

NOTE: *These minutes were approved by the committee on November 11, 2024 and are the final version. The USTA NorCal Board reviewed and voted on some of the Committee Recommendations included in these minutes at its meeting on October 16, 2024.*

Luis Reis, chair of the Adult Tournament Committee, called the meeting to order at 8:17pm and roll call was conducted. The meeting was held by Google Meet video conference.

Committee Members Present: *Luis Reis (Chair), Leslie Airola-Murveit, Darrin Cohen, Steven Cornell, Mariko Fritz-Krockow, Brian Martinez, 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 August 5, 2024. The following motion was duly made by Leslie Airola-Murveit, seconded by Wendell Pierce 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 August 5, 2024 be approved as presented.

2. Staff Report

- Item 1: Joanna Broda-Schunck informed to the Committee that the Grand Prix registration was higher this year than previous:

2023 Registrations: 154, selected 131

2024 Registrations: 178, selected 151 (28 in Open)

The Committee then discussed prize money for the Open tournament in the events that have only two entries (doubles divisions). It was decided that due to the low number of registrants in the doubles divisions, the prize money distribution should be changed to the following:

Champion: \$250 per team

Finalist: \$150 per team

Joanna Broda-Schunck also informed the Committee that the entry fee for the 2025 Grand Prix will be raised from \$55 / \$30 to \$60 / \$35 to help cover the expenses.

- Item 2: Joanna Broda-Schunck reported to the Committee that the North-South registration has closed and that there are just enough players to field the teams, however several of them have not met the requirement of having played at least one tournament. Staff informed that the players will be accepted this year, however, a larger promotion of this event will be planned in future.

3. Issue #1 Proposal of events for 2025

A. 2.5-3.0 Level 7 Tournament Monthly Series

It is being proposed to initiate and sponsor a 2.5-3.0 Level 7 monthly tournament series in the Monterey/Gilroy area in 2025. Initiating and sponsoring one level 7 tournament per month from April – August, will hopefully encourage new players to play tennis and try a one-day tournament to see how much fun it is and play more in

their area. By having up to 5 tournaments in the same area, players will have more of an opportunity to continue playing near their area and not have to travel as far.

After a discussion, the following motion was duly made by Wendell Pierce, seconded by Brian Martinez, and **approved** by a vote of 7 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstentions

RESOLVED: That the 2025 Monterey/Gilroy 2.5-3.0 Level 7 Tournament Monthly Series incentive be approved as follows:

Offer

- Balls for the event up to 4 cases (Covered by balls already in the office)
- Player gift \$3000 (300 player gifts @ \$10 a piece (tax and shipping included) = 60 player gifts per event)
- Awards (Medals?) – \$450 (30 awards @ \$15 a piece (tax and shipping included) = 6 awards per tournament (Awards for champion, finalist, and consolation winner for 2.5 and 3.0 division)

Requirements:

Tournament must charge a \$35 entry fee for singles and a \$25 entry fee for doubles

Rationale: We are trying to provide these tournaments at a lower cost for beginning players wanting to try Adult Tournaments. This would be a partnership with the organizations hosting. If USTA NorCal helps to provide balls, player gifts and awards, the tournament director will be able to charge less to the players as USTA NorCal is helping with the costs of the event and the new players will be able to try an Adult Tournament at a lower entry fee.

Financial impact:

A total of \$3450 is being request from the Budget Committee for this incentive.

B. Women's Day Tournament

Staff proposed to continue with the yearly Women's Day event in March (Women's Month) that will be hosted by a member organization. In 2024 the first Women's Day event consisted of two 1-day NTRP tournaments (L7) with half the divisions offered on Saturday, the other half on Sunday. The registration for both days combined exceeded 100 players and the players' response was enthusiastic, and hoping for more events like this. Sponsoring this event will help the member organization keep the cost low and therefore attract more players. The goal is to eventually have the member organization become independent and the event become self-sustaining. Providing player gifts and awards would allow the organization to spend some money on snacks and drinks for players, ensuring that the event would be a social event as well.

Having a tournament dedicated to only women will hopefully encourage more women to enter into tournaments in general.

After a discussion, the following motion was duly made by Wendell Pierce, seconded by Leslie Airola-Murveit, and **approved** by a vote of 7 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstentions

RESOLVED: That USTA NorCal will put up for bid the opportunity to host a Women's Day Tournament that will be organized pursuant to the following parameters:

- This should be a two-day event containing two one day tournaments (Level 7), with one day offering 3.0, 4.0 and 5.0 divisions and the other 2.5, 3.5, 4.5 with the option to add 5.5
- Sanction Applications must meet the following requirements:

- The tournament can be held anytime during the year, however applications for a sanction period for March will be given preferential treatment due to Women's Day being in March
- Singles and doubles must be offered.
- The registration fee shall be no more than \$40 per player for singles and \$25 per player for doubles.
- The draw limit shall be no less than 8 players for singles and 8 teams in doubles
- The draw format shall be Multiple Round Robins into playoffs (subject to change depending on number of registrants)

- Other Tournament Requirements:

- Snacks, drinks and an opportunity to socialize must be offered
- Player selection will be done by ranking (bottom-top) using the latest NSL or using the First Come, First Served method.

