

NOTE: *These minutes were approved by the committee on June 25, 2024 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 15, 2024.*

Luis Reis, chair of the Adult Tournament Committee, called the meeting to order at 8:01pm and roll call was conducted. The meeting was held by Google Meet video conference.

Committee Members Present: Luis Reis (Chair), Mark Fairchilds (Vice Chair), Leslie Airola-Murveit, Steven Cornell, Mariko Fritz-Krockow, Andie Mouzes, Wendell Pierce, Marina Wills, Darren Cohen, Craig Pasqua

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

Guests Present: n/a

8:02 Steven Cornell and Andie Mouzes joined the meeting

1. Approval of Minutes. The Committee considered approval of the minutes of the meeting held March 5, 2024. The following motion was duly made by Steven Cornell, seconded by Wendell Pierce and **approved** by a vote of 9 in favor, 0 opposed, and 0 abstentions:

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the Adult Tournament Committee meeting held March 5, 2023 be approved as presented.

2. Staff Report

- Item 1: Joanna Broda-Schunck restated the items passed by unanimous written consent:
 - Approval of awarding #2 ranked player in the 55+ men's 3.5 singles division, due to the fact that the #1 player was in fact a 4.0 player and earned the #1 position by participating in the 2023 NTRP national Championships at the lower level (exception removed since 2024)
Michelle Wilson explained that the Executive Committee decided that in case of the #1 player ineligibility due to rating, the #2 player should be considered and instructed the committee to revise the award criteria for future. Michelle Wilson also informed that one more player in the same situation has been discovered and awarded.
 - Approval stipend application by Operation Pride for a 55+ NTRTP tournament
- Item 2: Joanna Broda-Schunck reported to the Committee the success of the Women's Day tournament

3. Issue #1 Amendment to NorCal Regulations for tournament draw formats

During the preparation for the Women's Day tournament staff learned that a draw format on one or more Round Robins without playoffs is not permitted per USTA Adult & Family Tournament, Ranking & Sanctioning Regulations. For this reason, the proposal was made to remove this format from NorCal Regulation #8

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

RESOLVED: That effective immediately the following amendments to the Draw Formats permitted in the NorCal Regulations are approved (underlined language is proposed addition, crossed out language is proposed to be removed).

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 Round Robin~~
- Multiple round robins with playoff
- Compass draw
- Feed-in Championship
- First Match Consolation
- Team format
- Voluntary Sign-up 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

Event Notes:

5 Day Maximum

Open Level 4 Tournaments:

Age Group Division:

***Criteria:** Number of players from previous year's tournament. Player Experience Enhancements.

Player Evaluations

Open Division:

- Tournaments with Total Prize Money of \$5,000 or above with Adult Tournament Committee approval at the time the tournament is approved online

NTRP Division:

- NTRP Gold Cup Series Tournaments

Draw Format:

- One or more round robins Round Robin
- Multiple round robins with playoff
- Compass draw
- Feed-in Championship
- First Match Consolation
- Team format
- Voluntary Sign-up 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 5

Age Group, Adult Open, NTRP, Family

Event Notes:

5 Day Maximum

Open Level 5 Tournaments:

Age Group Division:

- Team Tournaments

Open Division:

- Tournaments with Total Prize Money of \$2000 - \$4999 at the time the tournament is approved online

- Team Tournaments

NTRP Division:

- Tournaments of the Year
- Team Tournaments

Family Division:

- Team Tournaments

Draw Format:

- One or more round robins Round Robin
- Multiple round robins with playoff
- Compass draw
- Feed-in Championship
- First Match Consolation
- Team format
- Voluntary Sign-up 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 6

Age Group, Adult Open, NTRP, Family

Event Notes:

2-3 Day Event

Draw Format:

- One or more round robins Round Robin
- Multiple round robins with playoff
- Compass draw
- Feed-in Championship
- First Match Consolation
- Team format
- Voluntary Sign-up 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 Round Robin
- Multiple round robins with playoff
- Compass draw
- Feed-in Championship
- First Match Consolation
- Team format
- Voluntary Sign-up 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

Being tied to the same National regulation, the Norcal Regulation #29 was brought up as containing the special provision for Level 7 one day tournaments to allow for split draws (point 29.b). This is now not a special provision and is allowed for First Match Loser Consolation, Voluntary Consolation and Single elimination draws in all levels.

