

NOTE: *These minutes are in draft form and are subject to change. The USTA NorCal Board reviewed and voted on some of the Committee Recommendations included in these minutes at its meeting on December 11, 2024.*

Luis Reis, chair of the Adult Tournament Committee, called the meeting to order at 8:02pm 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, Mariko Fritz-Krockow, Andie Mouzes, Wendell Pierce, Marina Wills, Craig Pasqua

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

Guests Present: Pamela Sloan, Christine Costamagna

Luis Reis welcomed the guests. He thanked Pamela Sloan for the 2 years as Board president and congratulated Christine Costamagna for being elected the President for the upcoming two years

8:02 Andie Mouzes joined the meeting

Pamela Sloan thanked the Committee and staff for their work on growing adult tournaments and complimented them on the achieved growth.

Christine Costamagna thanked the Committee and talked about future collaboration.

1. Approval of Minutes. The Committee considered approval of the minutes of the meeting held September 9, 2024. The following motion was duly made by Leslie Airola-Murveit, seconded by Wendell Pierce and **approved** by a vote of 8 in favor, 0 opposed, and 0 abstentions:

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the Adult Tournament Committee meeting held September 9, 2024 be approved as presented.

2. Topic #1: Adult Tournament Awards Criteria

The Adult Tournament Awards Criteria have been tabled since the last meeting and were brought to a discussion now. 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. 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. In addition, it would make the award ceremony very long.

8:50 During the discussion Pamela Sloane left the meeting

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 January 1st 2025, Adult Tournament Awards Criteria are amended to read as follows (underlined language is proposed to be added; stricken through language is proposed to be deleted).

Adult Tournament Awards Criteria

Player Awards criteria – Certificates: “Top NorCal player”

Awards Description	Eligibility Criteria	Process
<p>NTRP Singles Player of the Year:</p> <p>Awarded annually in each NTRP division to player with the with the #1 ranking on the final ranking list.</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 Section.</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><i>Objective determination made by staff following a review of the players and eligibility criteria.</i></p>
<p>NTRP Doubles Player of the Year:</p> <p>Awarded annually in each NTRP division to player with the with the #1 ranking on the final ranking list.</p> <p>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 Section.</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 Final Ranking 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:</p> <p>Awarded annually in each Age Group division to player/team with the #1 ranking on the final ranking list.</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><i>Objective determination made by staff following a review of the players and eligibility criteria.</i></p>
<p>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.</p> <p><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><u>Based on team doubles for all doubles divisions</u></p> <p><u>Based on individual doubles Final Ranking 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:</p> <p>Awarded annually in each Open division to player/team with the #1 ranking on the final ranking list.</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><i>Objective determination made by staff following a review of the players and eligibility criteria.</i></p>
<p>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.</p> <p><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><u>Based on team doubles for all doubles divisions</u></p> <p><u>Based on individual doubles Final Ranking 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 <u>Final Ranking List</u></p>	<p><i>Objective determination made by staff following a review of the players and eligibility criteria.</i></p>

1. Awards:

<p>Match player of the Year</p> <p><u>Awarded annually to one male and one female player that played most tournament matches.</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <u>In the NTRP 18+ division</u> 2. <u>In the NTRP 40+ division</u> 3. <u>In the NTRP 55+ division</u> 4. <u>In the Age Group (no Open) division</u> 5. <u>In the Open division</u> 	<p><u>Recipient must be current USTA member residing in Northern California Section.</u></p> <p><u>Recipient cannot have been serving all or part of a 3-month suspension within the last 12 months</u></p>	<p><i>Objective determination made by staff following a review of the players and eligibility criteria</i></p>
<p>Player of the Year</p>	<p><u>Recipient must be current USTA member residing in Northern California.</u></p>	<p><i>Objective determination made by staff following a review of the</i></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>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.</p> <p>Recipient cannot have been serving all or part of a 3-month suspension within the last 12 months</p>	<p><u>players and eligibility criteria</u></p>
<p><u>Outstanding Competitor of the Year</u></p> <p><u>Awarded annually to up to three players based on nominations by tournament players, Tournament staff, Referee's, etc throughout the year</u></p> <p><u>Nomination Form</u></p>	<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>	<p><u>Adult Tournament Committee decides among the nominations</u></p>
<p><u>Sportsmanship award</u></p> <p><u>Awarded annually to up to three players based on nominations by tournament players, Tournament staff, Referee's, etc throughout the year</u></p> <p><u>Nomination Form</u></p>	<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 suspension within the last 12 months</p>	<p><u>Adult Tournament Committee decides among the nominations</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 \$75 per award recipient <u>Application Form</u></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><u>Objective determination made by staff following a review of the players and eligibility criteria.</u></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.

