

**NOTE:** *These minutes were approved by the committee on August 5, 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 July 17, 2024.*

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Luis Reis, chair of the Adult Tournament Committee, called the meeting to order at 8:05pm and roll call was conducted. The meeting was held by Google Meet video conference.

**Committee Members Present:** Luis Reis (Chair), Leslie Airola-Murveit, Christopher Aria, Darrin Cohen, Steven Cornell, Andie Mouzes, Wendell Pierce, Marina Wills, Craig Pasqua

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

**Guests Present:** n/a

8:06 Wendell Pierce joined the meeting

**1. Approval of Minutes.** The Committee considered approval of the minutes of the meeting held April 23, 2024. The following motion was duly made by Craig Pasqua, seconded by Marina Wills and **approved** by a vote of 7 in favor, 0 opposed, and 0 abstentions:

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

8:08 Leslie Airola-Murveit joined the meeting

**2. Staff Report**

- Item 1: Joanna Broda-Schunck informed to the Committee that the unanimous written consent regarding Gold Cup and Tournament of the Year criteria and process changes was approved by the Board of Directors
- Item 2: Joanna Broda-Schunck informed to the Committee that the Proposal to Recommend Amendment to USTA Adult and Family Tournament, Ranking and Sanctioning Regulations: Flighted Draws for Round Robin Format was not approved by the Board of Directors
- Item 3: Joanna Broda-Schunck updated the Committee about the WTN parent/child Green Ball doubles tournament that is being held on Saturday June 29<sup>th</sup>, and invited Committee members to stop by
- Item 4: Joanna Broda-Schunck reported to the Committee that the Open tournament promotion is ongoing and explained that so far there is a Banner on League Team pages, there was an email sent out to all 4.5+ players, and the document listing all upcoming tournaments is accessible on the tournament website. Another email to players that have played an Open level tournament in 2019 and 2020 will be going out in two weeks.
- Item 5: Joanna Broda-Schunck informed the Committee that a similar promotion with emails targeting Mixed players will be happening soon, including a list of tournaments that offer Mixed doubles.

- Item 6: Joanna Broda-Schunck let the Committee know that the planned prize money distribution at the Grand Prix Open is as follows:

Champion: \$500 per player/team  
Finalist: \$300 per player/team  
3rd Place: \$150 per player/team  
4th place: \$50 per player/team

### **3. Issue #1 Conforming Change to Endorsements for NTRP National Championships**

Staff was recently informed that there is a change on the National side to how doubles teams will be selected into the NTRP National Championships.

After a discussion, the following motion was duly made by Marina Wills, seconded by Leslie Airola-Murveit, and **approved** by a vote of 8 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstentions

**RESOLVED:** That effective immediately, the following amendments to the NorCal endorsement criteria for the NTRP National Championship are be approved (stricken-through language is proposed to be deleted; underlined language is proposed addition).

### **HOW TO QUALIFY FOR THE NTRP NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS FROM**

#### **THE NORTHERN CALIFORNIA SECTION**

##### **Divisions:**

- 18 & Over Men's & Women's 2.5, 3.0, 3.5, 4.0, 4.5, 5.0, 5.5 Singles/Doubles/Mixed
- 40 & Over Men's & Women's 3.0, 3.5, 4.0, 4.5, 5.0 Singles/Doubles
- 55 & Over Men's & Women's 3.0, 3.5, 4.0, 4.5, 5.0 Singles/Doubles

##### *Northern California's quota:*

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 2.5, 3.0, 3.5, 4.0, 4.5, 5.0, 5.5 Singles/Doubles/Mixed divisions – USTA NorCal will host a Grand Prix tournament

For 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 3<sup>rd</sup> place finisher will be the #2 alternate and the 4<sup>th</sup> 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 2<sup>nd</sup> place, followed by the 3<sup>rd</sup> 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 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 2<sup>nd</sup> 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.~~

