

Minutes of the USTA NorCal Adult Tournament Committee Meeting, Wednesday, January 22, 2025

NOTE: *These minutes were approved by the committee on March 19, 2025 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 19, 2025*

Leslie Airola-Murveit, chair of the Adult Tournament Committee Committee, called the meeting to order at 7:02 PM and roll call was conducted. The meeting was held by Google Meet video conference.

Committee Members Present: Leslie Airola-Murveit (chair), Luis Reis (Vice Chair), Mark Fairchilds, Darrin Cohen, Steven Cornell, Mariko Fritz-Krockow, Andie Mouzes, Wendell Pierce, Craig Pasqua, Michael Rogers, Christine Costamagna (President)

USTA NorCal Staff Present: Summer Verhoeven, Joanna Broda-Schunck

Guests Present: n/a

- 1. Introductions.** The Chair welcomed everyone and asked everyone to introduce themselves and say where they live, their story in tennis and their current involvement. During the introductions, Christine Costamagna, the president of the Board of Directors extended a warm welcome to all the members and talked about future collaboration.

Christine Costamagna left the meeting during the remaining introductions (at 7:09PM)

- 2. Approval of Minutes.** The Committee considered approval of the minutes of the meeting held November 19, 2024. The following motion was duly made by Wendell Pierce, seconded by Luis Reis 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 November 19, 2024 be approved presented

2. Staff Report

- Item 1: Joanna Broda-Schunck reported to the Committee that all the items from the previous Committee meeting have been approved by the Board during the December 2024 meeting. In addition, the items from our September meeting (the Age Group weekday tournament pilot and the 2.5-3.0 monthly series in the Gilroy area, have been approved during the January 2025 meeting.
- Item 2: Joanna Broda-Schunck also informed the Committee that the Board has passed a regulation on NorCal position on Videotaping and it has been added to the NorCal Adult Tournament Regulations

- Item 3: Joanna Broda-Schunck reported on the NorCal Qualifier that has been sanctioned out to Sleepy Hollow Swim and Tennis Club (55+), and Operation Pride (40+). Both events had over 100 players register.
- Item 4: Joanna Broda-Schunck reported on the preparation for the Adult Competition Awards Banquet and reminded the Committee members that it will take place on February 22, 2025 at 6pm at Diablo Country Club
- Item 5: Joanna Broda-Schunck reminded the Committee members to complete all the steps required to volunteer at USTA NorCal

Mariko Fritz-Krockow and Summer Verhoeven left the meeting during the staff report (at 7:26PM)

3. Issue #1 -- Adult Tournament Awards

Luis Reis made the motion to move into a closed session. The motion was seconded by Leslie Airola-Murveit. The Committee went into closed session at 7:28pm

- a. Adult Tournament Director of the Year:** The Committee discussed possible recipients for the 2024 Adult Tournament Director of the Year Award.

Following a discussion, the motion to approve the recipient of the 2024 Adult Tournament Director of the Year Award was duly made by Darrin Cohen, seconded by Wendell Pierce, and **approved** by a vote of 8 in favor, 0 opposed

Mark Fairchilds joined the meeting at 7:46PM

- b. Outstanding NTRP Tournament of the Year:** The Committee discussed possible recipients for the 2024 Outstanding NTRP Tournament of the Year.

Following a discussion, the motion to approve the recipient of the 2024 Outstanding NTRP Tournament of the Year Award was duly made by Michael Rogers, seconded by Wendell Pierce, and **approved** by a vote of 7 in favor, 0 opposed, 2 recusals (Mark Fairchilds and Craig Pasqua)

- c. Outstanding Age Group Tournament of the Year:** The Committee discussed possible recipients for the 2024 Outstanding Age Group Tournament of the Year.

Following a discussion, the motion to approve the recipient of the 2024 Outstanding Age Group Tournament of the Year Award was duly made by Darrin Cohen, seconded by Leslie Airola-Murveit, and **approved** by a vote of 8 in favor, 0 opposed, 1 recusal (Mark Fairchilds)

- d. Outstanding Open Tournament of the Year:** The Committee discussed possible recipients for the 2024 Outstanding Open Tournament of the Year.

Following a discussion, the motion to approve the recipient of the 2024 Outstanding Open Tournament of the Year Award was duly made by Luis Reis, seconded by Wendell Pierce and **approved** by a vote of 8 in favor, 0 opposed, 1 recusal (Mark Fairchilds)

e. Outstanding 1-Day Tournament of the Year: The Committee discussed possible recipients for the 2024 Outstanding 1-Day Tournament of the Year.

Following a discussion, the motion to approve the recipient of the 2024 Outstanding 1-Day Tournament of the Year Award was duly made by Michael Rogers, seconded by Leslie Airola-Murveit and **approved** by a vote of 9 in favor, 0 opposed, and 0 abstentions.

f. Outstanding New Tournament of the Year: The Committee discussed possible recipients for the 2024 Outstanding New Tournament of the Year.

Following a discussion, the motion to not award a 2024 Outstanding New Tournament of the Year Award was duly made by Michael Rogers, seconded by Wendell Pierce and **approved** by a vote of 9 in favor, 0 opposed, and 0 abstentions.