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

RESOLVED: That effective immediately the Regulation 29.b Level 7: One Day Tournaments be amended as follows (underlined language is proposed addition, crossed out language is proposed to be removed).

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 \$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 waterfalld 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 waterfalld into one flight and players 2, 4, 6, 8, 10, 12, 14, and 16 are waterfalld into the other flight.

Rationale: Per the 2024 Adult Tournament and Family Regulations, the draw format of more than one Round Robin without a playoff is not allowed and there are no ranking point tables for that option. For this reason, this needs to be removed from the current NorCal Adult Tournament Regulations. Split draws in First Match Loser Consolation and Single Elimination draws are permitted at all levels

The Committee also discussed the benefits of a draw format of one or more round robin vs Round Robin into Playoffs and First Match Loser Consolation. The committee agreed that this format is beneficial both to tournament directors (less court time needed) and to players (more guaranteed match play).

After a discussion, the following motion was duly made by Marina Wills, seconded by Leslie Airola-Murveit, and **approved** by a vote of 9 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstentions

RESOLVED: That the following proposal to the USTA Adult & Family Tournament, Ranking & Sanctioning Regulations for 2025 be submitted. (underlined language is proposed addition, crossed out language is proposed to be removed).

Regulation VII.D.3.c

c. Separating event into multiple draws. Events may be separated into multiple draws to the extent permitted in Regulation VII.A.3.c except that the Round Robin format is also permitted

VII.A.3.c:

c. Separating event into multiple draws. An event may be separated into more than one draw. Players must be flighted using either the National Standings List or a rating. If a rating is used, refer to Regulation VII.A.5.a.iv.A for doubles teams. The only draw formats that may be used are the following: Round Robin with a Playoff, First Match Consolation, Single Elimination, or Voluntary Sign-up Consolation.

Rationale:

In a one-day tournament, when the match format of 1 set is used, having a round robin with playoffs limits the number of players that can be accepted into one singles division to maximum 12 (4 groups of 3 into semi-finals and finals). With the FMLC format, the maximum number would be 16 players, as there is a limit of maximum 4 singles matches per day. While FMLC can have a split draw and therefore more players can be accepted, most of the players will have a maximum of 2 matches. With one set matches, 2 matches may seem not enough for many players, and they may be disappointed. It is often the case that one division has more players registered than others. If an organization has enough courts, it would be beneficial to both the players and the organization to be able to accept more players into that division. In addition, having round robin into playoffs format makes for a much longer day which may limit the possibility for organizations to run these types of events. Example: A facility has

court available only half day. If they can run multiple round robins they can give the players multiple matches.

This regulation was already in place in 2020 and it was successful.

In Junior tournaments events may be waterfalld into multiple draws so that more than 16 players can be accepted per event.

4. Issue #2 – Maximum Entry Fee for 1-Day tournaments

8. Maximum Entry Fee for 1-Day tournaments

It was brough to the attention of the Committee that Tournament Directors of Level 7 tournaments requested a raise to the maximum price for level 7 tournaments. With the rising cost of living, they would ask the Committee to raise the maximum price for Level 7 tournaments to \$50 for singles and \$40 for doubles

Following discussion, the following motion was duly made by Wendell Pierce, seconded by Steven Cornell, and **approved** by a vote of 8 in favor, none opposed, and 1 abstention (Craig Pasqua):

RESOLVED: That, effective in 2025, USTA NorCal Adult Tournament regulation 28 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.

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

Rationale: Increasing the maximum singles entry fee that an organization can charge will help offset the increased costs of running a tournament due to inflation and improve player experience

5. Issue #3 – Women’s Intersectionals Player Selection Criteria. On March 19, 2024 the subcommittee consisting of Mariko Fritz-Krockow, Leslie Airola-Murveit, and Steven Cornell met with staff and discussed further the criteria and procedures for player selection into the Women’s Intersectional Team. The subcommittee agreed that the criteria would be effective for year 2025 giving the players time to adjust and plan accordingly.

