

NOTE: These minutes were approved by the Committee on July 15, 2025.

Ogidi Obi, chair of the JTT/Local Play Committee, called the meeting to order at 12:00pm and roll call was conducted. The meeting was held by Google Meet video conference.

Committee Members Present: Ogidi Obi (Chair), Todd Dissly, Andrea Barnes, David Panconi, Carrie Zarraonandia, Joe Grech, Lou Maunupau, and Shahand Esmaeili

USTA NorCal Staff Present: Trey Astbury, JTT Manager, Chris Samuel, Net Generation Programs Manager, Beth Workeneh, Sr Manager of Junior Competition, and Chrissie Costamagna, Board President of USTA NorCal.

1. Staff & Chair Report

- **Staff Report** Trey and Chris Samuel reported on their program's growth over the past year in both participation numbers and hosts. Joe Grech commented on the effectiveness of Team Challenges.
- **Chair Introduction** Ogidi Obi read the Committee charge and asked the Committee to approve the minutes.

2. Approval of Minutes. The Committee considered approval of the minutes of the meeting held January 21, 2025. The following motion was duly made by Joe Grech, seconded by David Panconi, and **approved** by a vote of 8 in favor, 0 opposed, and 0 abstentions:

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the January Committee meeting held January 21, 2025 be approved as presented.

3. Adjustment to JTT Regulations. Trey presented JTT rule changes to the Committee. In proposal 1, Trey discussed the need to address what happens if a team captain cannot make it to a team match and having a single captain captain both teams. The team captain would need to send their lineup ahead of time and discuss coaching etiquette.

Following discussion, the following motion was duly made by Joe Grech, seconded by Carrie Z, and approved by a vote of 8 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstentions, and 0 recusals:

RESOLVED: That, effective immediately, USTA NorCal Junior Team Tennis Regulation IV.B.4. is hereby amended as set forth below (stricken-through language is proposed to be deleted; underlined language is proposed to be added):

IV. USTA NORCAL JUNIOR TEAM TENNIS COACH ELIGIBILITY & REQUIREMENTS

Players who meet the eligibility requirement for NorCal JTT are not guaranteed placement onto a team.

A. Safe Play. [unchanged]

B. Badge Rules. Team Captains and designated Co-Captains will be issued a credential badge with their headshot, team name and/or program, and Safe Play expiration date to use during the season.

1. **Team Captain/Co-Captain Verification.** A physical or digital badge must be presented to turn in a lineup and/or coach a match. If a physical badge is not available, a Team Captain or Co-Captain can display their name on the area's Captain Contact List and/or Safe Play Provider Search with a matching ID government-issued form of identification.
2. **Team Default.** If a Team Captain or Co-Captain ~~an unaffiliated person with the team~~ doesn't provide proof in the #1 ~~or #2~~ methods above, ~~the match will not begin and the affected team without their verification badge/Safe Play approval~~ will be defaulted, except as set forth in #3 below.
3. **Opposing Captain May Opt to Facilitate Match for Both Teams.** If for any reason a verified Team Captain or Co-Captain is not able to attend a Team Match, the opposing Captain may agree to facilitate the match for both teams and scores will stand. In such an event, Captains will decide beforehand the grounds upon which teams will be coached (i.e. the provider is neutral or the opposing team goes without coaching). Prior to the match, a Safe Play approved Captain who cannot attend the Team Match will send their lineup before sending their team to the Team Match. If the opposing Captain declines to facilitate the team match, it will result in a default for the Team without a Safe Play approved Captain/Co-Captain.

In proposal 2, Trey discussed changing the age eligibility rule to allow players to be age eligible at the start of the season before aging out. Committee members mentioned there should be exceptions for inexperienced players. One committee member was concerned about "sandbagging" and teams taking advantage of allowing older players to participate. Trey mentioned that he looks at the player's rating compared to the rest of the team before allowing any exception. The rule was modified to allow age exceptions on a case-by-case basis.

Following discussion, the following motion was duly made by Joe Grech, seconded by Pablo Alvarado, and approved by a vote of 8 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstentions, and 0 recusals:

RESOLVED: That, effective immediately, USTA NorCal Junior Team Tennis Regulation V.B.2. is hereby amended as set forth below (stricken-through language is proposed to be deleted; underlined language is proposed to be added):

V. USTA NORCAL JUNIOR TEAM TENNIS PLAYER ELIGIBILITY

Players who meet the eligibility requirement for NorCal JTT are not guaranteed placement onto a team. Players who are on a team are not guaranteed a minimum number of matches.

