

NOTE: *These minutes were approved by the committee on March 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 February 21, 2024.*

Luis Reis, chair of the Adult Tournament Committee, called the meeting to order at 8:12pm 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, Christopher Aria, Darrin Cohen, Steven Cornell, Mariko Fritz-Krockow, Wendell Pierce, Craig Pasqua*

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 November 28, 2023. The following motion was duly made by Leslie Airola-Murveit seconded by Mariko Fritz-Krockow and **approved** by a vote of 6 in favor, 0 opposed, and 1 abstention (Craig Pasqua):

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the Adult Tournament Committee meeting held November 28, 2023 be approved as presented.

2. Staff Report

- **Item 1:** Joanna Broda-Schunck reported on the events organized by USTA NorCal: The Family ROG in December was cancelled due to low sign ups; the NorCal Qualifier is to be held February 2-4 and may have to continue the weekend after (February 9-11); Women's Day (two 1-day tournaments) will be held on March 2nd and 3rd; Bay Area Senior Games (level 4 Age Group tournament) will be held April 25-27
- **Item 2:** Joanna Broda-Schunck reported on the plans to run a Tri-Level singles event together with the Adult Leagues

8:19 Darrin Cohen joined during the staff report

- 3. Issue #1 – Endorsement for NTRP National Championships criteria conforming changes** – Joanna Broda-Schunck informed the Committee of the additional divisions added to the NTRP Nationals, these divisions were added as conforming changes to USTA NorCal's endorsement criteria. In addition the committee decided to remove the year from the criteria, making them ongoing rather than for just one year. Following a discussion the motion was duly made by Steven Cornell, seconded by Mark Fairchilds, to approve the conforming changes in the endorsement criteria. The motion was approved by a vote of 9 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstentions, and 0 recusals

8:13 Mark Fairchilds joined the meeting during discussion on the endorsement criteria

RESOLVED: That effective immediately, the following amendments to Endorsement Criteria for the NTRP National Championships be approved (underlined language is proposed addition, crossed out language is proposed to be removed).

HOW TO QUALIFY FOR THE 2024 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

- ~~18 & Over Men's & Women's 2.5 Singles/Doubles~~
- 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 ~~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 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 ~~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.

*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

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 amendments are made to clarify that these endorsement criteria will be in place until further amendments are needed. In addition, the changes in the divisions offered are in concordance with divisions offered at the NTRP National Championships

3. Issue #2 – Player Awards Criteria - conforming changes.

The Committee discussed the criteria regarding the Player of the year awards. The current criteria states that for the NTRP player of the year award players needed to qualify for the Grand Prix. However, the Grand Prix was not offered in the 40+ and 55+ divisions. In addition, the eligibility criteria of having to have played at least 2 NorCal Sanctioned tournaments, is more than the eligibility criteria for the Grand Prix (1 tournament).

Following a discussion, the following motion was duly made by Leslie Airola-Murveit, seconded by Wendell Pierce, and **approved** by a vote of 9 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstentions, and 0 recusals:

RESOLVED: That effective immediately, the following amendments to the Player of the Year Awards Criteria be approved (underlined language is proposed addition, crossed out language is proposed to be removed).

Awards Description	Eligibility Criteria	Process
NTRP Singles Player of the Year: NTRP Doubles Player of the Year: Awarded annually in each NTRP division to player with the 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	Recipient must be current USTA member and residing in Northern California. Players must qualify for the Grand Prix except that players must play at least two NorCal sanctioned tournaments during the calendar year. Recipient cannot have been serving all or part of a 3 month or more probation or suspension within the last 12 months	<i>Objective determination made by staff following a review of the players and eligibility criteria.</i>
Age Group Singles Player of the Year: Age Group Doubles Team of the Year: Awarded annually in each Age Group division to player/team with the #1 ranking on the final ranking list.	Recipient must be current USTA member residing in Northern California. Players must play a minimum of two NorCal sanctioned tournaments during the calendar year. Recipient cannot have been serving all or part of a 3-month or more probation or suspension within the last 12 months. Based on team doubles for all doubles divisions	<i>Objective determination made by staff following a review of the players and eligibility criteria.</i>
Open Singles Player of the Year: Open Doubles Team of Year: Awarded annually in each Open division to player/team with the #1 ranking on the final ranking list.	Recipient must be current USTA member residing in Northern California. Players must play a minimum of two NorCal sanctioned tournaments during the calendar year. Recipient cannot have been serving all or part of a 3-month or more probation or suspension within the last 12 months. Based on team doubles for all doubles divisions	<i>Objective determination made by staff following a review of the players and eligibility criteria.</i>

