

NOTE: *All resolutions in these minutes were approved by the USTA NorCal Board as of April 19, 2023.*

NOTE: *These minutes were approved on September 11, 2023.*

Christine Costamagna, chair of the Adult Leagues Committee (“ALC” or “Committee”), called the meeting to order at 7:04 pm and roll call was conducted. The meeting was held by Google Meet video conference.

Committee Members Present: Andrea Barnes, Christine Costamagna (chair), Marilyn Morrell-Kristal, Michelle Nicholson, Paul Startz

USTA NorCal Staff Present: Michelle Wilson, Sr. Manager, Adult Competition

Guests Present: Sarah Robinson

1. **Approval of January 4, 2023 Minutes.** The Committee considered for approval the draft minutes of the meeting held January 4, 2023.

The following motion was then **APPROVED** by a vote of 5 in favor, 0 opposed, and 0 abstentions:

RESOLVED: That the minutes of ALC meeting held January 4, 2023 be approved as presented.

2. **Approval of February 6, 2023 Minutes.** The Committee considered for approval the draft minutes of the meeting held February 6, 2023.

The following motion was then **APPROVED** by a vote of 5 in favor, 0 opposed, and 0 abstentions:

RESOLVED: That the minutes of ALC meeting held February 6, 2023 be approved as presented.

3. **Approval of February 28, 2023 Minutes.** The Committee considered for approval the draft minutes of the meeting held February 28, 2023.

The following motion was then **APPROVED** by a vote of 4 in favor, 0 opposed, and 1 abstention (Paul Startz):

RESOLVED: That the minutes of ALC meeting held February 8, 2023 be approved as presented.

4. **Adult 65 & Over 9.0 Waivers.** Staff explained that there was only one team registered in the Adult 65 9.0 Men’s and Women’s Divisions in 2023. Because these teams did not have any other teams to play, they are seeking a waiver to compete in the Adult 65 & Over National Invitational. According to National, teams are allowed to request a waiver with the Section’s endorsement and that National will consider such request during the summer. It was noted that the teams requesting a waiver are MCINNIS PK 65AM9.0A and ALPINE

HILLS 65AW9.0A.

Following discussion, the following motion was **APPROVED** by a vote of 5 in favor, 0 opposed, and 0 abstentions:

RESOLVED: That NorCal approves waivers to be submitted to National for MCINNIS PK 65AM9.0A and ALPINE HILLS 65AW9.0A for the Adult 65 Invitationals hosted in early 2024. Ultimately, National will have the final decision on whether the waivers are approved and teams are accepted into the event.

Rationale: MCINNIS PK 65AM9.0A and ALPINE HILLS 65AW9.0A were the only teams registered for their league in their respective divisions. National allows sections that are unable to hold divisions due to lack of registrations to submit a waiver to advance directly to the Invitational event. Since MCINNIS PK 65AM9.0A and ALPINE HILLS 65AW9.0A are the only teams that registered in their respective divisions, a waiver request is deemed appropriate to give them an opportunity to participate in the Invitational.

5. **Adult 65 & Over 9.0 Stipends.** After the ALC approved of allowing waivers to be submitted for MCINNIS PK 65AM9.0A and ALPINE HILLS 65AW9.0A to attend the Adult 65 & Over National Invitational in early 2024, the ALC discussed the stipends that are awarded to teams that go to Nationals/Invitationals to help with the costs of participating. It was agreed that the \$450 stipend would be awarded for the Adult 65 & Over 9.0 NorCal teams that attend the National Invitational in 2024 and the stipend program would be reviewed for 2024.

Following discussion, the following motion was **APPROVED** by a vote of 4 in favor, 0 opposed, and 1 abstention (Andrea Barnes):

RESOLVED: That the \$450 stipend will be awarded to the Adult 65 & Over 9.0 NorCal Teams that attend the Adult 65 & Over National Invitational in 2024.

Rationale: MCINNIS PK 65AM9.0A and ALPINE HILLS 65AW9.0A were the only teams that registered for their league in their respective divisions. \$450 is the current stipend amount awarded to the Adult 65 & Over NorCal teams that qualify and attend the National Invitational. The stipend is to help offset the costs of participating at the event.

