

NOTE: *All resolutions in these minutes were approved by the USTA NorCal Board as of June 21, 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 6:32 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, Tuesdai Powers, Paul Startz

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

- 1. 2024 Adult League Calendar.** The Adult League Committee was presented with two drafts of the 2024 Adult League Calendar to review - a draft of a 10 week/10match calendar and a draft of a 10 week/10 match calendar with 2 additional weeks for the Mixed 18 and Adult 40 leagues as those are played from January to March to accommodate any potential weather issues. It was explained to the Committee that when drafting the calendar, the players’ concerns regarding the potential overlap between seasons including the overlap with the Adult 18 and Mixed 55 were taken into consideration. During the discussion, the Committee revisited the severe rainy season in 2023 and also discussed whether an additional two weeks was needed for the Mixed 55 and Adult 18. Potential overlaps in schedules were also discussed. The Committee also reiterated that player surveys after each league is essential when creating the calendar.

After extensive discussion, the following motion was **APPROVED** by a vote of 5 in favor, 0 opposed, and 1 abstention (Powers):

RESOLVED: That the 2024 Adult League Calendar be approved as Exhibit A (10 week/10 match calendar with 2 additional weeks for the Mixed 18 and Adult 40 Leagues).

Rationale: The 2024 Adult League Calendar that was passed by the Adult League Committee is a similar calendar to the 2023 Adult League Calendar with the dates being changed to fit 2024. The most significant change is for Mixed 18 and Adult 40 leagues as an additional 2 weeks were added to accommodate any unexpected rainy weather. The initial 2024 Mixed 18 and Adult 40 League will be scheduled as a 10 match/10 week season similar to the other 2024 leagues. The only difference is that the 2024 calendar allow for the teams to have an additional two weeks to reschedule any matches. The decision to add the additional two weeks is due to the experience of the severe rainy season in the first quarter of 2023 where the Adult 40 League season needed to be extended at the end of the season due to the amount of matches that were not played because of the weather. Rather than waiting to see what happens, in the beginning of 2024 an extra 2 weeks is being added now so that players are aware and can plan. In 2023, the Mixed 18 and Adult 40 were the most affected by the rain.

2. **USTA League 40&Over Format.** Staff informed the ALC that there is going to be a change to the USTA League 40&Over Format at the National Championships in 2024. The USTA League 40&Over National Championships will be going from a 4-line format of 1 singles and 3 doubles to a 5 line format of 1 singles and 4 doubles. The Committee discussed if the same change should be made to the USTA NorCal Adult 40 & Over local league through Sectionals. The Committee considered the possible impact on captains and facilities in going to a 5 line league.

During the discussion, the ALC was also reminded that with the current 4-line league, during local league the winner of the 4-line league match is determined by weighted format where a win in the #1 doubles position is worth 2 points and match wins in the other positions—#1 singles, #2 doubles, and #3 doubles—is worth 1 point each. For the NorCal Adult 40 & Over Sectionals, the national scoring method and tie-break procedure has been used so players could use the same format at Sectionals that is used at Nationals. Since National is moving to a 5-line format in 2024, staff proposed to the Committee that if NorCal decided to stay with the 4-line format for 2024 that the weighted format be used from local league through the end of Sectionals so that the USTA NorCal is consistent in using the same format through Sectionals. The Committee members shared their feedback regarding determining a league match by weighted format vs. using the National scoring method and tie-break procedure.

After discussion, the following motion was **APPROVED** by a vote of 5 in favor, 1 opposed, and 0 abstentions:

RESOLVED: That effective immediately the format for the Adult 40 & Over League from local league through the Sectional Championship be a 4- line (1 Singles, 3 Doubles) league using the weighted format to determine the match winner where a win in the #1 doubles position is worth 2 points and match wins in the other positions—#1 singles, #2 doubles, and #3 doubles—is worth 1 point each. The National & NorCal Local League Area Regulations (LLAR) would be amended as follows to reflect this change (underlined language is proposed addition):

2.03H Procedures in the Event of a Tie. In the event of a tie, whether in round robin or single elimination competition, the tie shall be broken by the first of the following procedures that does so:

2.03H(1) For Sectional Championships and below, in the event of a tie, the Sectional Association has the authority to determine the order of the following procedures that will be used to break the tie. The tiebreak procedure order will be published by the Sectional Association. If a Section, District/Area or Local League does not have a regulation in place to address a tie, the Section, District/Area or Local League must follow the national regulation.

(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 Section Championship 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

2.03H(2) For National Championships, in the event of a tie, the tie shall be broken by the first of the following procedures that does so:

2.03H(2)a Individual Matches. Winner of the most individual matches in the entire competition.

2.03H(2)b Head-to-Head. Winner of head-to-head match only if all tied teams have played each other and one team defeated all the teams that are tied.

2.03H(2)c Sets. Loser of the fewest number of sets.

2.03H(2)d Games. Loser of the fewest number of games.

2.03H(2)e Game Winning Percentage: Total games won divided by total games played

2.03H(2)f A Method to be Determined by the Championships Committee. Procedure to be announced prior to commencement of championship competition.

Rationale: The 4-line format (1 Singles, 3 Doubles) is the format that NorCal is currently using. NorCal is also currently using the weighted format to determine the match winners in local league. The only change to the current rules with this resolution is the change in determining winners at Sectionals going from using the National procedures to the NorCal weighted procedures that we already use in local league. NorCal has used the National tie-break rules at Adult 40 & Over Sectionals so that Adult 40 & Over Sectionals would be the same format as Adult 40 & Over Nationals. Now that National is changing to a 5-line format, changing the tie-break rules for Sectionals would make the format for Sectionals the same as a local league. The players will go into Sectionals better knowing the format. It is also easier and quicker for players and staff to determine the winners.

