



## Minutes of the USTA NorCal Junior Team Tennis Committee Meeting Friday, May 5<sup>th</sup> 2017

**NOTE:** All minutes are final after approval by the committee and all committee decisions are subject to final approval by the USTA NorCal Board

Andrea Barnes, chair of the JTT Committee called the meeting to order at 12:00pm and roll call was conducted.

**Committee Members Present:** Andrea Barnes (chair), Rosie Bareis, Caryn Cranston, Carl Mendoza, Bill Weber

**USTA Staff Present:** Darren Wenger, Junior Team Tennis Specialist; Summer Verhoeven, Manager of Junior Play; Chris Samuel, Junior Team Tennis Coordinator.

**Committee Members Absent:** Dan Klement, Tan Truong

### 1. **USTA NorCal JTT Section Regulations – 12U Participation Rule Change**

The committee discussed a rule change to the 2017 USTA NorCal JTT Section Rules and Regulations regarding 10U Youth Progression participation. After discussion, committee felt necessary to address the rule regarding 10 and under JTT players that are still at the Orange or Green ball level in the Youth Progression system. A current rule limits their participation in JTT Section Championship events at the 12U division level.

Following discussion, the following motion was duly made, seconded and approved by a vote of 4 in favor, none opposed and no abstentions:

**RESOLVED:** Modify rule 2b. in the 2017 USTA NorCal JTT Section Rules and Regulations to read as follows:

- **2b. Youth Progression Tracking System – (10 and Under Players)**
  - 12U Green Ball and/or 12U Yellow Ball Leagues
    - Any player 10 and under player can participate in a 12U division locally and/or at USTA NorCal JTT Section Championship events, regardless of their Youth Progression status. Players will not earn participation Youth Progression stars or trophies for 12U division participation.

**Rationale:** During past JTT Section Championship events, there have been a number of situations in the 12U division where teams were not eligible to advance to JTT Sectionals due to individual player levels in the Youth Progression system. Many JTT coaches expressed that this rule limited participation growth at both the local level and at Section Championship events. By voting to change the rule, this should lead to an increase in the number of players and teams that will be able to participate in 12U divisions.

### 2. **USTA NorCal JTT Section Regulations – Same Gender Player Benchmark (Advanced/Intermediate)**

The committee discussed the same gender division advanced/intermediate player benchmark and decided to adopt the same player benchmark used in 2016.

Following discussion, the following motion was duly made, seconded and approved by a vote of 4 in favor, none opposed and no abstentions:

**RESOLVED:** Adopt the 2017 Same Gender Division – Advanced/Intermediate Player Benchmark  
(See page 3 of minutes for official benchmark language)

**Rationale:** Our section must approve a JTT Same Gender Division Advanced/Intermediate player benchmark each year prior to the summer season. The decision was made to continue using the previous year's JTT Same Gender division benchmark, as no change seemed necessary.



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### **3. USTA NorCal JTT Section Regulations – Coed Player Benchmark (Advanced/Intermediate)**

Committee discussed the Coed Division advanced/intermediate player benchmark and decided to adopt the USTA JTT National Championship rules/regulations. This means the implementation and use of USTA Junior NTRP ratings for the 2017 USTA NorCal JTT Coed Section Championships. By adopting this benchmark, USTA NorCal will be allowed to advance teams to the 2017 USTA JTT National Championships.

Following discussion, the following motion was duly made, seconded and approved by a vote of 4 in favor, none opposed and no abstentions:

**RESOLVED:** Adopt the 2017 Coed Division – Advanced/Intermediate Player Benchmark  
(See page 4 of minutes for official benchmark language)

**Rationale:** Our section must approve a Coed Division Advanced/Intermediate player benchmark each year prior to the summer season. Committee made the decision to adopt the USTA National JTT player benchmark in order to be eligible to compliant with USTA JTT National Championships rules and regulations.

**Call Ended at 1:00pm**



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### **2017 Same Gender Divisions - Advanced/Intermediate Player Benchmark** (Same Gender Divisions)

There are two levels of play for all **2017 Junior Team Tennis (JTT) Same Gender Divisions**, the Advanced Division and Intermediate Division. USTA NorCal has partnered with Universal Tennis to incorporate their ratings into our junior programs. This system will help determine a player's level when participating in Junior Team Tennis leagues. We also use as the USTA National Tennis Rating Program (NTRP) rating definitions to further define levels when needed.