6. **Wildcards.** Staff presented concerns from captains regarding how wildcards are currently being selected for Sectional Championships events when wildcards are needed. The Committee was reminded that the 2022 rule indicated that wildcards were chosen at the beginning of the season from areas with the greatest number of teams. The Committee approved a rule amendment to be effective in 2023 in which wildcards would be chosen at the beginning of the season from flights with the greatest number of teams. Staff reviewed the concerns (including a grievance that was filed) where captains felt that wildcards should be selected from the area with the greatest number of teams and not the flight with the greatest number of teams. After discussion, the ALC agreed that the rule regarding how wildcards are selected will remain as is at least through the end of 2023 but the wildcard rule will be reviewed again when rules are reviewed for 2024.
7. **Playoffs being part of the Championship Segment.** Staff reminded the Committee that in the second half of 2022, NorCal was informed by National that playoffs being part of the Local League play was not consistent with the National Regulations in which playoffs need

to be part of the Championship progression. Staff also explained that it was recently discovered that the while NorCal has been operating as playoffs being in the Championship progression in 2023, the playoff rules were still under the Local League section in the NorCal regulations.

Following discussion, the following motion was **APPROVED** by a vote of 5 in favor, 0 opposed, and 0 abstentions:

RESOLVED: That effective immediately, the following Playoff rule amendment be approved (Stricken through language is proposed deletion and underlined language is proposed addition)

2.02 PROGRESSION.

2.02A Local League.

2.02A(1) Local League Competition. Each team that wins a specific level of local league competition shall be entitled to advance to the next level of competition if otherwise eligible.

(NorCal LLAR) Procedure in the Event of a Tie. In the event of a tie in the total number of team matches won at the end of the local league season, the tie shall be broken by the first of the following procedures that does so:

1. Most total individual match wins
2. Fewest number of sets lost
3. Fewest number of games lost
4. Winner of head-to-head matches
5. Coin toss

(NorCal LLAR) Adult 40 & Over Tie-Break Procedure for a 4-line Format. Points per Position will be used to determine a match winner and league standings. A win in the #1 doubles position will be worth 2 points. Match wins in the other positions—#1 singles, #2 doubles, and #3 doubles—will be worth 1 point each. The team with the most cumulative points in local league play will be in first place in the flight. In the event of a tie in total number of points won at the end of the local league season, the tie shall be broken by the first of the following procedures that does so:

1. Fewest number of sets lost
2. Fewest number of games lost
3. Winner of head-to-head matches
4. Coin toss

(NorCal LLAR) Unfinished/Incomplete Matches that Affect Playoff Standings. If a local league match that affects playoff standings starts play in the minimum number of individual matches required to win the match but is not completed, the winner of each unfinished individual match will be determined by a weighted draw done by USTA NorCal League staff. Any individual matches that have not started will be entered as double defaults.

(NorCal LLAR) Unplayed Matches. A match in which the minimum number of individual

matches required to win the match are not started by the local league deadline will count as a loss for both teams in determining final standings. This rule does not apply to a total team default [see 2.01C(3)] by one team.

(NorCal LLAR) Playoffs. Unless otherwise specified, playoffs will be scheduled for three weekends as follows:

- **Flight of five or fewer teams.** A two-team playoff will be held during the designated first playoff weekend. Team #1 will host Team #2.
- **Flights of six or more teams.** A four-team playoff will be held. On the designated first playoff weekend, Team #1 will host Team #4, and Team #2 will host Team #3. The winners from the first weekend will play during the designated second playoff weekend. The team higher in local league standings will host the lower team.
- **Areas with more than 1 flight.** A two-team playoff will be held during the designated third playoff weekend after in-flight playoffs are concluded. The team higher in local league standings will host the lower team.

(NorCal LLAR) Scheduling Playoff Matches. Playoffs are played during the designated playoff weekends as set forth in (NorCal LLAR) Playoffs. Captains may agree to play a playoff match earlier (but not later) than the designated weekend.

(NorCal LLAR) Initial Notification. Unless otherwise specified, the home team shall notify the visiting team of the date and time of the first playoff round by the deadline the office posts at the beginning of the season. If a second round is required, the home team shall notify the visiting team of the date and time of the second playoff round by Monday at 9pm following the end of the first playoff segment. If a third round is required, the home team shall notify the visiting team of the date and time of the third playoff round by Monday at 9pm following the end of the second playoff segment. Email or texting notification or posting on the USTA NorCal website is sufficient notification.

(NorCal LLAR) Prescheduling Rain Make-up Dates for Playoffs. In addition to notifying the visiting team [per (NorCal LLAR) Initial Notification], the home team may preschedule up to two rain make-up dates and times within the designated weekend. These additional dates and times must be given at the same time as the original match date and time. If the original match date and time is rained out entirely or was in progress and suspended due to rain, the prescheduled make-up dates must be used in chronological order unless otherwise agreed upon by both captains.

