

USTA NorCal Adult League Committee Meeting Minutes
June 14, 2017

I. Call to Order: 6:30 pm

Members present: Larry Olmstead, Chair; Kristin Ginn, Leslie Johnson, Reno Davenport and Deena Davalos

Via Conference line: Jeff Shin, Jen Gaarder Wang, Sarah Robinson and Steve Gill

Staff present: Tamara Ramos

II. Introductions

III. Approval of Minutes: May 10, 2017 minutes approved, 11-0

IV. Chairman's Report

a. **May 10 ALC decisions unchallenged by board.** Larry Olmstead shared his experience at the May board meeting as the decision to make Adult 40 & Over a 5 line league and the 2018 league calendar were in front of the board. Board members asked appropriate questions which demonstrated their understanding of the issues behind the decisions. This was a good moment for the ALC as it shows the trust that the board places in this committee. It is important that the ALC listens to and considers any concessions that board members or facilities may request in relation to the increased court demands of the Adult 40 & Over league.

b. Larry asked Sarah Robinson, a member of the Adult League Fee Task Force, to provide any updates. She complimented Task Force chair, Pam Sloan, and members for a very well run task force. The task force has concluded that any fee that drives up cost for the player will result in decreased participation. The appearance of passing the revenue from increased fees over to private clubs looks bad in the eyes of our customer and could be challenged legally. USTA National has expressed their disapproval in this proposal. There was little support from clubs other than those who presented the proposal. Other options were considered to address the costs clubs incur to maintain a USTA league program. The task force will present their recommendation at the June 21 board meeting.

A couple of recommendations were also discussed by the task force that the ALC and staff could address. 1. Communicate expectations of the away team when they are guests at a club. Staff will draft a statement for inclusion in the FAQs.

2. Consider minimum facility/court requirements to address safety. Player concerns will be dealt with on a case by case basis.

V. New Business

a. Daytime League changes

Tamara explained the changes that will take effect beginning with the 2017 Combo League.

Daytime leagues will be considered a separate division enabling players to advance with both a regular team and a Daytime team at the same level; they will not have to choose between one team or the other at playoffs. Daytime teams will advance to championship to compete in a flight comprised only Daytime local league winners. There will be a Daytime Section Champion; they will not advance to nationals.

b. Sportsmanship

Staff shared the Junior Sportsmanship Pledge and asked ALC to consider if something similar should be required for adults. It was agreed that a short statement be added to the player registration module; vinyl banners may be produced for facilities.

c. Budget and Administration

Leslie presented data on the impact of limiting the number of at-level teams a player could join. This topic is being considered to address the impact of the Adult 40 league increasing to 5 lines which will impact court usage. It was concluded that other measures were being implemented to address Adult 40 court usage; little would be accomplished by limiting Adult 40 players to 2 teams, limiting Adult 18 players would have a greater impact. ALC agreed to not move forward with any team limits at this time but suggested that the Communication and Outreach sub-committee send a targeted 2 question survey asking players why they join multiple teams.

d. Captain Development and Recognition

A Captain's Guide is in development as well as a Captain's Corner web page for sharing best practices, FAQs, etc. Numerous topics were considered for captain webinars. Priority is given to "How to Create a Fun, positive league tennis team experience". Staff will explore webinar services and possible presenters.

e. Communications and Outreach

The sub-committee shared their recommendations for edits to the annual league survey. They are considering new ways to ask the complicated questions, feedback on newly implemented rules and programs. They have recommended using skip logic to get more relevant responses.

f. Growth and Innovation

They are working on a 5K Tennis-a-thon type event to promote fitness. Participants would track their steps while playing tennis. Community sponsors and charitable partners are being considered.

g. Rules

Rules subcommittee has been directed to consider changing the match tie-break rule to a mandatory match tie-break unless all players on court agree to play a full third set.

Staff Report

- Championship prize and award quantities
- Adult 40 Districts recap, April 28-30
- Participation reports: Update on leagues in progress
- Adult 40 Sectionals recap, June 2-4
- Mixed 40 Sectionals recap, June 9-11
- Adult 55 local league began June 12

Future issues/events

- Mixed 18 local league begins June 19
- Mixed Tri-Level at St. Mary's College, June 16-18
- Adult 18 season closes June 18
- Adult 65 Sectionals in Napa, June 19-21

V. Adjournment: 9:00 pm.

Submitted by: Tamara Ramos

Next Meeting: July 12, 2017, 6:30 -7:30 pm via conference call