

Minutes of the USTA NorCal Adult Tournament Committee Meeting, Wednesday, March 19, 2025

NOTE: *These minutes are in draft form and are subject to change. All minutes are final only after approval by the committee. These minutes were approved by the committee on April 23, 2025*

Leslie Airola-Murveit, chair of the Adult Tournament Committee Committee, called the meeting to order at 7:51 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 Fairchilde, Andie Mouzes, Wendell Pierce, Marina Wills, Brian Martinez,

USTA NorCal Staff Present: Joanna Broda-Schunck

Guests Present: n/a

- 1. Approval of Minutes.** The Committee considered approval of the minutes of the meeting held January 22, 2025. 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, and 0 abstentions.

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the Adult Tournament Committee meeting held January 22, 2025 be approved as presented

2. Staff Report

- Item 1: Joanna Broda-Schunck reported to the Committee on the Adult Competition Awards Banquet that was held at Diablo Country Club on February 22. Staff has received multiple emails about how successful the event was.
- Item 2: Joanna Broda-Schunck reminded the Committee that a resolution was passed by unanimous written consent on February 25, 2025 to designate the NTRP 18+ 3.0 – 5.0 and Age Group 60-80+ as a Level 4 tournament (Gold Cup). The required events have been added to the NTRP tournament website
- Item 3: Joanna Broda-Schunck reported to the Committee on player participation in the NTRP Nationals:
18+ doubles (March 28-30) – 8 teams

April 4-6
18+ Singles – 17 players
40+ Singles – 13 players

55+ Singles – 18 players

April 11-13

40+ doubles – 8 teams

55+ doubles – 12 teams

April 25-27

18+ Mixed doubles – 2 teams

- Item 4: Joanna Broda-Schunck reported to the Committee that this year's Bay Area Senior Games is hosted again by USTA NorCal and that currently there are 37 players registered

3. Issue #1 – Adult Tournament Awards Criteria

The current Adult Tournament criteria do not specify a time frame for nomination of players and for tournaments to be considered. It was suggested to add a time frame in order to be able to have the awardees decided at the beginning of the year and in time for the annual award banquet.

In addition, at the time of review of potential recipients of Adult Tournament Awards it was noticed that the response rate of player feedback is low. While still emphasizing the importance of feedback, it was suggested to lower the required response rate, so that deserving tournaments can be considered. It was also suggested that the information posted on tournament pages, which encourages players to submit their feedback, should also include the fact that the feedback is what determines tournament awards.

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

RESOLVED: That effective January 1, 2025, Adult Tournament Awards Criteria are amended to:

- Set a November 15 deadline for Player and Tournament Awards that require a nomination; and
- Clarify that the Tournaments eligible to receive the Tournament Awards are those held between November 16 of a previous year and November 15 of the current year, except that in 2025 only, the tournaments eligible will be those held between January 1 and November 15, 2025.
- The eligibility criteria for the Tournament Awards has been changed to reduce the minimum percentage of participants submitting a post-event evaluation from 25% to 15%.

Rationale: The deadlines will give the Committee more time to review the nominations and applications, as well as the different tournaments and make the decision on the awardees. The lowering of response rate will allow deserving tournaments to be considered for the awards.

4. Issue #2 – NTRP National Qualification Criteria

During this year's player selection process to the NTRP National Championships, a situation was raised where an exception to the requirement of having to have played at least one NorCal sanctioned tournament was warranted.

Conforming changes include the clarification that the one NorCal sanctioned tournament should be in the respective division. In addition, in 2025 National allowed players from the Open and/or Age Group NSL to register for the 18+ 5.5 and the 40+/55+ 5.0 divisions (due to lack of players on the respective NSL). Tournaments in those divisions would count as fulfilling the requirement.

Following 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, and 0 abstentions:

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 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
- 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: 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 may host a Grand Prix tournament
- For the 40 & Over and 55 & Over (all divisions) - A NorCal Qualifying event may be held.

Spot #1: The Champion of the Grand Prix or NorCal Qualifying event will receive NorCal's endorsement to the 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: The highest ranked NorCal player on the last published National Standings List prior to entries closing will be selected into the 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 respective division in the NorCal section

Exception: The requirement of having played at least one (1) tournament in the NorCal section in the respective division within the 52-week rolling period may be waived if ALL the conditions below are met:

- If a player or team had registered for a tournament in the respective division, but the division was canceled due to lack of opponents;
- If that player or team has played in an NTRP tournament in a different age division at the same level and same event (singles or doubles);
- If there is no other player/team registered for the championship that would meet the requirement;
- If the team is on the respective National Standing List (NSL).

