

USTA  Minutes of the USTA NorCal JTT/Local Play Meeting
NORTHERN CALIFORNIA **January 21, 2025**

NOTE: These minutes were approved by the Committee on February 6, 2025.

Ogidi Obi, chair of the JTT/Local Play Committee, called the meeting to order at 12:05pm and roll call was conducted. The meeting was held by Google Meet video conference.

Committee Members Present: Ogidi Obi (Chair), Todd Dally, Andrea Barnes, David Panconi, Carrie Zarraonandia, Joe Grech.

USTA NorCal Staff Present: Trey Astbury, JTT Manager

1. Staff & Chair Report

- **Staff Report** Trey introduced himself and announced the new Committee members, Shahand Esmaeli, Lou Manupau, and Joe Grech. Joe Grech mentioned that he was very excited to join the Committee and encouraged other teams to host Team Challenges and organize JTT teams as both are great introductory programs into matchplay. Trey mentioned that Gene Fortino is no longer part of the Committee and thanked Andrea Barnes for her work as the previous Committee Chair.
- **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 December 3, 2024. The following motion was duly made by Joe Grech, seconded by David Panconi, and **approved** by a vote of 6 in favor, 0 opposed, and 0 abstentions:

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the December Committee meeting held December 3, 2024 be approved as presented.

3. Adjustment to WTN Division Eligibility. This proposal outlines the updated WTN bands for all Yellow Ball Intermediate levels for the 2025 Travel League Season. Please note that these updates may be subject to change before each season. The adjustments are based on the WTN algorithm updates from September 2024, as well as an analysis of top JTT players in NorCal and a comparison with those competing in L6/L5 Junior Tournaments.

Following discussion, the following motion was duly made by Joe Grech, seconded by Andrea Barnes, and **approved** by a vote of 6 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstentions, and 0 recusals:

RESOLVED: That effective immediately, USTA NorCal Junior Team Tennis Regulation V.D.1., shall be amended as set forth below to adjust the criteria for WTN Benchmarks (underlined language is proposed to be added; stricken-through language is proposed to be deleted):

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.

D. Division Eligibility Based on ITF World Tennis Number ("WTN"). NorCal JTT will be using [ITF World Tennis Number](#) to promote level-based play and differentiate divisions.

1. WTN Benchmarks. Singles WTNs will be used to determine the division a player may enter. Prior to each Travel League Season or Team Tournament, the USTA Staff, in consultation with the NorCal JTT/Local Play Committee, will determine the highest and lowest singles WTNs permitted for each division and publish these benchmarks in Table 1.

Table 1: WTN Benchmarks

League	Division	Highest Permitted Singles WTN*	Lowest Permitted Singles WTN*
Travel League	10U Orange Ball	No maximum	No minimum
	10U Green Ball	No maximum	No minimum
	12U Green Ball	No maximum	No minimum
	12 & Under Yellow Ball - Intermediate	28 32.00	No minimum
	14 & Under Yellow Ball - Intermediate	27 31.00	No minimum
	18 & Under Yellow Ball - Intermediate	24 30.00	No minimum
Team Tournaments	14 & Under Intermediate (Yellow Ball)	27 31.00	No minimum
	18 & Under Intermediate (Yellow Ball)	24 30.00	No minimum

*For Advanced divisions there is no minimum or maximum WTN cutoff for players (1-40 are eligible).

*WTN Confidence Factor is a consideration determining eligibility.

WTN Benchmarks as of ~~January 18, 2024~~ January xx, 2025

2. **Singles WTN at Registration Determines Eligibility.** [unchanged]
3. **Confidence Factor.** [unchanged]

✓ **HELPFUL HINT - ITF World Tennis Number:** [unchanged]

Fiscal Impact: None

4. **Open Discussion.** A concern was raised about the absence of a Safe Play captain and its impact on match defaults. It was clarified that current rules dictate a total team default in such cases. Some participants suggested allowing players to compete while still recording a default, while others emphasized the importance of maintaining the requirement for a designated captain. It was agreed that the rule would be reviewed before the next meeting.
5. **Next Meeting.** Trey mentioned that the next meeting will be February 6 at 12pm and future meetings will be held Tuesdays from 12-1:30pm.

Carrie Z. left the meeting at 12:30pm.

There being no further issues or discussion to come before the Committee, the meeting was adjourned at 12:37pm.

