

NOTE: *These minutes are in draft form and are subject to change. All minutes are final only after approval by the committee. The USTA NorCal Board reviewed and voted on the Committee Recommendations included in these minutes at its meeting on December 13, 2023.*

Luis Reis, chair of the Adult Tournament Committee, called the meeting to order at 7:50pm 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, Chris Aria, Darrin Cohen, Steven Cornell, Mariko Fritz-Krockow, Andie Mouzes, Wendell Pierce, Marina Wills,*

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

Guests Present: n/a

7:54 Mariko Fritz-Krockow joined the meeting just after roll call

1. Staff Report

- Item 1: Joanna Broda-Schunck reported about the North-South tournaments and the plans for the event next year

8:04 Andie Mouzes joined the meeting during staff report on North-South

- Item 2: Joanna Broda-Schunck reported on the 2023 Adult Grand Prix and the players' reception of the event held again for the first time since 2019.
- Item 3: Joanna Broda-Schunck asked Leslie Ariola-Murveit to report about the 2023 Women's Intersectionals Team Championship. Leslie reported that the 35's team won the Gold, the 45's -Silver, 55's -4th place, 65's - Silver, 75's - won consolation, and the 80's - Silver
- Item 4: Joanna Broda-Schunck informed the Committee about the plans to continue to collaborate with the Bay Area Senior Games in 2024 and work together on the Tennis event. Joanna emphasized the fact that this year players would qualify for the National Senior Games held in Summer 2025 in Des Moines, Iowa
- Item 5: Joanna Broda-Schunck reported that while the incentives for the NTRP 40+, 55+, the 1-day tournaments, the Age Group tournaments and the WTN promotion were approved by the Board of Directors, the Open stipends were not approved due to the data not supporting the notion that the stipends were promoting growth of participation in the Open tournaments. Joanna Broda-Schunck shared with the Committee the data that was provided to the Board. After a discussion the Committee decided that the sub-committee will meet again and discuss possible new ways to grow participation.

8:13 Mark Fairchilds joined the meeting during the approval of the minutes

- 2. Approval of Minutes.** The Committee considered approval of the minutes of the meeting held August 29, 2023. The following motion was duly made by Leslie Airola-Murveit seconded by Mark Fairchilds 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 August 29, 2023 be approved as presented.

- 3. Issue #1 – NTRP Gold Cup and TOY criteria.** Based on this year's results of the Feefo survey (introduced this year) it was noted that the response rate for the surveys is not very high and very few tournaments reached the required threshold of 25% to be considered for a Gold Cup or TOY designation.

Following 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, and 0 recusals:

RESOLVED: That effective immediately, the following amendments to the NTRP Gold Cup Series Tournament Designation Criteria be approved (underlined language is proposed addition, crossed out language is proposed to be removed).

32. NTRP Gold Cup Series Tournament Designations. 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 minimum criteria 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 ~~25%~~ 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.

Rationale:

The survey participation using the new system (Feefo) is low and many tournaments do not reach the required threshold of 25%. For this reason, this requirement is to be adjusted back to 15%. It is noted that staff will work on emphasizing to players the importance of filling out surveys.

And the following motion was duly made by Leslie Airola-Murveit, seconded by Andie Mouzes, 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 NTRP Tournament of the Year (TOY) Designation Criteria be approved (underlined language is proposed addition, crossed out language is proposed to be removed).

33. NTRP Tournament of the Year Designations. Each year, up to 6 NTRP tournaments, in different regions, would be designated as a Level 5 Open: Tournament of the Year Tournament. 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 a multiple day event
- The tournament shall have received an average rating by all participants on the player evaluation of at least 4.0 (80%)
- A minimum of 15 ~~25%~~ 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 survey participation using the new system (Feefo) is low and many tournaments do not reach the required threshold of 25%. For this reason, this requirement is to be adjusted back to 15%. It is noted that staff will work on emphasizing to players the importance of filling out surveys.

8:35 Marina Wills joined the meeting during the approval of the minutes

4. 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

Part A.

After 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 1 recusal (Mark Fairchilds)

RESOLVED: That the following tournaments be designated as Gold Cup for 2024

6/1 - 6/3 - NTRP 18+ Operation Pride (Berkeley)
7/5 - 7/7 - NTRP 18+ NVTA (Napa)
8/30 - 9/2 - NTRP 18+ Lifetime Activities (SF)
10/19 - 10/20 - NTRP 18+ Park Terrace Swim & Tennis Club

Rationale: The selection was made based on the criteria with the tournaments meeting the criteria being considered first. The committee also considered geographic distribution, which is a part of the criteria.

Part B.

After a discussion, the following motion was duly made by Leslie Airola-Murveit, seconded by Marina Wills, and **approved** by a vote of 9 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstentions, and 1 recusal (Mark Fairchilds)

RESOLVED: That the following NTRP 18+ tournaments be designated as Tournaments of the Year for 2024

3/8 - 3/10 - NTRP 18+ Laguna Creek (Elk Grove)
6/15 - 6/16 - NTRP 18+ Sierra View CC (Roseville)

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 two TOYs in the Sacramento area that meet the criteria to give players more opportunities to play in a Level 5 tournament to work on their ranking. This deviates from the previously approved criteria that permits one Tournament of the Year in each region. At the time the tournaments were reviewed for Level 5 designations, outside of the tournaments that were already approved for level 4 tournaments, there were no tournaments that applied in other areas that met the criteria to be designated a Level 5 tournament. The Committee will revisit Level 5 designations again in 2024 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 C.

After a discussion, the following motion was duly made by Leslie Wendell Pierce, seconded by Leslie Airola-Murveit, and **approved** by a vote of 10 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstentions, and 0 recusals.

