

**Minutes of the USTA NorCal Adult Tournament Committee
Meeting, Tuesday, August 5th, 2025**

NOTE: Issue #4 – Adult Tournament Player Awards and Adult Comp Awards Banquet - was not recommended by the Budget Committee and therefore not presented to the Board. All other resolutions in these minutes were approved by the USTA NorCal Board as of August 20, 2025. These minutes were approved by the committee on September 18, 2025.

Leslie Airola-Murveit, chair of the Adult Tournament Committee Committee, called the meeting to order at 7:14 PM and a roll call was conducted. The meeting was held by Google Meet video conference.

Committee Members Present: Leslie Airola-Murveit (chair), Luis Reis (Vice Chair), Wendell Pierce, Craig Pasqua, Mariko Fritz-Krockow, Darrin Cohen, Michael Rogers

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

Guests Present: n/a

1. Staff Report

- Item 1: Joanna Broda-Schunck reported to the Committee on the Tri-Level Singles pilot event. While it was run as a league (due to system limitations) it was a collaboration between the two departments. The player response was very positive with a strong request for more events like this (team events for singles players)
- Item 2: Joanna Broda-Schunck presented to the Committee the current participation numbers in Adult and NTRP tournaments. For the YTD of completed tournaments the number of unique players is below the 2024 number at 2,239 (compared to 2,400 in 2024). However, the number of tournament registration is above the 2024 numbers at 4,024 (compared to 3,879 in 2024). The number of tournaments is 87 (compared to 66 in 2024)
- Item 3: Joanna Broda-Schunck reminded the Committee that a pilot weekday/daytime age group tournament will be held on August 18-20 and 25-27 at Mission Hills and requested help in promotion and volunteering.

Luis Reis joined the meeting during the staff's report

2. Approval of Minutes.

The Committee considered approval of the minutes of the meeting held June 3rd, 2025. The following motion was duly made by Craig Pasqua, seconded by Leslie Airola-Murveit and **approved** by a vote of 6 in favor, 0 opposed, and 0 abstentions.

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the Adult Tournament Committee meeting held June 3, 2025 be approved as presented

3. Issue #1 – Electronic Line Calling at Grand prix

Joanna Broda-Schunck informed the Committee that the section will be piloting the PlayReplay ELC system at the Adult Grand Prix held on October 3-5 in Blackhawk Country Club. The system will be sent to NorCal from USTA National. Due to the fact that there are currently no regulations regarding the usage of such a system a ELC protocol for the 2025 Grand Prix was suggested

Following discussion, the following motion was duly made by Wendell Pierce, seconded by Michale Rogers, and **approved** by a vote of 6 in favor, 0 opposed, and 0 abstentions

RESOLVED: That ELC protocols to be used at 2025 Grand Prix be approved

Electronic Line Calling Protocols

This event will have Electronic Line Calling piloted - please read the information about how this will be handled.

- Number of Challenges
 - 3 incorrect challenges per set
 - 3 for 10pt tiebreak
 - If a player is successful in their challenge, the player will not lose one of their challenges
 - Challenge markers (green or red) must be used on each court.
 - When one challenge remains for a player they must inform an official.
 - Players are responsible for removing markers after unsuccessful challenges and adding back after set completion.
- Determine System Malfunction by Rover
 - This will be allowed during the duration of the pilot
- System Unavailable
 - In an instance where the system is unavailable, the original call will stand
 - If the system or review is unavailable, the player will not lose one of their challenges
- Challenge Carryover
 - Challenges may not carry over from one set to another
- Overrule
 - If player is overruled by an official (or the system), player loses the point
 - Can an Official's overrule be challenged?
 - Yes, an official's overrule can be challenged.
 - The Electronic systems decision is final
- Challenges
 - A player may challenge any fault or out call made by their opponent/official
 - System may not be used to verify calls, if a call cannot be made, it is considered in
 - Balls called out due to hitting a permanent fixture cannot be challenged
- Challenge Denials
 - An official cannot initiate a challenge
 - Challenges shouldn't be arbitrarily initiated

- Officials may deny challenges if they feel a player is attempting to delay the game or for gamesmanship/unsportsmanship behavior
- People associated with players may not request challenges, this can be penalized under the PPS for coaching (coaches, spectators etc)
- Consecutive Challenge Rule
 - If a player wins two challenges, they must inform an official
 - This discourages excessive challenges and promotes fair play
- Survey
 - Following the tournament all players are required to fill out this survey.

Rationale: PlayReplay ELC system will be used at the Adult Grand Prix held on October 3-5 in Blackhawk Country Club. Due to the fact that there are currently no regulations regarding the usage of such a system a ELC protocol for the 2025 Grand Prix was suggested. The protocol was based on one sent by USTA National and was previously used at a Level 2 junior tournament in the NorCal section.

4. Issue #2 – Women’s Intersectionals Wildcard selection - update

Staff informed the Player selection committee for the Women’s Intersectionals has met and selected teams for the 2025 event. During the player selection process a question came up about whether a late entry can be considered a wildcard.