(NorCal LLAR) Missed Notification Deadline. If the home team fails to notify the opposing team of the date and time of the playoff match by the deadline set forth in (NorCal LLAR) Initial Notification, the visiting team may claim home court advantage by so notifying the original home team and the USTA NorCal office by the deadline the office posts at the beginning of the season. The visiting team then has until 9pm on the same day as the deadline for claiming home court to notify the original home team of the date and time of the playoff match. If the original away team fails to meet this deadline, home court goes back to the original home team and the original home team is required to offer 2 dates and times for the original away team to choose from.

(NorCal LLAR) Playoff Match not Required for Advancement. If a league has a wildcard, and the playoff match is not required for advancement, the captains may agree not to play the playoff match. The teams will be placed in order of local league standings for placement as area representative and wildcard. The USTA NorCal office must be notified

in writing of this decision by both teams prior to the beginning of the playoff weekend.

~~(NorCal LLAR) Withdrawal from Playoffs.~~ A team withdrawing from participation in playoffs must notify the USTA NorCal office no later than 24 hours after the deadline set forth in (NorCal LLAR) Initial Notification. USTA NorCal will attempt to replace the withdrawn team if the deadline stated above has been met. Withdrawn teams will not be replaced after the first round of playoffs have begun.

~~(NorCal LLAR) Unplayed Playoff Matches.~~ If a playoff match does not begin play in the minimum number of individual matches required to win the match by the scheduled deadline, the winning team will be determined by a draw done by USTA NorCal League staff. The draw will be weighted to reflect the playoff position of the two teams. This rule does not apply in the case of a total team default.

~~(NorCal LLAR) Unfinished/Incomplete Playoff Matches.~~ For a playoff match that has started play in the minimum number of individual matches required to win the match but is not completed by the scheduled deadline, the winner of each unfinished individual match will be determined by a weighted draw done by USTA NorCal League staff. Any unplayed individual matches will be entered as double defaults.

~~(NorCal LLAR) Total Team Defaults at Playoffs.~~ If there is a total team default of a playoff match, the opponent shall advance as if they had won the match.

2.02A(2) Local League Champions. At the conclusion of local league competition, the Local League Coordinator shall certify to the Sectional League Coordinator the results of the local league competition and the name(s) and address(es) of the team captain(s). Local league competition must be concluded prior to the deadline set by the Sectional Association.

2.02B Championships.

2.02B(1) District/Area Championships. Each Sectional Association shall determine and announce a method of progression suitable for its geographic boundaries for advancement of its local league teams to Sectional League Championships. Such progression may include one or more championships below the Sectional Championships.

(NorCal LLAR) Playoffs. Unless otherwise specified, playoffs will be scheduled for three weekends as follows:

- **Flight of five or fewer teams.** A two-team playoff will be held during the designated first playoff weekend. Team #1 will host Team #2.
- **Flights of six or more teams.** A four-team playoff will be held. On the designated first playoff weekend, Team #1 will host Team #4, and Team #2 will host Team #3. The winners from the first weekend will play during the designated second playoff weekend. The team higher in local league standings will host the lower team.
- **Areas with more than 1 flight.** A two-team playoff will be held during the designated third playoff weekend after in-flight playoffs are concluded. The team higher in local league standings will host the lower team.

(NorCal LLAR) Scheduling Playoff Matches. Playoffs are played during the designated playoff weekends as set forth in (NorCal LLAR) Playoffs. Captains may agree to play a

playoff match earlier (but not later) than the designated weekend.

(NorCal LLAR) Initial Notification. Unless otherwise specified, the home team shall notify the visiting team of the date and time of the first playoff round by the deadline the office posts at the beginning of the season. If a second round is required, the home team shall notify the visiting team of the date and time of the second playoff round by Monday at 9pm following the end of the first playoff segment. If a third round is required, the home team shall notify the visiting team of the date and time of the third playoff round by Monday at 9pm following the end of the second playoff segment. Email or texting notification or posting on the USTA NorCal website is sufficient notification.

(NorCal LLAR) Prescheduling Rain Make-up Dates for Playoffs. In addition to notifying the visiting team [per (NorCal LLAR) Initial Notification], the home team may preschedule up to two rain make-up dates and times within the designated weekend. These additional dates and times must be given at the same time as the original match date and time. If the original match date and time is rained out entirely or was in progress and suspended due to rain, the prescheduled make-up dates must be used in chronological order unless otherwise agreed upon by both captains.