Following a discussion the following motion was duly made by Marina Wills, seconded by Craig Pasqua, and **approved** by a vote of 7 in favor, none opposed, and 2 abstentions (Leslie Airola-Murveit & Mariko Fritz-Krockow):

RESOLVED: That, effective in 2025, the following criteria and procedures for player selection

Women’s Intersectionals Player Selection Criteria & Procedures

1. An overall team captain is selected by the Adult Tournament Committee and approved by the President of USTA NorCal.
2. The overall team captain appoints the individual team captains.
3. A application page will be established on the NorCal website so all NorCal players have the opportunity to be considered. The application deadline shall be June 15th.
Players may apply for the teams.
4. After the application period ends the teams will be selected by the Player Selection Committee. The Committee will be made up of the Chair of the Adult Tournament Committee, the individual Age Group Captains, and the Staff Liaison. Once selections have been made, players will be notified by email regarding the status of their selection. The committee will finalize team selection within one month after the application period ends.

Players must play at least one (1) USTA sanctioned Tournament in the NorCal section* within 12 months prior to the application deadline in order to be eligible for this event.

*Any type, any level, and any division is accepted

Selection Criteria is based on the "all factors method", which includes the following:

- Head-to-head records
- Indirect wins and losses
- Rankings
- Ratings (NTRP, WTN)
- Any additional information available over a 12-month period (including sportsmanship)

Wildcard

The Intersectionals Selection Committee may give one wildcard per age division to accommodate a player who has not met the player selection criteria. To receive a wildcard, a player must be a Northern California resident and a member of the USTA. Wildcards will be awarded at the discretion of the Selection Committee.

1. In the event that there are not enough eligible players to field a team from the players that enter online, selected players that have not met the one tournament requirement will have until September 16 to play a tournament.
2. Late entries can be accepted but will be placed on the alternates list in the order received and will be placed below alternates that registered on time and met the selection criteria.

Player Code of Conduct:

1. Good sportsmanship is expected
2. Players need to be available for all matches (except due to injury)
3. Players and captains need to play at least one (1) match during the event in order to receive the stipend (\$200)
4. All players shall be guaranteed to play at least 1 match

Rationale: Having specific player selection criteria and application process will give the event more visibility and transparency. It will also clarify for players what they may expect as well as what is expected of them when representing NorCal.

6. Issue #4 – Gold Cup and Tournament of the Year requirements and application process.

Currently Gold Cup and Tournament of the Year designations are awarded to tournament solely based on Survey results. This means that smaller tournaments may be awarded the prestigious designation but not be able to offer the event to all divisions or many players. Having criteria for these events will help tournament directors know what is expected of the event.

In addition, currently the designation is awarded and the organization may refuse it. Based on different requirements for Level 6, 5 or 4 tournaments (among others player selection method), some organizations may prefer to run a level 6 rather than a level 5 or 4. It is suggested to add the question into the sanctioning application form, of whether the organization would like to have a level 5 or 4 tournament with the provision that if sanctioned but not awarded level 5 or 4, the tournament would be a level 6.

9:00 Wendell Pierce left the meeting during the discussion

After a discussion, the following motion was duly made by Marina Wills, seconded by Andie Mouzes, and **approved** by a vote of 7 in favor, 0 opposed, 1 abstention (Craig Pasqua)

RESOLVED: That effective for tournaments starting 2025 the following amendments to the Regulation #32 NTRP Gold Cup Series Tournament Designation and #33 NTRP Tournament of the Year Designations in the NorCal Regulations be approved (underlined language is proposed addition, crossed out language is proposed to be removed).

Part A. Criteria for Gold Cup (Level 4 tournaments) designation

32. Each year, up to 6 NTRP tournaments, in different regions, would be designated as a Level 4 Open: NTRP Gold Cup Series Tournament. Tournaments that meet the following criteria may apply for this designation:

1. Offer all divisions qualifying towards the NTRP National Championships:
For 18+ 2.5-5.5 Singles, Doubles, Mixed
For 40+ or 55+ 3.0-5.0 Singles, Doubles
2. Draw limits no smaller than 16 for singles, 8 for doubles
3. Offer 3rd place playoff
4. Offer Player Gifts

Among the applicants those meeting the criteria below shall be considered first for Gold Cup Series designation:

- The tournament needs to be multiple days
- The tournament needs to have received an evaluation score higher than 90% (4.5)
- A minimum of 15% of the total participants must have completed a player evaluation;
- The tournament has complied with all applicable USTA NorCal sanction and tournament rules.