3. Issue #2 – Assigning levels for NTRP and Age Group tournaments – Based on the current criteria staff prepared a list of tournaments recommended for Gold Cup and TOY designation, as well as reviewed the Age Group tournaments to designate a level

Part A.

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

RESOLVED: That the following NTRP 18+ tournaments be designated as Gold Cup for 2025

March 14-16 - NTRP 18+ Laguna Creek Sprig Classic (Laguna Creek Sports Club in Elk Grove)
April 25-17 & May 2-4 - NTRP 18+ (Del Norte Tennis Club in Sacramento)
Aug 29 - Sept 1 - NTRP 18+ San Francisco City Championships (Lifetime Activities in San Francisco)
**Sierra View would be awarded a level 4 for one tournament if they pending the application and approval for sanctioning*

FURTHER RESOLVED: That the following NTRP 18+ tournaments be designated as Tournament of the Year for 2025

June 7-9 - NTRP 18+ (Operation Pride in Berkeley)
July 18-20 - NTRP 18+ Round Up (Johnson Ranch Sports Club in Roseville)
Aug 16-17 - NTRP 18+ (Lafayette Tennis Club in Lafayette) *pending approval by Sanctions and Schedule Committee
Oct 17-19 - NTRP 18 + Jimmy Kvarme Tribute Tournament (Park Terrace Swim and Tennis Club in Sacramento)
Oct 26-27 - NTRP 18+ Fall Classic (Laguna Creek Sports Club in Elk Grove)

After the vote, a question was raised if a tournament that does not meet the criteria, but has been a level 4 for many years and would help with geographical distribution, could be considered for a level 5 designation. It was brought to mind that the designation criteria says that those tournaments meeting the minimum ratings will be considered first, but other tournaments may also be considered. The Committee was also reminded that the lower ratings are often influenced by the weather.

Based on the discussion, the previous vote was rescinded.

After a discussion, the following motion was duly made by Leslie Airola-Murveit, seconded by Mariko Fritz-Krockow, and approved by a vote of 7 in favor, 0 opposed, 1 abstention (Craig Pasqua)

RESOLVED: That the NTRP 18+ tournaments be designated as Gold Cup for 2025

Gold Cup (Level 4):

March 14-16 - NTRP 18+ Laguna Creek Sprig Classic (Laguna Creek Sports Club in Elk Grove)
April 25-17 & May 2-4 - NTRP 18+ (Del Norte Tennis Club in Sacramento)
July 18-20 - NTRP 18+ Round Up (Johnson Ranch Sports Club in Roseville)
Aug 29 - Sept 1 - NTRP 18+ San Francisco City Championships (Lifetime Activities in San Francisco)
**Sierra View would be awarded a level 4 for one tournament if they pending the application and approval for sanctioning*

FURTHER RESOLVED: That the following NTRP 18+ tournaments be designated as Tournament of the Year for 2025

June 7-9 - NTRP 18+ (Operation Pride in Berkeley)
July 4-6 - NTRP 18+ Napa Valley Classic (NVTA in Napa)
Aug 16-17 - NTRP 18+ (Lafayette Tennis Club in Lafayette) *pending approval by Sanctions and Schedule Committee
Oct 17-19 - NTRP 18 + Jimmy Kvarme Tribute Tournament (Park Terrace Swim and Tennis Club in Sacramento)
Oct 26-27 - NTRP 18+ Fall Classic (Laguna Creek Sports Club in Elk Grove)

Rationale: The selection was made based on the criteria with the tournaments meeting the criteria being considered first. The committee considered geographic distribution, however, due to a limited number of tournaments held in the previous year that would meet the criteria, the Committee decided to designate more tournaments in the Sacramento area that meet the criteria to give players more opportunities to play in a Level 4 and Level 5 tournament to work on their ranking. This deviates from the previously approved criteria that permits one Gold Cup tournament and one Tournament of the Year in each region. At the time the tournaments were reviewed for Level 4 and Level 5 designations, there were no tournaments that applied in other areas that met the criteria to be designated a Level 4 or a Level 5 tournament. The Committee will revisit Level 5 designations again in 2025 as more organizations apply to see if any returning tournaments applied for after the primary sanction period meet the criteria to be considered a Level 5 tournament.