Following discussion, the following motion was duly made by Wendell Pierce, seconded by Mariko Fritz-Krockow, and **approved** by a vote of 6 in favor, 0 opposed, and 0 abstentions

RESOLVED: Changes to the Women’s Intersectional Player Selection Criteria be approved (underlined language is proposed addition, crossed out language is proposed to be removed)

Wild Cards.

The Intersectionals Player Selection Committee may award one wild card per age division to accommodate a player who has not met the player selection criteria, including a timely application. A timely application is recommended, but not required. To receive a wildcard, a player must be a Northern California resident and a member of the USTA. Wildcards will be awarded at the discretion of the Selection Committee.

~~To receive a wild card, a player must meet all of the eligibility requirements, except that~~

Not enough eligible players to field a team: In the event that there are not enough eligible players to field a team from the players that applied by the deadline, players that have not met the Play Requirement will have until September 16 to meet this requirement ~~to be eligible for a wild card.~~

Rationale: The updated criteria specifies that the wildcard can be used for any player that has not met the player selection criteria, including a timely application and that wildcards are awarded at the discretion of the Selection Committee.

5. Issue #3 – 2025 Donoff Cup team endorsement

The Committee was informed that there has been a player inquiring about participating in the 2025 Donoff Cup. The Tournament requires teams to be endorsed by the section. However, due to the fact that previously we were hosting the North-South event instead of sending teams to the Donoff Cup, USTA NorCal currently does not have any endorsement criteria.

Following discussion, the following motion was duly made by Wendell Pierce, seconded by Michael Rogers, and **approved** by a vote of 6 in favor, 0 opposed, and 0 abstentions

RESOLVED: That, effective immediately, the endorsement procedures for teams willing to participate in the 2025 Donoff Cup be as follows:

Teams that would like to participate in the 2025 Donoff cup should reach out to the NorCal section staff with their full lineup.

Staff will approve the teams based on a first come, first served basis, as long as the players have met the following criteria:

-> Be a current USTA NorCal member

-> Are in good standing (have not been serving all or part of a 3-month suspension within the last 12 months)

It is preferred that the players have played at least one (1) sanctioned tournament in the NorCal section in the past 52 weeks

Rationale: The Donoff Cup is a new intersectional team championship for men's teams Ages 35+ through 85+. USTA NorCal does not currently have any procedure to endorse teams. However, some players have expressed interest. The tournament requires the teams to be endorsed by the section. Since this is a new event for NorCal, to support our players that would like to compete in the event this year, the Adult Tournament Committee suggests the above resolution for 2025 and will work on coming up with a plan for supporting players attending the Donoff Cup including eligibility requirements for future years.

Fiscal Impact: none

6. Issue #4 – Adult Tournament Player Awards and Adult Comp Awards Banquet

The current Player awards criteria state that the awardees of the Top NorCal Player Title (the player that is #1 ranked in NorCal on the final ranking list in their specific division) shall receive certificates rather than awards. The committee feels that this would take away from the splendor of the event and that it would be better to give these players awards, albeit of a lesser value than those for Player of the Year, Match Player of the Year, Competitor of the Year, Sportsmanship award.

In addition, the Committee would like to invite these players to the 2025 Adult Competition Awards Banquet and cover 50% of the cost of their attendance.

Darrin Cohen joined the meeting during the discussion

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

RESOLVED: That, effective 2026, the budget for the Adult Competition Awards Banquet be increased by \$13,500

Rationale: The Committee feels the recipients of the “Top NorCal Player” designation should receive awards rather than certificates and be invited to the Adult Competition Awards Banquet at a 50% rate. Subsidizing the cost by 50% will make it more likely that more players will attend and will address affordability and inclusiveness of the event.

The Committee feels this will preserve the current spirit of the award ceremony and that receiving the awards will make the players feel special and recognized and that, in turn, will encourage them to participate more in tournaments in order to earn future awards.

The estimated number of recipients of the Top NorCal Player Award is 150 players

The estimated cost of the awards is \$20 per player (including setup, shipping and taxes) = \$3,000

The cost of the participation in the banquet is estimated at \$100 per player = \$15,000

The cost of additional sweatshirts given is estimated at \$20 per guest = \$3,000

The estimated cost of these additions would be:

Awards: \$3,000

Guests: \$15,000 (based off of 150 additional award recipients x \$100 per player)

Sweatshirts: \$3,000

Total: \$21,000

If the 150 players pay 50% of the fee, that would bring in **\$7,500** in revenue.

Total cost increase to NorCal would be by adding additional awardees is **\$13,500** (\$21,000 expenses - \$7,500 in revenue).

The current budget for Adult Awards is \$20,980.

The additional \$13,500 would bring the total expenses to \$34,480

The Committee will look at the awards criteria to determine if there is an option to reduce the number of recipients for future years.

Fiscal Impact: \$13,500

8. Future meetings.

The committee discussed the dates for future meetings and it was decided that the chair and staff will look at dates of upcoming budget and Board meetings and staff will send out an email to confirm availability for a meeting in September.

There being no further issues or discussion to come before the Committee, the meeting was adjourned at 8:27PM