- Tournaments will be approved pursuant to the USTA NorCal Sanction Regulations.

RESOLVED FURTHER: That the sanction holders will receive the following towards the tournament budgets:

USTA NorCal Women's Day Tournament Expenses	
Player gifts: \$10 per player for 168 players	\$1,680
Awards: \$15 x 21 awards (1st place)	\$315
\$15 x 21 awards (2nd place)	\$315
Total:	\$2,310

Rationale: The Pilot in 2024 saw more than 100 women register for the event. The response was very good and players reached out to staff to have more of these events. We would like to build on this success and have the event repeated in 2025, potentially becoming a permanent tournament that women in NorCal can look forward to each year. In order to keep the registration fee lower, USTA NorCal would help with player gifts and awards.

Financial impact:

There is no additional budget impact as the Women's Day tournament is already built into the 2025 budget.

C. Age Group Tournament

It is being proposed to have an Age Group tournament for 3 age group divisions (to be determined) that would be hosted as a pilot during weekdays in the morning.

The goal is to test the availability of players and their willingness to participate on weekdays, while at the same time showing organizations this option. Most organizations usually have open courts in the mornings.

After a discussion, the following motion was duly made by Wendell Pierce, seconded by Leslie Airola-Murveit, and **approved** by a vote of 7 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstentions

RESOLVED: That USTA NorCal will host a Level 6 Age Group tournament for 3 Age divisions (MS, WS, MD and WD) on the weekdays (Tuesday-Thursday)

RESOLVED FURTHER: That \$7,570 be approved and requested of the budget Committee to help support this event.

USTA NorCal Age Group Tournament Expenses	
Player gifts: \$10 per player for 104 players	\$1,040
Awards: \$15 x 36 awards (1st place) \$15 x 36 awards (2nd place)	\$1,080
Court cost: ((12 x 6) + (6 x 3)) x \$25	\$2,250
Referee cost: 3x \$300	\$900
Event cost (snacks, balls etc)	\$800
Meals	\$300
Lodging	\$1,200
Total:	\$7,570

Income:

Singles entry fee: \$60 x 48 = \$2,880

Doubles entry fee \$30 x 48 = \$1,680

Total income: **\$4,560**

RESOLVED FURTHER: The draws will be limited to 8 players for singles and 4 teams for doubles.

Rationale: The number of Age Group tournaments in our section is very small. The option of hosting these tournaments during weekdays in the morning can help both the players (who often enjoy playing at that time) and the organizations, who often have empty courts in the mornings. Since these tournaments have not been traditionally offered at this time, this event would serve as a pilot and hopefully convince organizations of this option. The goal is to grow the offering for Age Group division players and increase participation in those tournaments.

Financial impact:

The financial impact is estimated to be \$3,010. The estimated expenses are \$7,570. The estimated amount to be collected in entry fees is \$4,560. $\$7,570 - \$4,560 = \mathbf{\$3,010}$

D. WTN Tournament Promotion

It is being proposed to extend the WTN promotion that was available in 2024 for 2025 to increase the number of WTN tournaments. WTN tournaments can include players with a non-paid USTA account and therefore can increase participation.

After a discussion, the following motion was duly made by Leslie Airola-Murveit, seconded by Wendell Pierce, and **approved** by a vote of 7 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstentions

RESOLVED: That the following shall be spent towards financially supporting up to four non-sanctioned WTN Tournaments organized by Organization Members and held in different geographic regions of USTA NorCal, which tournaments shall be selected by the USTA NorCal Staff.

Budget Item Cost Per Tournament

WTN Tournament Promotion	
Player gifts: \$600 per event	\$2,400
Awards: \$200 per event	\$800
Total:	\$3,200

RESOLVED FURTHER: That it is recommended for the WTN Tournaments to be held in Men's 40 and under and Women's 40 and under divisions, with 32 players per division flighted into Round Robin groups of 4 players and the winners of each Round Robin receiving an award. Regardless of the draw format used, players will be flighted into the separate draws.

RESOLVED FURTHER: USTA NorCal staff will be made available to assist in the flighting of players into round robins.

Rationale: Having more WTN Tournaments would increase players knowledge about the World Tennis Number. In addition, since these events are not sanctioned, it allows for more social, although still competitive, participation. Having a more social option for tournaments will grow the number of players, who may later move on to play in sanctioned events.

Financial impact:

There is no additional financial impact as this is already built into the 2025 budget.

4. Issue #2 – Right of Refusal

Staff informed the Committee that the Right of Refusal regulation was written in consultation with the USTA NorCal's Legal Counsel and it has been already approved by the Board for the Juniors. However, the Committee would like to discuss the implementation of the Zero Tolerance Policy together with the Adult Leagues Committee. For this reason, the item has been tabled until the next meeting.