<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>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>
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Rationale: The requirement to qualify for the Grand Prix stems from a time when different divisions had a different number of tournaments that players needed to play in order to qualify. Currently all players need to have played only one (1) tournament in order to qualify, which is less than the requirement of two (2) tournaments necessary for the player awards. Moreover, some divisions may not be offered at a Grand Prix in specific years. The players should still be able to receive the award.

4. Issue #3 – Adult Tournament Awards

Mariko Fritz-Krockow made the motion to move into a closed session. The motion was seconded by Leslie Airola-Murveit. The Committee went into closed session at 8:30pm

- a. Adult Tournament Director of the Year:** The Committee discussed possible recipients for the 2023 Adult Tournament Director of the Year Award.

Following a discussion, the motion to approve the recipient of the 2023 Adult Tournament Director of the Year Award was duly made by Chris Aria, seconded by Mariko Fritz-Krockow, and **approved** by a vote of 7 in favor, 0 opposed, 2 recusals (Mark Fairchilds and Luis Reis)

- b. Outstanding NTRP Tournament of the Year:** The Committee discussed possible recipients for the 2023 Outstanding NTRP Tournament of the Year.

Following a discussion, the motion to approve the recipient of the 2023 Outstanding NTRP Tournament of the Year Award was duly made by Craig Pasqua, seconded by Leslie Airola-Murveit, and **approved** by a vote of 7 in favor, 0 opposed, 2 recusals (Mark Fairchilds and Luis Reis)

- c. Outstanding Age Group Tournament of the Year:** The Committee discussed possible recipients for the 2023 Outstanding Age Group Tournament of the Year.

Following a discussion, the motion to approve the recipient of the 2023 Outstanding Age Group Tournament of the Year Award was duly made by Wendell Pierce, seconded by Leslie Airola-Murveit, and **approved** by a vote of 7 in favor, 0 opposed, 2 recusals (Mark Fairchilds and Luis Reis)

- d. Outstanding Open Tournament of the Year:** The Committee discussed possible recipients for the 2023 Outstanding Open Tournament of the Year.

Following a discussion, the motion to approve the recipient of the 2023 Outstanding Open Tournament of the Year Award was duly made by Leslie Airola-Murveit, seconded by Mariko Fritz-Krockow and **approved** by a vote of 7 in favor, 0 opposed, 2 recusals (Mark Fairchilds and Luis Reis)

- e. Outstanding New Tournament of the Year:** The Committee discussed possible recipients for the 2023 Outstanding New Tournament of the Year.

Following a discussion, the motion to approve the recipient of the 2023 Outstanding New Tournament of the Year Award was duly made by Wendell Pierce, seconded by Mariko Fritz-Krockow and **approved** by a vote of 4 in favor, 3 opposed, 2 recusals (Mark Fairchilds and Luis Reis)

- f. Outstanding 1-Day Tournament of the Year:** The Committee discussed possible recipients for the 2023 Outstanding 1-Day Tournament of the Year.

Following a discussion, the motion to approve the recipient of the 2023 Outstanding 1-Day Tournament of the Year Award was duly made by Craig Pasqua, seconded by Wendell Pierce and **approved** by a vote of 7 in favor, 0 opposed, 2 recusals (Mark Fairchilds and Luis Reis)

The Committee came out of the closed session at 9:35pm

- 5. Issue #4 – The Grand Prix** – The Committee discussed the change of the date for the Grand Prix and decided that moving the event to an earlier date (end of September) is beneficial to avoid conflicts with other events and reduce the risk of inclement weather. The committee also looked into which divisions should be offered at the Grand Prix 2024. After a brief discussion, the Committee decided to table the topic until the next meeting when more information will be available. In addition, the Committee discussed the verbiage in the current Grand Prix rule referring to the Grand Prix season.

9:45 Mark Fairchilds left the meeting during discussion on the Grand Prix rule

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

RESOLVED: That effective immediately, the following amendments to the Grand Prix rule be approved (underlined language is proposed addition, crossed out language is proposed to be removed).

