

NOTE: *These minutes were approved by the committee on April 29, 2026.*

Leslie Airola-Murveit, chair of the Adult Tournament Committee, called the meeting to order at 7:01pm and roll call was conducted. The meeting was held by Google Meet video conference.

Committee Members Present: *Leslie Airola-Murveit (Chair), Darrin Cohen, Michael Rogers, Andie Mouzes, Marina Wills*

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

1. Staff Report

- **Item 1:** Joanna Broda-Schunck presented to the Committee the current participation numbers in Adult and NTRP tournaments. She explained that the numbers presented take into account the year-to-date tournament and the categories: Adult, Family and NTRP, level 2-7. The number of unique players decreased from previous year by 10.9%. The number of tournament registrations decreased by 7.5% and the number of tournaments increased by 28%. While there were more tournaments, the number of players has decreased. However, the number of remaining tournaments is still larger and we are hoping to make up the difference.
- **Item 2:** Joanna Broda-Schunck told the Committee members about the Adult Competition Awards Ceremony and that it was a great success. A large number of the tournament award recipients were present and enjoyed the banquet. However, there were also a few players that complained about the fact that NorCal #1 players were not specifically invited and paid for.

2. Topic #1 – Discussion on level designation criteria

The Committee discussed the current criteria for level designation for Open, Age division and NTRP tournaments. This was looked at to ensure proper geographical distribution of higher level events and accessibility for players and thus grow participation. In addition, current criteria limit to 6 level 4s and 10 level 5s making it harder for NorCal players to achieve a high national ranking. Because of the limit of level 4s and 5s the current requirements call for larger draw sizes, limiting the possibility for smaller clubs to host a level 4 or 5. It was decided that staff will reach out to other sections to see what they are doing and connect with committee members playing / hosting specific types of events and potentially come up with new criteria and present that to the committee for approval before the next primary bidding period.

3. Topic #2 – growing tournaments in remote places

The Committee discussed how to grow the number of tournaments, especially in remote areas. Leslie Airola-Murveit presented a spreadsheet created after a conversation with Mark Fairchilds with a list of organizations that used to host tournaments but haven't done so since

the pandemic. It was requested from committee members to help fill in the information about potential contacts and help reach out to those organizations about potentially coming back. It was brought to the committee's attention that in many clubs there is not enough staff to host tournaments. Two ideas were explored:

1. The referee taking on the role of tournament director for level 6 tournaments. This would give the tournaments the option to have one person in dual role as tournament director and referee at level 6s, adding the requirement that the tournament director be a certified referee.
2. Creating a database of tournament directors for hire. Not having enough staff to run tournaments is often a limiting factor to host tournaments. It was suggested to train a group of people that would like to take on the role of tournament director and hired by the organization. It was decided that staff will look into creating a program for training potential tournament directors and creating a database for organizations. The potential people to reach out to could be current referees, officials.

4. Topic #3 – growing participation

The Committee continued the discussion from the previous meeting about growing participation. The ideas discussed were:

- Committee members are asked to commit to an action item of how they will promote tournaments. The committee members will be sent postcards with QR code to the adult tournament website and the tournament calendar, to have handy when talking about tournaments
- Staff would work to create a flyer promoting tournaments to be sent to tournament directors to put on the tournament desk (together with the sportsmanship flyer). This flyer may include the information that they should work towards the Grand Prix
- Promote Grand Prix and Nationals as goals to work towards. This would include finding a way to reach out to players that have played in their first tournament to let them know that they are now eligible for the Grand Prix, but that they need to continue playing to be among the top 8 to qualify.
- Reach out to league players that have not qualified for sectionals to consider a tournament instead

The discussion is expected to be an ongoing part of future meetings

The next committee meeting date was set to Wednesday April 29th at 7pm

There being no further issues or discussion to come before the Committee, at 8:40 pm the meeting was adjourned.