It is the responsibility of the Team Captain/Coach to ensure that the players registered for their team(s) play within the corresponding division indicated by the USTA NorCal Section benchmark.

#### **Advanced/Intermediate Benchmark\***

**Any female player with a Universal Tennis Rating (UTR) of 5.50 or higher must play in the Advanced Division\*\***

**Any male player with a Universal Tennis Rating (UTR) of 5.75 or higher must play in the Advanced Division\*\***

If a player is on the Advanced Division eligibility report (published online at [www.norcalteamtennis.com](http://www.norcalteamtennis.com)), the player is not eligible to play in the Intermediate Division.\*\*\*

If a player is not listed on the Advanced Division eligibility report it could be one of two things: they either have not played any USTA sanctioned events, or they have a UTR rating lower than the thresholds listed above. In either case, the player is only eligible to play in the Intermediate Division if considered a 3.5 level (NTRP) rated player and below. A 3.5 level NTRP player is defined by the following criteria:

***Consistent on ground strokes with depth and directional control. Developing placement on second serves. The effective use of lobs, overheads, approach shots and volleys is limited.***

The Team Captain/Coach is responsible for identifying a players' skill level (based on the 3.5 NTRP criteria) for all players not listed on the Advanced Division eligibility report and place them in the appropriate division. If the players' skills are stronger than those defined above, the player should play in the Advanced Division.

\*The UTR rating/eligibility list is locked as of 5/1/17. Ratings are determined using players' USTA Tournament results which include up to their last 30 scores within the last 12 months. Ratings calculations include all USTA, ITF, ITA, WTA and ATP tournaments as well as JTT Section Championship, Gar Glenney Cup, and JTT National Championship results.

\*\*UTR Level 6 Definition: Level 6 UTR includes players rated from 5.51 – 6.49. Not all male players that are Level 6 are required to play in the Advanced division, as their UTR rating may be between 5.51 – 5.74 and still remain eligible for the Intermediate division.

\*\*\*Some players may have a UT rating of 5.50 or above, but have a reliability indicator of 70% or lower. If a player has a reliability indicator of 70% or lower, their name will not be included on the advanced eligibility report. Any player not on the advanced eligibility report must self-rate via the NTRP system.



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### **2017 National Championship - Junior Team Tennis** (Coed Divisions)

The Junior National Tennis Rating Program (Junior NTRP) in TennisLink is the official system for determining play levels for USTA National Championship Junior Team Tennis. Additional information for the Junior NTRP can be found at [www.usta.com/juniortrations](http://www.usta.com/juniortratings). (See page 6 for the Junior NTRP rating chart and descriptions)

#### **DETERMINING PLAYER PLAY LEVEL**

All players must be rated in accordance with the Junior National Tennis Rating Program (Junior NTRP) in TennisLink to determine play level for coed divisions. The Junior NTRP in TennisLink is used in conjunction with any supplemental USTA NorCal regulations to determine the play levels of competition for National Championship Junior Team Tennis.

#### **SELF-RATE PROCESS**

Players who do not have a Junior NTRP rating on file in TennisLink shall self-rate in accordance with the process available when registering for their team in TennisLink.

### **2017 Coed Section Championship - Advanced/Intermediate Player Benchmark**

There are two levels of play for **2017 JTT Coed Summer Section Championships**: Advanced and Intermediate Divisions. The USTA Junior National Tennis Rating Program (Junior NTRP) that's built into TennisLink is the rating used to determine player level for the Coed Section and National Championships

- Players with a rating of 3.5 and above must play in the Advanced Division
  - Regardless of age or age division in which they are playing
- Players with a rating of 3.4 and below are eligible to play in the Intermediate Division

When a player registers online in TennisLink, their rating at the time of registration is used to determine level of play

#### **How to determine a players level of play for the 2017 JTT Coed Summer Sectionals and National Championships**

- Players register online for JTT Coed Sectionals from **May 1<sup>st</sup> – June 30<sup>th</sup>**
- The players rating at the time of registration will be used to determine their level of play at the JTT Coed Summer Section Championships on July 21<sup>st</sup> – 23<sup>rd</sup> as well as the JTT National Championships
- Player ratings are dynamic and update every two weeks on Friday
- If a player does not have a rating, they must [login and self-rate](#) to register