35. Grand Prix Tournaments.

- a. Grand Prix Tournaments Held. 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.
- b. Minimum Tournament Participation Requirement for Grand Prix Tournaments. To be considered for the Grand Prix, the player must appear on the National Standings List at the time registration for the Grand Prix closes. At least one (1) tournament with the last 52 weeks prior to registration closing must be a NorCal sanctioned tournament. 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 Doubles National Standings Lists will be used for doubles. The mixed doubles National Standings List will be used for mixed 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 to the verbiage of the rule clarifies that the tournament required to meet the minimum must be a NorCal sanctioned tournament. The criteria that a player must appear on the National Standings List, as opposed to play a tournament in the calendar year, assures that the tournament that took place after the Grand Prix in the previous year, count for the players eligibility. The Grand Prix tournament has traditionally been the most important tournament in the NTRP category of tournament, and serves also as a qualifier for the NTRP National Championships.

- 6. Issue #5 – Player Selection:** Due to changes in the USTA Adult Family Ranking Regulations for 2024 the Committee discussed the different options presented as method of player selection into tournaments.

After a discussion, the following motion was duly made by Wendell Pierce, seconded by Mariko Fritz-Krockow, and **approved** by a vote of 8 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstentions

RESOLVED: That effective with the tournaments opening their registration March 1, 2023, the following amendments to Limited Draw regulation regarding player selection are be approved (stricken-through language is proposed to be deleted; underlined language is proposed addition).

9. Limited Draw Tournaments. Please refer to the USTA Adult and Family Tournament, Ranking & Sanctioning Regulations for player selection rules for limited draw tournaments.

When USTA Adult and Family Tournament, Ranking & Sanctioning Regulations permit the use of rankings, ratings, or first come first serve method to select, the Tournament Director will determine ~~whether the~~ selection method. The USTA NorCal sections allows the use of wildcards in accordance with the USTA Adult and Family Tournament, Ranking & Sanctioning Regulations

- ~~• National Standings List;~~
 - ~~• NTRP ratings; or~~
 - ~~• World Tennis Number (WTN) rating~~
- will be used to select players. The method of selection must be published on the tournament website before player registration opens.

a. Adult Open and Adult Age Group Divisions.

The Tournament Director will determine whether the:

- National Standings List;
- World Tennis Number (WTN) rating

will be used to select players. The method of selection must be published on the tournament website before player registration opens.

b. Adult NTRP Divisions.

The Tournament Director will determine the selection method among those available for the specific level:

Level 7:

- National Standings List (bottom-top);
- World Tennis Number (WTN) rating
- First come, first serve

Level 6:

- National Standings List (top-bottom);
- World Tennis Number (WTN) rating
- First come, first serve

Level 5 & 4:

- National Standings List (top-bottom);
- World Tennis Number (WTN) rating

The method of selection must be published on the tournament website before player registration opens.

~~Rule 9 Comment: When the NTRP rating is used, the USTA has advised NorCal that it is the NTRP Dynamic Year End Rating will be used.~~

Rationale: The option to use NTRP rating as an option to select players is being eliminated due to its lack of transparency (neither the player, nor the tournament director, nor the referee are able to view the dynamic rating and must rely on the system). In addition, since the dynamic year end rating is being used, there is no change throughout the year and players cannot progress in their position. National has approved First come, first serve method of player selection for level 7, 6, and 5. However, the committee feels that participation in level 5 and 4 tournaments needs to be earned and thus recommends that only NSL be used for player selection for these tournaments. National has also approved "Bottom-Top" player selection for L7s. This will be consistent with Junior tournaments and ensure that players, that have never participated in a tournament, are accepted.

The ability to use wildcards in all tournaments was a proposal submitted by USTA NorCal with the approval by the Board during the meeting on June 21, 2023

7. Issue #6 – Women’s Intersectionals Player Selection Criteria: The Committee was informed that during the last Women’s Intersectionals Championship there was one player that abandoned the team. To avoid similar situations in the future and to provide more transparency the Committee decided to prepare a document with criteria that will serve for player and captain selection for future events. A subcommittee was formed to work on this. The members of the subcommittee are: Mariko Fritz-Krockow, Leslie Airola-Murveit, Steven Cornell. A meeting was scheduled for February 9, 2024

There being no further issues or discussion, the Committee adjourned at 10:28pm.