Note: If USTA National allows players from a different NSL into the Championships, the requirement of one NorCal tournament must be met in that division. For example: if USTA National allows players from the Open NSL or the Age Group NSL to register in the 18+ 5.5 division, the player must have played at least one (1) tournament in the NorCal section in the specific division in the Open or the Age group division within the 52-week rolling period. The specific division refers here to singles or doubles.

- * For doubles the top combined NSL will be selected. For example, if Player A is ranked #1/Player B is ranked #74 and Player C is ranked #5/Player D is ranked #10 then Player C/D will be selected first because their combined NSL ranking is 15 as opposed to Player A/B which has a combined NSL ranking of 75. For Mixed Doubles, the top combined NSL will also be listed using the NSL from the Men's and Women's Mixed Doubles lists.

If a tie exists, the team with the highest ranked player will be selected

NTRP Rating Validation

- 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 NTRP National Championship at their NEW level. Their spot at the prior level will be given to the player next in line. (see criteria above)
- Self-rated players are not eligible to participate.

Rationale: The Committee wants players to represent the section at NTRP National Championships. If players made the effort to play in their respective division but were not able to due to lack of opponents, they played in other NTRP tournaments in a different age division at the same level and same event (singles or doubles), they are not taking up a spot from a player/team that is fulfilling the requirements, and they played in the past (therefore they are on the NSL), they should be allowed to participate.

5. Issue #3 – The NorCal Qualifier

The NorCal Qualifier (the tournament that qualifies players for the NTRP National Championships in the 40+ and 55+ divisions) sanctioned out to member organizations for the past two years and has seen growth.

In 2024 it was hosted by Blackhawk Country Club (both 40+ and 55+ divisions) and there were 178 players registered

In 2025, there were two separate events. The 40+ was hosted by Operation pride and there were 105 players registered, and the 55+ was hosted by Sleepy Hollow Tennis and Swim Club and there were 112 players registered. It is suggested that we continue to offer this opportunity to member organizations

Following discussion, the following motion was duly made by Wendell Pierce, seconded by Marina Wills, and **approved** by a vote of 7 in favor, 0 opposed, and 0 abstentions:

RESOLVED: That USTA NorCal will put out for bid the opportunity to host NorCal Qualifying Tournament for the NTRP 40+ 3.0 to 5.0 divisions and the 55+ 3.0 to 5.0 divisions of the 2025 USTA NTRP National Championships, which shall be designated as a Closed Level 4 Tournament.

RESOLVED FURTHER: Applications must be submitted by July 29th, after which the Sanction & Schedule Committee will review the applications and select the events pursuant to the USTA NorCal Sanction Regulations, *except that* the Adult Tournament Committee will provide first provide its recommendations to the Sanction & Schedule Committee.

RESOLVED FURTHER: Sanction applications shall meet the following requirements:

- The tournament must be held in January or February, with a designated rain makeup weekend, and applications for a sanction period for the second weekend of January (with the 3rd week designated for rain makeup) will be given preferential treatment- these dates are January 9-11 and 16-18 in 2026.
- Applicants may apply for all 40+ and 55+ divisions (3.0-5.0), or may apply for only the 40+ or 55+ divisions.
- Singles and doubles must be offered.
- The registration fee shall be no more than \$60 per player for singles and \$30 per player for doubles.
- The draw limit shall be no less than 16 players for singles and 8 teams in doubles
- A playoff for 3rd place must be offered.

RESOLVED FURTHER: The tournament shall have the following additional requirements:

- Self-rated players are not eligible to participate as they do not meet the eligibility requirements of the USTA NTRP National Championships.
- Player selection will be done using the most recently published National Standings List of the division.

RESOLVED FURTHER: Effective immediately, \$900 shall be added to the 2025 Adult Tournament Budget as set forth below to pay for awards and player gifts USTA NorCal shall provide for all participants.

USTA NorCal NTRP Qualifying Tournament Expenses		
Expense	Current budget	Budget Request
Player gifts 250 x \$10	\$2,000	\$500
Awards: \$15 x 120 awards (1st 2nd place) + \$10 x 60 awards (3 rd place)	\$2,000	\$400
Total:	\$4,000	\$900

Rationale: The NorCal Qualifier continues to grow in popularity and it is suggested to continue offering this option to deserving organizations. The added cost is due to inflation, the growing number of players and divisions offered.