Player results in all divisions shall receive Level 4 ranking points in accordance with the USTA Adult and Family Tournament, Ranking & Sanctioning Regulations. All champions of NTRP Gold Cup Series Tournaments shall receive a special piece of USTA NorCal logo wear or other item commemorating their win.

Part B. Criteria for Tournament of the Year (Level 5 tournaments) designation

33. Each year, up to 6 NTRP tournaments, in different regions, would be designated as a Level 5 Open: Tournament of the Year Tournament.

Tournaments that meet the following criteria may apply for this designation:

1. Offer all divisions qualifying towards the NTRP National Championships:
For 18+ 2.5-5.5 Singles, Doubles, Mixed
For 40+ or 55+ 3.0-5.0 Singles, Doubles
2. Draw limits no smaller than 16 for singles, 8 for doubles

NTRP Tournaments of the Year (TOY) are those tournaments that, after NTRP Gold Cup Series Tournaments have been designated, receive the highest average rating by participants. Tournaments that meet the following minimum criteria shall be considered first for events to be designated as TOY:

- The tournament needs to be multiple days
- The tournament needs to have received an evaluation score higher than 80% (4.0)
- A minimum of 15% of the total participants must have completed a player evaluation;
- The tournament has complied with all applicable USTA NorCal sanction and tournament rules.

Player results in all divisions shall receive Level 5 ranking points in accordance with the USTA Adult and Family Tournament, Ranking & Sanctioning Regulations.

Rationale: The current regulation gives the committee the ability to award the designations without considering that the tournament may not want to have a level 5 or 4 (for example due to different

player selection options). These criteria also make sure that the tournament is large enough and all divisions are offered.

7. Issue #5 – Division hosted at the 2024 Adult Grand Prix

The 2024 Adult Grand Prix is scheduled to be held September 20-22 at Laguna Creek Sports Club (rain out dates being November 8-10). The current regulations say that the "Grand Prix Tournaments shall be held in the NTRP 18+ divisions for which there are two or more eligible entrants. A Grand Prix Tournament may be held also in the Open, Age Group and Family division, if approved by USTA NorCal." In the previous year the Grand Prix included the Open category but not the Age Group because it was considered that there were not enough Age Group tournaments to lead to a season finale.

Age Group:

In 2023 there were 8 Age Group tournaments, including 4 National Level 3 events. 3 of them took place after the Grand Prix and 2 (National) were hosted by the same organization at the same time and consisted of different age divisions. Currently for 2024 there are 10 Age Group tournaments scheduled, including 4 National tournaments (2 are hosted by the same organization at the same time and consist of different age divisions). 1 tournament looks likely to be canceled

Open Tournaments:

In 2023 there were 8 Open tournaments, not including the Grand Prix, nor 1 that was canceled. In 2024 there are currently 11 Open tournaments on the Calendar, not including one that was canceled earlier this year. 4 of these tournaments are after the Grand Prix.

In the 2023 Adult Grand Prix there were 3 participants in total, all in the men's singles division.

It was proposed for the 2024 Adult Grand Prix to continue with the same divisions as 2023:

NTRP 18+ 2.5 – 5.0 Men's and Women's Singles, Doubles, Mixed

Open Men's Singles, Doubles and Mixed

It was also proposed to request from the Budget Committee to approve the prize money of \$5,000 for the 2024 Adult Grand Prix Open, in order to make it a level 4 tournament and thus also have the option to have it a closed tournament for NorCal Players only.

After a discussion, it was decided to table this item until the next day when staff will send out a document outlining how the Open would be promoted in order to increase participation.

There being no further issues or discussion to come before the Committee, at 9:50pm the meeting was adjourned