~~\* For Mixed doubles players, the spot will go to the NorCal player who has the largest number of ranking points 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. If a tie exists between the male and female player, the players will be asked to designate their partner—the team with the higher number of points will be endorsed~~

~~\* For Doubles, the team with the best combined ranking, using the NTRP Individual Doubles National Standings List, will be selected. For example, if Player A is ranked #1/Player B is Ranked #74 and Player C is ranked #5/Player D is ranked #10 then Player C/D will be selected first because their combined NSL ranking is 15 as opposed to Player A/B which has a combined NSL ranking of 75.~~

~~\* For Mixed Doubles, the team with the best combined ranking, using the NTRP Mixed Doubles National Standings Lists, will also be listed using the NSL from the Men's and Women's Mixed Doubles lists. If a tie exists, the team with the highest ranked player will be selected~~

#### **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:** The changes in the way doubles teams are selected if using NSL are reflecting the changes introduced by USTA National in the way doubles teams will be selected.

#### **4. Issue #2 – Pete Sharkey award**

Michelle Wilson explained to the Committee the origins and reasons for changes in the Pete Sharkey award.

Following discussion, the following motion was duly made by Wendell Pierce, seconded by Leslie Airola-Murveit, and **approved** by a vote of 8 in favor, 0 opposed, and 0 abstentions:

**RESOLVED:** That effective immediately, the recipient(s) of the Pete Sharkey Award will receive \$75.

<b>Pete Sharkey Award</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Recipient must be current USTA member.</li> <li>For tournament to qualify as a player's first win, it must have at least 5 players in the draw.</li> <li>Player must apply for the award by the end of the tournament season.</li> <li>Player must be a man aged 55 and over who has won his first NorCal Age Group singles tournament in the preceding calendar year.</li> </ul>	<i>Objective determination made by staff following a review of the players and eligibility criteria.</i>
Monetary award given annually to <del>a man one or more men</del> , aged 55 and over, who <del>has</del> have won <del>his</del> their first NorCal Age Group singles tournament in the preceding calendar year.  Award amount is \$75 per award recipient determined by the number of recipients and the amount in the bank account.		

**RESOLVED FURTHER:** That the \$5,000 in funds donated for the Pete Sharkey Award, originally received

as a restricted donation, and currently sitting in the USTA NorCal Comerica account, be invested in an interest-bearing Schwab Money Market account.

**RESOLVED FURTHER:** That the 2025 Budget will include \$300 for awarding the Pete Sharkey Award, an amount that will be funded (in full or in part) by interest earned from the \$5,000 Pete Sharkey donation.

**Rationale:** The Pete Sharkey Award was made possible by a contribution from the late Earl Cooper in honor of his good friend, the late Pete Sharkey, a former president of the Northern California Senior Tennis Association, avid player, and advocate of senior tennis. Mr. Cooper donated \$5,000 and USTA NorCal invested it in a Treasury Bond. The Bond matured last year and the money was deposited into NorCal's Comerica account.

This proposal changes the annual Sharkey Award from one based on the interest earned to a specific amount, \$75, because a specific amount is a more consistent award each year. There may be some years where NorCal does not have any awardees, and other years where NorCal may have up to 3 or 4. The amount of \$75 was chosen because many tournament singles entry fees are between \$65 and \$70 and by awarding the recipient \$75, it would be the approximate equivalent of one entry fee.

It is also being recommended that the \$5,000 donation be moved to a Money Market account to help grow interest to keep the award going. Money Market funds are currently yielding roughly 5% interest as of 6/25/2024

This proposal has been sent to the Budget & Finance Committee for review.

This resolution was approved by the Adult Tournament Committee at a meeting held on June 25, 2024, by a vote of 8 in favor, 0 opposed, and 0 abstentions.

**Fiscal Impact:** The interest earned on the Treasury Bond has funded the Pete Sharkey Award in the past. The change in the criteria will require guaranteeing an amount in the budget, which is proposed to be \$300, an amount that would enable awarding four players annually.