Fiscal Impact: Additional \$900 to be added in the 2025 budget. Although this tournament will be held in 2026, its early 2026 dates require the expenditure in late 2025.

6. Issue #4

The Committee was informed that USTA SoCal has decided to sunset the North-South Challenge. It is proposed to offset this loss by adding one more weekday tournament (first one is already approved for 60+, 70+ and 80+) and second one for 55+, 65+, and 75+, and to add age groups 50+ through 85+ to the Grand Prix. The funds from the North-South event would be reallocated.

Following discussion, the following motion was duly made by Wendell Pierce, seconded by Marina Wills, and **approved** by a vote of 7 in favor, 0 opposed, and 0 abstentions:

WHEREAS, the annual North-South Challenge has been discontinued,

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED: That a new weekday tournament will be held by USTA NorCal for the 55+, 65+ and 75+ Age Divisions, and that the 50+ through 85+ Age Divisions will be added in to the 2025 Grand Prix

RESOLVED FURTHER: That, effective immediately, the \$18,600 budget for the 2025 North-South Challenge be re-allocated to the new Age Division Tournament in the amount of \$6,700, and \$11,900 to the Grand Prix as follows:

Expense	North-South Budget	New Age Division Weekday Tournament	Grand Prix Additional Divisions	TOTALS FROM RE-ALLOCATED BUDGET
Event Expenses	\$2,200	\$800	\$1,400	
Court Fees	\$2,500	\$2,500	-	
Staff meals	\$400	\$400		
Staff Lodging	\$1,500	\$1,500		
Apparel	\$12,000	\$1,500(giveaways)	\$8,000	
Awards	-	-	\$2,500	
EXPENSE TOTAL	\$18,600	\$6,700	\$11,900	\$18,600
Projected Revenue	\$2,750	\$4,560	\$3,600	\$8,160
NET COST	\$15,850	\$2,140	\$8,300	\$10,440

Rationale: With the discontinuation of the North-South Challenge, the Committee would like to offer Age Group Division players additional options for play. USTA NorCal is already planning to host a weekday tournament for the 60+, 70+, and 80+ Age Group Divisions. An additional tournament for the 55+, 65+, and 75+ Age Group Divisions will give players the opportunity to play in their Age Group (as opposed to playing down a division by 5 years). The addition of Age Group Divisions to Grand Prix (50+ through 85+) is aimed at growing participation in Age Group events.

Note that the projected revenue in the New Age Division Tournament is based on 48 singles entries and 48 doubles entries. The projected revenue for Grand Prix is based on 40 singles entries and 40 doubles entries.

This resolution was approved the Committee at a meeting held on March 19, 2025, by a vote of 7 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstaining, and 0 recusals.

This proposal has been sent to the Budget & Finance Committee for review.

Fiscal Impact: Projected increase in revenue of \$5,410 (\$15,850 net cost of North-South as compared to \$10,440 net cost of the proposal).

6. Grand Prix divisions

This means that the 2025 Grand Prix will host the following divisions:

- NTRP 18+ 2.5-5.0 men's and women's singles and doubles and mixed doubles
- Open men's and women's singles and doubles and mixed doubles
- Age Group 50+ through 85+ men's and women's singles and doubles and 55+, 65+, 75+ mixed doubles

Rationale: It has been decided to not include the NTRP 18+ 5.5 division as those players would qualify for the Open divisions. In addition, the 5.5 divisions in other tournaments currently don't see any registrations and therefore the requirement of having played at least one NorCal sanctioned tournament in the respective division would not be feasible.

7. Questions and Answers

Mark Fairchilds brought up a situation that occurred recently at a tournament. Due to inclement weather on Friday the tournament committee decided to shorten the format for day 1 (Saturday) in order to be able to fit all matches and finish the tournament during the designated weekend. The tournament being a level 4 would give a large number of ranking points to the champions. The feedback from some players was that they would rather play regular format and not finish the tournament than play shortened format. The question was raised whether the goal should be to finish the tournament or give players regular match formats. After reviewing the Friend-at-Court regulations and a discussion, the consensus of the Committee is that the tournament committee should strive to finish the tournament rather than cancel some divisions or rounds.

8. Future meetings. Next meeting is scheduled for April 23 at 7PM

There being no further issues or discussion to come before the Committee, the meeting was adjourned at 9:05PM