RESOLVED: That the following NTRP 18+ tournaments be designated as Tournaments of the Year for 2024

8/17 - 8/19 - NTRP 40+ Operation Pride (Berkeley)

Rationale: The selection was made based on the criteria

Part D.

After a discussion, the following motion was duly made by Marina Wills, seconded by Steve Cornell, and **approved** by a vote of 9 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstentions, and 1 recusal (Mark Fairchilds):

RESOLVED: That the following Age Group tournaments be designated level 4 for 2024

3/8 - 3/10 - Laguna Creek (Elk Grove) 5 / 20%
4/25 - 4/27 - Bay Area Senior Games hosted by USTA

Rationale: The selection was made based on the criteria

5. Issue #3 – Endorsements for NTRP National Championship – clarification for Mixed division.

The Mixed rankings only recently became available and it became apparent that there is a possibility that there are two #1 players in the Mixed division (and man and one woman) that are possibly not a team. The change clarifies how such a tie would be broken

After a discussion, the following motion was duly made by Wendell Pierce, seconded by Steve Cornell, and **approved** by a vote of 10 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstentions, and 0 recusals:

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 2024 NTRP NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS FROM

THE NORTHERN CALIFORNIA SECTION

Divisions:

- 18 & Over Men's & Women's 3.0, 3.5, 4.0, 4.5, 5.0 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 Singles/Doubles
- 55 & Over Men's & Women's 3.0, 3.5, 4.0, 4.5 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 3.0, 3.5, 4.0, 4.5, 5.0 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 will help clarify the selection process for Mixed Doubles. The mixed ranking list is currently separated into a list for men and women. This means there is a #1 female player and a #1 male player. However, only one spot is given to qualify for the mixed doubles championship through the NSL. Combining the number of points per team, helps select the higher rated team for the event.

6. Issue #4 – Player of the Year Awards 2024

The current Player of the Year Awards criteria specifically says that the doubles award is given to a team based on the team doubles ranking. However, the doubles ranking in the NTRP divisions does not provide for a team doubles ranking, only individual.

After a discussion, the following motion was duly made by Steve Cornell, seconded by Mark Fairchilds, and **approved** by a vote of 10 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstentions, and 0 recusals:

RESOLVED: That effective immediately, the following amendments to the Player of the Year award for Adult Tournaments in 2024 be approved (stricken-through language is proposed to be deleted; underlined language is proposed addition).

Awards Description	Eligibility Criteria	Process
<p>NTRP Singles Player of the Year <u>and</u> NTRP Doubles Team <u>Player</u> of the Year:</p> <p>Awarded annually in each NTRP division to the player with the most ranking points earned in the division during the Grand Prix season.</p> <p>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</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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 <u>NorCal sanctioned</u> tournaments during the <u>Grand Prix season. Calendar Year.</u> • Recipient cannot have been serving all or part of a 3 month or more probation or suspension within the last 12 months <p>Based on team doubles for all doubles divisions</p>	<p><i>Objective determination made by staff following a review of the players and eligibility criteria.</i></p>

<p>Senior Singles Player of the Year: Senior Doubles Team of the Year:</p> <p>Awarded annually in each NTRP division to the player with the most ranking points earned in the division during the Grand Prix season.</p> <p><u>Age Group Singles Player of the Year and Age Group Doubles Team of the Year:</u></p> <p><u>Awarded annually in each Age Group division to player/team with the #1 ranking on the final ranking list.</u></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recipient must be current USTA member residing in Northern California. • Players must play a minimum of two <u>NorCal sanctioned</u> tournaments during the season. <u>Calendar Year.</u> • 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 	<p><i>Objective determination made by staff following a review of the players and eligibility criteria.</i></p>
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<p>Open Singles Player of the Year: Open Doubles Team of Year:</p> <p>Awarded annually in each division to the player with the most ranking points earned in the division during the Grand Prix season.</p> <p><u>Awarded annually in each Open division to player/team with the #1 ranking on the final ranking list.</u></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recipient must be current USTA member residing in Northern California. • Players must play a minimum of two <u>NorCal sanctioned</u> tournaments during the season. <u>Calendar Year.</u> • 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 	<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: Awarded annually in each Family division (mother/son, mother/daughter, father/son, father/daughter, husband/wife) to the player with the most ranking points earned in the division during the Grand Prix season. <u>to the team with the #1 ranking on the final ranking list</u></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recipient must be current USTA member residing in Northern California. • Players must play a minimum of two tournaments during the season • 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 	<p><i>Objective determination made by staff following a review of the players and eligibility criteria.</i></p>
<p>Peter Sharkey Award: Monetary award given annually to a man aged 55 and over who has won his first NorCal <u>senior Age Group</u> singles tournament in the preceding calendar year.</p> <p><i>Award amount is determined by the number of recipients and the amount in the bank account.</i></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 <u>senior Age Group</u> 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: The current Player of the Year Awards for doubles are based on doubles team rankings. These do not currently exist in the NTRP divisions; therefore, a change of verbiage is needed to clarify how the Player of the Year awards will be presented for the doubles divisions. Additional verbiage change is to conform with current regulations.

7. Issue #5 – Proposals of changes to USTA Adult Family Ranking Regulations

USTA National has provided sections with 5 proposals of changes to the USTA Adult Family Ranking Regulations for 2024 and requested approval and feedback.

RESOLVED: That USTA NorCal supports the adoption of the amendments to the USTA Adult and Family Tournament, Ranking, and Sanctioning Regulations, except that it asks the USTA Adult Competition Committee to consider increasing the number of wild cards to NorCal's original proposal.

There being no further issues or discussion to come before the Committee, at 9:44pm the motion was made by Leslie Airola-Murveit, seconded by Wendell Pierce and approved by a vote of 10 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstentions, and 0 recusals to adjourn the meeting.