## **5. Issue #3 – Adult Tournament Player Award Criteria.**

Joanna Broda-Schunck informed the Committee that the subcommittee, consisting of Mariko Fritz-Krockow, Andie Mouzes, and Marina Wills, has met and came up with a proposal of changes to the Adult Tournament Player Awards (see exhibit A). The changes are needed because with the addition of NTRP 40+ and 55+ divisions, the number of awards would be extremely large and it would dilute their value and make the award ceremony very long.

After a discussion, Michelle Wilson explained that there is a planned meeting of representatives from the Adult Tournament Committee and the Adult League Committee to debrief about the 2023 Adult Competition Award Banquet. The decision was made to table vote on the new player awards until after the debrief.

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

## Exhibit A

### 1. **Player Awards criteria – Certificates:** “Top NorCal player”

Awards Description	Eligibility Criteria	Process
<p><b>NTRP Singles Player of the Year:</b> <b>NTRP Doubles Player of the Year:</b></p> <p>Awarded annually in each NTRP division to player with the with the #1 ranking on the final ranking list.</p> <p>In Doubles - if #1 &amp; #2 have the same number of points and no tiebreak is possible (they are a team) - both will receive the award</p> <p><u>If #1 player is ineligible, #2 player may be awarded</u></p>	<p>Recipient must be current USTA member and residing in Northern California.</p> <p><del>Players must play at least two NorCal sanctioned tournaments during the calendar year.</del></p> <p>Recipient cannot have been serving all or part of a 3 month or more probation or suspension within the last 12 months</p> <p><u>Based on individual doubles standings list</u></p>	<p><i>Objective determination made by staff following a review of the players and eligibility criteria.</i></p>
<p><b>Age Group Singles Player of the Year:</b> <b>Age Group Doubles Team of the Year:</b></p> <p>Awarded annually in each Age Group division to player/team with the #1 ranking on the final ranking list.</p> <p><u>In Doubles - if #1 &amp; #2 have the same number of points and no tiebreak is possible (they are a team) - both will receive the award</u></p> <p><u>If #1 player is ineligible, #2 player may be awarded</u></p>	<p>Recipient must be current USTA member residing in Northern California.</p> <p><del>Players must play a minimum of two NorCal sanctioned tournaments during the calendar year.</del></p> <p>Recipient cannot have been serving all or part of a 3-month or more probation or suspension within the last 12 months.</p> <p><u>Based on team doubles for all doubles divisions</u></p> <p><u>Based on individual doubles standings list</u></p>	<p><i>Objective determination made by staff following a review of the players and eligibility criteria.</i></p>

<p><b>Open Singles Player of the Year:</b>  <b>Open Doubles Team of Year:</b></p> <p>Awarded annually in each Open division to player/team with the #1 ranking on the final ranking list.</p> <p><u>In Doubles – if #1 &amp; #2 have the same number of points and no tiebreak is possible (they are a team) – both will receive the award</u></p> <p><u>If #1 player is ineligible, #2 player may be awarded</u></p>	<p>Recipient must be current USTA member residing in Northern California.</p> <p><del>Players must play a minimum of two NorCal sanctioned tournaments during the calendar year.</del></p> <p>Recipient cannot have been serving all or part of a 3-month or more probation or suspension within the last 12 months.</p> <p><del>Based on team doubles for all doubles divisions</del></p> <p><u>Based on individual doubles standings list</u></p>	<p><i>Objective determination made by staff following a review of the players and eligibility criteria.</i></p>
<p><b>Family Player Doubles Team of the Year:</b></p> <p>Awarded annually in each Family division (mother/son, mother/daughter, father/son, father/daughter, husband/wife) to the team with the #1 ranking on the final ranking list</p> <p><u>If #1 team is ineligible, #2 player may be awarded</u></p>	<p>Recipient must be current USTA member residing in Northern California.</p> <p><del>Players must play a minimum of two tournaments during the season</del></p> <p>Recipient cannot have been serving all or part of a 3-month or more probation or suspension within the last 12 months</p> <p>Based on team doubles</p>	<p><i>Objective determination made by staff following a review of the players and eligibility criteria.</i></p>