- A. Player USTA Membership Required.** [unchanged]
- B. Age Eligibility.**
 1. **Minimum Age.** [unchanged]
 2. **Maximum Age.** A player may register for a division if the player ~~meets the age requirement as of the official start date of the Travel League, and provided that any player who is or who will turn 18 or older during the season must be Safe Play approved. Players who age out before the Travel League season begins, may be reviewed on a case-by-case basis to allow that particular player to join a team. has not exceeded the maximum age by the last day on which the Travel League is scheduled to end, except that JTT staff can make age exceptions on a case-by-case basis to allow that particular player to join a team.~~

In proposal 3, Trey addressed a rule update that would allow players to play on multiple teams as long as the teams were in separate flights within the same division. Players would also be able to participate in separate age divisions for postseason play. The committee discussed potential scheduling conflicts about playing on more than one team. Trey mentioned that many leagues have varied start times and divisions are scheduled at different days/times for Sectionals, allowing a player to play on more than one team at Sectionals.

Following discussion, the following motion was duly made by Joe Grech, seconded by Andrea Barnes, and approved by a vote of 8 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstentions, and 0 recusals:

RESOLVED: That, effective immediately, USTA NorCal Junior Team Tennis Regulation VI.C.3. is hereby amended as set forth below (stricken-through language is proposed to be deleted; underlined language is proposed to be added):

VI. PLAYER REGISTRATION AND TEAM ROSTER REQUIREMENTS

- A. Player Registration.** [unchanged]
- B. Players Must be on a Roster.** [unchanged]

✓ HELPFUL HINT - Registration Assistance: [unchanged]

✓ HELPFUL HINT - TennisLink Scorecard Shows Rostered Players. [unchanged]

C. A Player May Be Rostered on More Than One Team. ~~A player may not be on the Team Roster of more than one team during a Team Tournament.~~ A player may be on the Team Roster of more than one team during a Travel League Season as long as they are in separate flights for the same division (i.e. 12U Green). If a player is rostered on more than one team that qualifies for a 1st/2nd Playoff and/or Championship in the same division, the player must choose one team to represent at the Playoff and/or Championship. Players may participate in Playoffs and/or Championships should they qualify in different divisions (i.e. 12U Green and 14U Yellow).

In proposal 4, Trey addressed doubles strength as captains were confused about setting their doubles lineup and uneven results if not aligned by strength. Match limits were clarified and coaching on changeovers were also discussed.

Following discussion, the following motion was duly made by Andrea Barnes, seconded by Carrie Z., and approved by a vote of 8 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstentions, and 0 recusals:

RESOLVED: That, effective immediately, USTA NorCal Junior Team Tennis Regulation IX.D., E, G. is hereby amended as set forth below (stricken-through language is proposed to be deleted; underlined language is proposed to be added):

IX. TEAM MATCH REGULATIONS

- A. Team Match Formats.** [unchanged]
- B. Order of Play** [unchanged]
- C. Start Times and Lateness** [unchanged]
- D. Team Match Line-Ups.**

- 1. Line-Up Must Be Based on Strength.** ~~A Team Captain is required to set their line-up of players in order of strength. Team~~ Captains are expected to make a good faith effort to organize their lineup based on ~~strength, similar level based doubles teams. Singles will be played in order of strength, #1-4, while doubles~~ will be played in reverse order of strength, if possible. ~~The less experienced doubles teams will compete in the earlier rounds; the stronger teams will compete in the later rounds.~~ This is a cooperative process undertaken by both Team Captains to promote players and teams of similar levels playing each other.
- 2. Line-Up Exchange.** [unchanged]
- 3. Match Limits.** A player can only play in three total matches in a Team Match. These matches can be either: one singles and two doubles matches or three doubles matches. If a player plays in more than the allotted number of matches, their additional match played will be recorded ~~as a default be defaulted. Doubles partners can play together for a max of only two doubles matches together twice. Two players can only play together as a doubles team twice during a three court format Team Match.~~ If the same doubles team plays ~~together for more than two or more matches in a two court format~~, the additional matches will be recorded ~~as defaults be defaulted.~~
- 4. Substitutions.** [unchanged]
 - a. Before the Start of an Individual Match.** [unchanged]
 - b. After the Start of an Individual Match.** [unchanged]

E. Match Formats. Required match formats are published in the separate NorCal JTT rules and guidelines for each of the USTA NorCal Junior Team Tennis Competitions and incorporated by reference to the UJTTR and attached as Appendix A. A match format may be modified to protect the health and safety of the players provided that if this takes place in a Travel League regular season Team Match, the modified match format is agreed to by both Team Captains.