(NorCal LLAR) Missed Notification Deadline. If the home team fails to notify the opposing team of the date and time of the playoff match by the deadline set forth in (NorCal LLAR) Initial Notification, the visiting team may claim home court advantage by so notifying the original home team and the USTA NorCal office by the deadline the office posts at the beginning of the season. The visiting team then has until 9pm on the same day as the deadline for claiming home court to notify the original home team of the date and time of the playoff match. If the original away team fails to meet this deadline, home court goes back to the original home team and the original home team is required to offer 2 dates and times for the original away team to choose from.

(NorCal LLAR) Playoff Match not Required for Advancement. If a league has a wildcard, and the playoff match is not required for advancement, the captains may agree not to play the playoff match. The teams will be placed in order of local league standings for placement as area representative and wildcard. The USTA NorCal office must be notified in writing of this decision by both teams prior to the beginning of the playoff weekend.

(NorCal LLAR) Withdrawal from Playoffs. A team withdrawing from participation in playoffs must notify the USTA NorCal office no later than 24 hours after the deadline set forth in (NorCal LLAR) Initial Notification. USTA NorCal will attempt to replace the withdrawn team if the deadline stated above has been met. Withdrawn teams will not be replaced after the first round of playoffs have begun.

(NorCal LLAR) Unplayed Playoff Matches. If a playoff match does not begin play in the minimum number of individual matches required to win the match by the scheduled deadline, the winning team will be determined by a draw done by USTA NorCal League staff. The draw will be weighted to reflect the playoff position of the two teams. This rule does not apply in the case of a total team default.

(NorCal LLAR) Unfinished/Incomplete Playoff Matches. For a playoff match that has started play in the minimum number of individual matches required to win the match but is not completed by the scheduled deadline, the winner of each unfinished individual match will be determined by a weighted draw done by USTA NorCal League staff. Any

unplayed individual matches will be entered as double defaults.

(NorCal LLAR) Total Team Defaults at Playoffs. If there is a total team default of a playoff match, the opponent shall advance as if they had won the match.

2.02B(2) District/Area and Sectional Championship Events. Each Sectional Association shall determine the dates of the championships within the Section. Each championship event ends on the date entered in TennisLink as the championship end date. In the event a championship is not concluded on the date published in TennisLink, then the end date in TennisLink should be amended to reflect the date of the last match played.

2.02B(3) Sectional Championships. Each Sectional Association shall hold a Sectional League Championship in each National approved NTRP level for each Division and Age Group, on or before the date specified by the USTA League Leadership, to determine its Sectional champions. The winning team at each NTRP level and Age Group shall be allowed to compete in the USTA League National Championships if otherwise eligible. If the winning team at any NTRP level of competition is unable to compete further towards the National Championships, then the Sectional League Coordinator may select the second place team for such further competition, etc.

2.02B(4) National Championships. The team winning the National Championship in each NTRP level of competition in each Age Group of the Adult and Mixed Divisions shall be the USTA League National Champion.

Rationale: Up until 2022, playoffs have been a part of Local League play. NorCal has been informed by National that we were not in compliance with the National League Regulations as playoffs are supposed to be a part of the Championships segment. Although NorCal has been operating with playoffs being part of the Championship segment in 2023, the playoff rules are still under Local League which makes it unclear that playoffs are a part of the Championship segment. This rule change involves moving the playoff rules from Local Leagues to Championships in the NorCal regulations. The wording of the rules remain the same.

- 8. Volunteers for Sectional Championships.** Staff informed the Committee of the upcoming Sectionals through July and that volunteers are needed to help at the event desk and to be on the Sectionals Championship Grievance Committee or the Sectional Championship Grievance Appeal Committee. Staff would send out a jot form to find out availability from the Committee members.
- 9. Staff Updates.** Staff gave an update on the Adult League participation numbers to date and also gave an update regarding the USTA Annual Meeting that occurred in early March. The Committee was also informed that Staff would be attending a meeting with the other Section League Coordinators at the end of April.
- 10. Taskforces.** The ALC was informed of the different taskforces that are going to be formed for upcoming projects such as the boundaries project, 2024 calendar, and 2024 NorCal Local League Area Regulations.

There being no further business to come before the Committee, the meeting was adjourned at 7:50 pm.