported on the progress going forward with the WTN tournament in Sleepy Hollow. During the discussion a question was raised about how to increase the importance of WTN.
 - Joanna Broda-Schunck reported on the conversations regarding the acceptance of stipends:
 - Goldman Tennis Center had to refuse the stipend due to the inability to add doubles events
 - Events Managers will reschedule the previously cancelled tournaments
 - Waiting for sanctioning applications from Alpine Hills
 - Joanna Broda-Schunck informed the Committee about the current primary bidding period for sanctioning tournaments
 - Joanna Broda-Schunck reported the current situation regarding the organization of the North-South tournament
 - Joanna Broda-Schunck informed the Committee about the upcoming in-person meeting with Section staff in Chicago and requested committee members to email questions

1. 2024 NTRP National Championship Endorsements

USTA National recently provided eligibility criteria and guidelines regarding the 2024 NTRP National Championships. Joanna Broda-Schunck explained these guidelines to the ATC and presented the suggested endorsement criteria for qualifying players to take part in the Championships. These guidelines included the rating validation and the change that players, if "bumped up" in ratings, will have to participate at the current rating. Another change included the player selection based on the most recent National Standings List rather than the Final Ranking List, and the doubles selection process of giving the spot to the individual with the highest ranking.

Mark Fairchild joined during the discussion at 8:43pm

Following discussion, the following motion was duly made by Marina Wills, seconded by Leslie Airola-Murveit, and **approved** by a vote of 7 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstentions, and 0 recusals.

RESOLVED: That the following criteria will be in place for players to qualify for the 2024 NTRP National Championship:

HOW TO QUALIFY FOR THE 2024 NTRP NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS FROM

THE NORTHERN CALIFORNIA SECTION

Divisions:

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

Northern California's quota for 2024:

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 3.0, 3.5, 4.0, 4.5, 5.0 Singles/Doubles/Mixed divisions – USTA NorCal will host a Grand Prix tournament

For the 18 & Over 2.5 Singles/Doubles divisions and the 40 & Over and 55 & Over (all divisions) – A NorCal Qualifying event will be held.

Spot #1

- 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 3rd place finisher will be the #2 alternate and the 4th 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 2nd place, followed by the 3rd and then 4th 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

- 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 2nd 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.*

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 championship at their NEW level. Their spot at the prior level will be given to the player next in line. (see criteria above)*
- *Self-rates are not eligible to participate.*

Rationale:

NorCal has traditionally offered a qualifying event for the National Championships, for this reason the Champion of the Grand Prix and/or the NorCal Qualifier will still earn the "Golden Ticket" to the National Championship. The second spot given to NorCal will be reserved for the player with the highest ranking on the National Standings List as of entries closing. This offers the spot to the player that, while participating in other events, including at least one (1) tournament in the NorCal section, was potentially not able to participate in the qualifying event. This also allows players to work throughout the year on qualifying, rather than depend only on one event. This conforms with changes introduced by USTA National to the eligibility criteria.

2. 2024 NTRP Circuit Proposal

USTA National informed Sections about a possibility of creating a NTRP Circuit with Sections being able to host a limited number of Level 2 and Level 3 NTRP tournaments. This is only a preliminary idea and National is requesting feedback from Sections to discuss at the in-person meeting in Chicago. Joanna Broda-Schunck explained that quota potentially given to NorCal and explained that new criteria would be needed to award Level 2s, 3s, 4s, and 5s. The committee felt this is a good idea. The criteria to award level 2, 3, 4 or 5 will be discussed once National approves the NTRP circuit.

3. Feedback regarding change to seeding rule for NTRP tournaments

In the previous meeting it was mentioned that in accordance with the current National Adult & Family Tournament regulations, Sections have the option to allow tournament directors to seed NTRP players by rating (WTN or NTRP). Joanna Broda-Schunck requested feedback regarding this possibility. The suggestion was made to bring the proposal for a rule change to the next meeting. However, if the rule is approved, the committee would like to make it effective January 1st 2024

There being no further issues or discussion to come before the Committee, the meeting was adjourned at 9:11pm.