F. Recording Scores; Scorecards. [unchanged]

✓ **HELPFUL HINT - Defaults, the Scorecard, and WTN.** [unchanged]

G. Coaching. The Team Captain (or the designated Co-Captain) is the person designated as the coach for the Team Match. No other person may coach during a Team Match.

Coaching is permitted ~~only during the changeovers and must cease at the end of the 90-second changeover; however, no coaching is permitted during the first changeover tiebreaker of any set, when the score is 1-0.~~ A Captain is not allowed to stay on court after the changeover.

A Team Captain is not permitted to act in the role as a Court Monitor.

In proposal 5, Trey mentioned the need to change determining factors for the winner of the league season or playoff positions. The rule would be changed to follow tiebreak procedures outlined in *Friend at Court* regulations and focus on head-to-head-results to break a tie between teams.

Following discussion, the following motion was duly made by David Panconi, seconded by Joe Grech, and approved by a vote of 8 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstentions, and 0 recusals:

RESOLVED: That, effective immediately, USTA NorCal Junior Team Tennis Regulation IX.L.1. is hereby amended as set forth below (stricken-through language is proposed to be deleted; underlined language is proposed to be added):

IX. TEAM MATCH REGULATIONS

L. Determining All Team Match Winners and Travel League Standings; Qualifications for Championship and Playoff Matches

- 1. Travel League Season.**
 - a. Determining Winner of Team Match.** [unchanged]
 - b. Determining Winner of Travel League Season.** League standings will be based on a team's win/loss/tie record. In the event of a tie, the tie will be broken in successive steps as follows:
 - i. Head-to-head match result between the tied teams;
 - ii. Among the teams that remain tied, the winner of the most individual matches for the whole season;
 - iii. Head to head match results between the tied teams;
 - iv. Among the teams that remain tied, the winner of the most individual games won for the whole season;
 - v. Head to head match results between the tied teams.
- 2. Determining Winner of a Travel League Season Playoff and Championship Matches.** [unchanged]
- 3. Determining Winner of a Team Tournament Match.** ~~The team that wins the most overall individual matches wins the Team Match. When a tiebreak is played, the tiebreak counts as one game. If there is a tie, the winner will be determined by total games won for that team match. If the individual games won is tied, the Captains of each tied team shall designate two players from their team to play a doubles 10 Point Match Tiebreak to determine the winner.~~

In proposal 6, the Committee shifted to a Closed Session to discuss disciplining teams and/or captains and adding it to the regulations and committee charter.

Chrissie left the meeting at 1:30pm and Shahand left the meeting at 1:31pm. Pablo left at 1:50pm.

Following discussion, the following motion was duly made by Lou Maunupau, seconded by Joe Grech, and approved by a vote of 5 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstentions, and 0 recusals:

RESOLVED: That, effective immediately, USTA NorCal Junior Team Tennis Regulation II.C. is hereby amended as set forth below (stricken-through language is proposed to be deleted; underlined language is proposed to be added):

II. GENERAL

C. Compliance with Regulations. As a condition of participation in NorCal JTT, all participants agree to be bound by the UJTTR (USTA NorCal Junior Team Tennis Regulations), and the USTA's standards of good conduct, fair play and good sportsmanship. Team captains are responsible for knowing the UJTTR. Team captains shall inform all team members of their obligation to be bound by the UJTTR. Team members shall indicate to their captains their consent to be bound by the UJTTR. Failure to comply with the UJTTR may be reported to the USTA NorCal JTT/Local Play Committee and shall not be excused on the grounds that one was misinformed by a USTA NorCal staff member or volunteer. USTA NorCal JTT/Local Play Committee reserves the right to refuse any team and/or team captain from participating in the league or to discipline a team and/or team captain in any manner it deems appropriate. Team captains at matches shall be responsible for their actions and the actions of their players and spectators.

RESOLVED FURTHER: That, effective immediately, USTA NorCal JTT/Local Play charter is hereby amended to add to the list of delegated authority, the ability for the Committee to enforce the requirement for teams and team captains to comply with the USTA NorCal Junior Team Tennis Regulations.

4. **Next Meeting.** During the next meeting there will be a formal grievance and appeal committee established for transparency and the rest of the agenda covered.

There being no further issues or discussion to come before the Committee, the meeting was adjourned at 2:26pm