16. Right of Refusal. After reasonable notice is provided to USTA NorCal stating good cause shown, and subject to the Tournament Committee's exhaustion of all reasonable measures to address the cause including, but not limited to the USTA Suspension Point System, the USTA Zero Tolerance Policy, and the USTA NorCal grievance procedures, the Tournament Committee reserves the right to:
- Refuse to accept a player's entry; or
 - After selection of an entry, remove a player from the list of accepted entries or from the draw before the tournament starts,
- except that an entry may not be refused based on the basis of race, creed, sexual orientation, color, or national origin, or any other unlawful criteria under federal, state and local law. The removal of a player from the list of accepted entries or a withdrawal of a player in these circumstances will be classified as a tournament administrative error. ~~The Tournament Committee reserves the right to decline any entry either before or after the draws have been published.~~ Some draws may be limited.

Rationale: The current wording of the Right of Refusal regulation is very broad. The tournament director should provide a valid reason for not accepting a player into the tournament. This change also brings more consistency between junior and adult tournament regulations

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 brief discussion, it has been decided to table this item until more members are present at the meeting.

Michelle Wilson also informed the committee that the Adult Competition Awards ceremony will be planned in the second half of March.

There being no further issues or discussion to come before the Committee, at 9:28pm the meeting was adjourned.

Exhibit A

1. ~~Player Awards criteria – Certificates:~~ "Top NorCal player"

Awards Description	Eligibility Criteria	Process
<p>NTRP Singles Player of the Year: NTRP Doubles Player of the Year:</p> <p>Awarded annually in each NTRP division to player with the #1 ranking on the final ranking list. In Doubles - if #1 & #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>Players must play at least two NorCal sanctioned tournaments 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> <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>Age Group Singles Player of the Year: Age Group Doubles Team of the Year:</p> <p>Awarded annually in each Age Group division to player/team with the #1 ranking on the final ranking list. In Doubles - if #1 & #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 residing in Northern California.</p> <p>Players must play a minimum of two NorCal sanctioned tournaments 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> <p>Based on team doubles for all doubles divisions</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>Open Singles Player of the Year: Open Doubles Team of Year:</p> <p>Awarded annually in each Open division to player/team with the #1 ranking on the final ranking list. <u>In Doubles – if #1 & #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>Players must play a minimum of two NorCal sanctioned tournaments 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> <p>Based on team doubles for all doubles divisions</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>Family Player Doubles Team of the Year:</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>Players must play a minimum of two tournaments during the season</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><u>Most Tenacious Player of the Year</u></p> <p><u>Awarded annually to one male and one female player that played most tournaments:</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <u>In the NTRP 18+ division</u> <u>In the NTRP 40+ division</u> <u>In the NTRP 55+ division</u> 	<p>Recipient must be current USTA member residing in Northern California.</p> <p><u>Players must have played a minimum of five sanctioned tournaments in the NorCal section during the calendar year in the respective category</u></p> <p><u><i>*If a player withdrew from the tournament before playing a</i></u></p>	<p><u><i>Objective determination made by staff following a review of the players and eligibility criteria</i></u></p>
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<p>4. <u>In the Age Group (no Open) division</u></p> <p>5. <u>In the Open division</u></p>	<p><u>match, the tournament will not be counted.</u></p> <p><u>Recipient cannot have been serving all or part of a 3-month or more probation or suspension within the last 12 months</u></p>	
<p>#1 Ranked Player</p> <p><u>Awarded annually to the player that was #1 on the National Final ranking List</u></p> <p><u>If #1 team is ineligible, #2 player may be awarded</u></p>	<p><u>Recipient must be current USTA member residing in Northern California.</u></p> <p><u>Players must have played a minimum of one sanctioned tournament in the NorCal section during the calendar year. The player must have played in their respective division, except that in Age Group tournaments, division is understood as singles or doubles.</u></p> <p><u>Recipient cannot have been serving all or part of a 3-month or more probation or suspension within the last 12 months</u></p>	<p><u>Objective determination made by staff following a review of the players and eligibility criteria</u></p>
<p>Player of the Year</p> <p><u>Awarded annually to up to three players based on nominations</u></p> <p>Nomination Form</p>	<p><u>Recipient must be current USTA member and a resident of the Northern California Section.</u></p> <p><u>Players must have played a minimum of one sanctioned tournament in the NorCal section during the calendar year.</u></p> <p><u>Recipient cannot have been serving all or part of a 3-month or more probation or suspension within the last 12 months</u></p>	<p><u>Adult Tournament Committee decides among the nominations</u></p>
<p>Sportsmanship award</p>	<p><u>Recipient must be current USTA member and a resident</u></p>	<p><u>Adult Tournament Committee decides among the nominations</u></p>

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

**** 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.