## 2. Awards:

<p><b>Most Tenacious Player of the Year</b></p> <p>Awarded annually to one male and one female player that played most tournaments:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. In the NTRP 18+ division</li> <li>2. In the NTRP 40+ division</li> <li>3. In the NTRP 55+ division</li> <li>4. In the Age Group (no Open) division</li> <li>5. In the Open division</li> </ol>	<p>Recipient must be current USTA member residing in Northern California.</p> <p>Players must have played a minimum of five sanctioned tournaments in the NorCal section during the calendar year in the respective category</p> <p><i>*If a player withdrew from the tournament before playing a match, the tournament will not be counted.</i></p> <p>Recipient cannot have been serving all or part of a 3-month or more probation or suspension within the last 12 months</p>	<p><i>Objective determination made by staff following a review of the players and eligibility criteria</i></p>
<p><b>#1 Ranked Player</b></p> <p>Awarded annually to the player that was #1 on the National Final ranking List</p>	<p>Recipient must be current USTA member residing in Northern California.</p> <p>Players must have played a minimum of one sanctioned tournament in the NorCal section during the calendar year. The</p>	<p><i>Objective determination made by staff following a review of the players and eligibility criteria</i></p>

If #1 team is ineligible, #2 player may be awarded	<p>player must have played in their respective division, except that in Age Group tournaments, division is understood as singles or doubles.</p> <p>Recipient cannot have been serving all or part of a 3-month or more probation or suspension within the last 12 months</p>	
<b><u>Player of the Year</u></b>  Awarded annually to up to three players based on nominations  <a href="#">Nomination Form</a>	<p>Recipient must be current USTA member and a resident of the Northern California Section.</p> <p>Players must have played a minimum of one sanctioned tournament in the NorCal section during the calendar year.</p> <p>Recipient cannot have been serving all or part of a 3-month or more probation or suspension within the last 12 months</p>	<i>Adult Tournament Committee decides among the nominations</i>
<b><u>Sportsmanship award</u></b>  Awarded annually to up to three players based on nominations  <a href="#">Nomination Form</a>	<p>Recipient must be current USTA member and a resident of the Northern California Section.</p> <p>Players must have played a minimum of one sanctioned tournament in the NorCal section during the calendar year.</p> <p>Recipient cannot have been serving all or part of a 3-month or more probation or suspension within the last 12 months</p>	<i>Adult Tournament Committee decides among the nominations</i>
<b><u>Pete Sharkey Award</u></b>  Pete Sharkey Award: Monetary award given annually to a man aged 55 and over who has won his first NorCal Age Group singles tournament in the preceding calendar year.  Award amount is determined by the number of recipients and the amount in the bank account.  <a href="#">Application Form</a>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Recipient must be current USTA member.</li> <li>• For tournament to qualify as a player's first win, it must have at least 5 players in the draw.</li> <li>• Player must apply for the award by the end of the tournament season.</li> <li>• Player must be a man aged 55 and over who has won his first NorCal Age Group singles tournament in the preceding calendar year.</li> </ul>	<i>Objective determination made by staff following a review of the players and eligibility criteria.</i>

\*\*\* The Adult Tournament Committee reserves the right to not select a recipient in any given category in any given year.

**Rationale:** With the addition of NTRP 40+ and 55+ divisions, the number of awards would be extremely large and it would dilute their value and make the award ceremony very long. The players at the top of the final ranking list should still be recognized, and would be given a certificate, the eligibility criteria of having played at least two sanctioned NorCal tournaments would be eliminated and all #1s would be awarded the certificate. Those players would still be invited to attend the Award banquet but would not be called to receive their certificate.

The new awards are to recognize the players that support our section and promote play and sportsmanship, as well as those that proved to be the best Nationally.

Effective for year 2025