Part B.

After a discussion, the following motion was duly made by Marina Wills, seconded by Craig Pasqua, and **approved** by a vote of 8 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstentions, and 0 recusals.

RESOLVED: That the following NTRP 40+ and 55+ tournaments be designated as Gold Cup (Level 4) and Tournaments of the Year (Level 5) for 2025

Gold cup (L4):

Aug 16-18 - NTRP 40+ Operation Pride (Berkeley)
March 15-17 - NTRP 55+ Operation Pride (Berkeley)

Tournament of the Year (L5)

Oct 25-27 - NTRP 40+ Operation Pride (Berkeley)
Oct 4-6 - NTRP 55+ Operation Pride (Berkeley)

Rationale: The selection was made based on the criteria. Operation Pride is currently the only organization hosting 40+ and 55+ tournaments. Having level 4 and level 5 tournaments in the section helps NorCal players work on their rankings on the National Standings List

Part C.

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

RESOLVED: That the following Age Group tournament be designated level 4 for 2025

March 8-10 - Laguna Creek Sprig Classic (Laguna Creek Sports Club in Elk Grove)

Rationale: The selection was made based on the criteria

4. Topic #3: Seeding regulation

The Seeding Regulation in the NorCal Adult Tournament regulations currently lists UTR as a source of information used by seeding coordinators to seed players in Adult Open and Adult Age Group divisions when all factors method is used. Since USTA adopted the use of WTN (World tennis Number) as a rating, the reference to UTR should be replaced with WTN.

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 immediately, Regulation #10 - Seeding is amended to read as follows (underlined language is proposed to be added; stricken through language is proposed to be deleted).

10. Seeding

a. *Adult Open and Adult Age Group Divisions.*

i. *When Seeding Coordinators Available.* USTA NorCal will appoint Seeding Coordinators to seed events in the Adult Open and Adult Age Group Divisions. When Seeding Coordinators are available, the Seeding Coordinators will use the All Factors Method of seeding as described in USTA Regulation II.A.4.b. Among the information that will be considered are head-to-head records, indirect wins and losses, national rankings, sectional rankings, WTN, ~~Universal Tennis Ratings (UTR)~~ and any additional information available. (See: Adult Open and Age Group Tournament Seeding Rules and Coordinators).

Rationale: The USTA adopted the use of WTN and therefore this rating should be listed as criteria for seeding. UTR can still be used as the regulation says “any additional information available”

6. Issue #3 – National Regulation Change Proposals.

National recently sent proposed changes to the 2025 USTA Adult & Family Tournament Regulations and offered Sections to provide feedback

Proposal 1 – Remove Top 500 List

No motion was made to provide feedback

Proposal 2 – Match Format L1

The Committee asked to provide the following feedback to USTA National: Players do not like to play a 10 point tiebreak in lieu of a 3rd set and in the younger age group (doubles) this should not be an option for a Level 1 National Tournament.

Proposal 3 – Draw Format L1

The Committee asked to provide the following feedback to USTA National: The Voluntary Consolation format does not provide a structured draw and players play against random opponents without proper level distribution and therefore this should not be an option for a Level 1 National Tournament.

Proposal 4 – Age Up Rankings

No motion was made to provide feedback

5. Staff Report

- Item 1: Joanna Broda-Schunck informed the Committee that on October 13-14 NorCal and SoCal ran the annual North-South Challenge Cup. The event took place in San Diego and NorCal lost to SoCal 24-52. Following the event section staff from NorCal and SoCal met to discuss potential changes to the event, including format changes to accommodate the low number of participants. These changes have been also discussed with the NorCal main team captain Ray Rockwell.
- Item 2: Joanna Broda-Schunck reported to the Committee that the application invitation for the 2025 Women’s Day tournament has been sent out and we are awaiting submissions.
- Item 3: Joanna Broda-Schunck explained to the Committee the conforming changes introduced in the NorCal Adult Tournament Regulations
- Item 4: Joanna Broda-Schunck told the Committee about the plans to host a tournament Director workshop about best practices in Adult Tournaments. The workshop would also include the opportunity to create 2025 tournaments in Serve tennis

There being no further issues or discussion to come before the Committee, at 9:54pm the meeting was adjourned.