The Committee came out of the closed session at 8:15 PM

5. Issue #2 – Assigning levels for NTRP and Age Group tournaments –

Part A. Since there were not 6 Tournaments of the Year designated at the previous meeting. it was suggested to add one more that meets the criteria even though it wasn't selected initially due to lack of geographical distribution. (There are already some level 5 tournaments in the Sacramento area designated as tournament of the year)

Following discussion, the following motion was duly made by Mark Fairchilds, seconded by Darrin Cohen, and **approved** by a vote of 9 in favor, 0 opposed, and 0 abstentions:

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

September 20-21 - NTRP 18+ (Placer CTA)

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 Tournament of the Year 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.

Part B.

After a discussion, the following motion was duly made by Michael Rogers, seconded by Wendell Pierce, and **approved** by a vote of 9 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstentions,

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

April 10-12 – Bay Area Senior Games (hosted by USTA NorCal)

Rationale: The selection was made based on the criteria

6. Issue #3

The current regulation about canceling tournament does not permit the cancellation of all matches for the remainder of the day before 12 of the day in question or the remainder of the tournament until at least 12 Noon of the last scheduled day of play. However, there may be circumstances under which an earlier cancelation of the tournament may be warranted.

Following discussion, the following motion was duly made by Luis Reis, seconded by Craig Pasqua, and **approved** by a vote of 9 in favor, 0 opposed, and 0 abstentions:

RESOLVED: That effective immediately, USTA NorCal Adult Tournament Regulation 25 is amended to read as follows (underlined language is proposed to be added; stricken through language is proposed to be deleted).

25. Cancellation of Tournaments.

~~The Tournament Committee shall not make the decision to cancel all matches for the remainder of the day until at least 12 Noon of the day in question, or the remainder of the tournament until at least 12 Noon of the last scheduled day of play.~~

a. *Authorization by Staff to Cancel Tournament.* Notwithstanding subparagraphs b. and c. below, USTA NorCal staff may, upon the request by the Tournament Committee, and when good cause is shown, authorize:

- The cancellation of a tournament; or
- The cancellation of one or more days of play, one or more days before the start date of the tournament.

b. *Level 7 Tournaments.* The Tournament Committee may make the decision to cancel all matches in an event or the entire tournament, no more than 24 hours prior to the start of the tournament. The Tournament Committee is responsible for notifying all registrants about the cancellation and processing refunds per the refund guidelines.

c. *Level 6, 5, and 4 Tournaments.* The Tournament Committee will not make the decision to cancel all matches for the remainder of the day until at least 12 Noon of the day in question, or the remainder of the tournament until at least 12 Noon of the last scheduled day of play.

Rationale: There are situations where a cancellation of the tournament is advisable before the tournament begins to assure player safety and to prevent them from unnecessary costs. Additionally, tournament directors may incur unnecessary expenses for court rental if not canceled in a timely manner.

This change to the regulation is also consistent with the regulation found in the NorCal Junior Tournament Regulations

7. Issue #4

In order to reach as many tournament players as possible and advertise the mailing lists, the survey as well as the nomination forms for the new player awards, it is proposed that staff would have the ability to add information to tournament pages. Currently Serve Tennis does have the option of adding information to all tournament pages that cannot be removed by the tournament directors – this is where the information about the mandatory waiver is being added.

Following discussion, the following motion was duly made by Wendell Pierce, seconded by Michael Rogers, and **approved** by a vote of 9 in favor, 0 opposed, and 0 abstentions:

RESOLVED: That effective immediately, USTA NorCal staff will be adding the following information to all tournament pages

1. New Tournament Players
Are you new to USTA Adult tournaments? If this is your first time playing a USTA Adult Tournament, please reach out to Joanna Broda-Schunck, the Adult Tournaments Specialist at jbroda-schunck@norcal.usta.com with any questions or concerns you may have prior to your registration!
2. If you would like to receive the Adult Tournament Weekly Reminder about upcoming events, please sign up [here](#). The email contains a list of tournaments that will close their registration within the following two weeks.
3. After the tournament you will receive a message to fill out a survey – please take the time to answer it. We review the responses and reach out to tournament directors to deliver best quality events. We also use the survey results to designate Level 4 and Level 5 tournaments for next year.
4. If during the tournament you have encountered an amazing competitor or a fellow player exhibited great sportsmanship – use the forms below to nominate them for 2025 Adult Tournament Awards
[Outstanding Competitor of the Year](#)
[Sportsmanship Award](#)
5. Learn the [USTA NorCal Adult Tournament Regulations](#)

Rationale: The information added to all tournament pages, aims to help new players learn about adult tournaments. It also encourages responding to the survey, aiming at increasing the response rate. It also gives players access to the forms to nominate players for Adult

Competition Awards. The information will be added to the same message box where the waiver information is already added.

8. New Business. In preparation for the next meeting, staff asked committee members to reflect on how to handle the Grand Prix Open, pointing out that the NTRP 5.5 division would be offered and thus might dilute the Open division.

9. Future meetings. Following a discussion, the future meetings have been set to once a month on the last Wednesday of the month from 7-8:30pm. Leslie Airola-Murveit (chair) and Joanna Broda-Schunck (staff liaison) will meet in the upcoming week to prepare a calendar for 2025.

There being no further issues or discussion to come before the Committee, the meeting was adjourned at 8:42PM