3. Ability to do straight levels at All Championships below the National Championships.

Staff updated the Committee that beginning with the 2024 league season, all events below the National Championships will have the ability to do straight levels for their mixed leagues. However, when the teams go to Nationals, the Mixed League Nationals will continue to use combined levels. It was also explained to the Committee that previously, sections had the option to have straight level Mixed Leagues for local league but when teams advance to Championships, sections were required to host combined Mixed Championships. The Committee discussed pros and cons regarding mixed leagues being straight levels or combined levels. During the discussion, the ALC agreed to stay with combined levels for the 2024 Mixed Leagues but possibly pilot some straight level mixed leagues and get player feedback around combined levels and straight levels.

4. Seeding-Placing Teams at USTA NorCal Adult Leagues Sectional Events. The ALC reviewed the proposal to seed/place teams for the single elimination playoff round at USTA NorCal Adult League Sectional events. The Committee was reminded that this was a proposal that was tabled from a previous ALC meeting. During discussion, Staff explained the current process of teams being randomly drawn for where they are placed in the single elimination playoff round. It is now being proposed to place the teams in the single elimination playoff round where the team that has the best record will play the team that has the fourth best record; the team that has the second best record will play the team that has the third best record. In an event where there is a wildcard, the draw may be adjusted so the wildcard team will not play the same team they have already played in the first round of the single elimination playoff round.

Following discussion, the following motion was **APPROVED** by a vote of 6 in favor, 0 opposed, and 0 abstentions:

RESOLVED: That effective immediately, for the single elimination playoff rounds at league Sectional events, if the single elimination draw starts in the semi-finals, the team that has the best record will play the team that has the fourth best record; the team that has the second best record will play the team that has the third best record. In an event where there is a wildcard, the draw may be adjusted so the wildcard team will not play the same team they have already played in the first round of the single elimination playoff round.

Rationale: Having the team with the best record playing the team with the 4th best record and the team with the 2nd best record playing the team with the third best record is a common practice in playoff scenarios.

5. Weighted Draw Procedure. The proposal regarding the Weighted Draw Procedure was tabled until a future meeting

6. Points Per Position. The proposal to use points per position for all leagues was tabled until a future meeting

7. No Playoff for Local League with only two teams. The Committee discussed the proposal to not require a playoff for a local league with two teams unless the captains both agree to have a playoff. During discussion, Staff explained that currently for a league with two teams the league default is 10 matches with a playoff. Captains can agree to play less than 10 matches and agree not to play the playoffs. If the captains do not agree to a lower number of matches played during the season, the number of matches will default to 10 matches. If both captains do not agree to not play a playoff, the playoff will be played.

Following discussion, the following motion was **APPROVED** by a vote of 5 in favor, 1 opposed, and 0 abstentions:

RESOLVED: That effective immediately, the following flighting process be used for 2 team leagues:

In a two-team league, the captains will have the option of working together to agree upon the number of matches (up to 10) they would like to play against each other in the season. If the captains do not agree to the number of matches played in the local league season, the number of matches played will default to 10 matches. A playoff match will not be played unless both captains agree to play a playoff match. If a playoff match is not played, the highest team in standings will advance to playoffs.

Rationale: With a two-team league, both teams play each other many times in the season. With only two teams and the amount of times the two teams will play each other during the season, teams should have the ability to decide and agree if they would like to have a playoff. There may already be a clear winner determined within the local league. Teams could be playing the entire season with a clearly stronger team winning all matches. Requiring a playoff then gives the team with the losing record another chance to advance to Sectionals based on one match at the end of the season.

6. **Sanctioned Play on Courts with Pickleball lines.** Staff informed the ALC that the USTA NorCal Board of Directors will reviewing if sanctioned play should be played on tennis courts with blended lines, and more specifically pickleball lines. It was also mentioned that the Board would like to feedback of the competition committees. During this discussion, the ALC acknowledged that while it may be hard for some players to play on courts with blended lines, they understood that not allowing play on courts with blended lines may result in limiting the number of events and players playing in events in the long run. It was also mentioned that there are a number of facilities that may be considering adding blended lines on their tennis courts. The definition of blended lines in the Friend at Court in addition to the Guidelines for blended lines in Appendix IX in the Friend at Court were also discussed. One recommendation that was mentioned is to give players the option of playing on the court with blended lines and if the player did not want to play then allow a reschedule. However, the Committee also understood that this can create gamesmanship issues.

There being no further business to come before the Committee, the meeting was adjourned at 8:14 pm.

EXHIBIT A

2024 USTA NorCal League Calendar

Draft Revised: 5/17/2023

Early Start 2023 Adult 40 & Over Reno/Tahoe

Team registration: July 10, 2023

Closes: July 31, 2023

Season opens: August 21, 2023

Season Closes: November 19, 2023

P: November 30-December 3, 2023; December 7-10, 2023

S: May 31- June 2; 7-9, 2024

Early Start 2023 Mixed 18 & Over Reno/Tahoe must be completed by September 29, 2024

Team registration: July 10, 2023

Closes: July 31, 2023

Season opens: August 21, 2023

Season Closes: November 19, 2023

P: November 30-December 3, 2023; December 7-10, 2023

S: May 10-12, 2024

2024 Adult 40 & Over League must be completed by September 14, 2024

Team registration: November 6, 2023

Closes: December 4, 2023

Season opens: January 1, 2024

Season Closes: March 24, 2024

P: April 11-14; April 18-21; April 25-28, 2024

S: May 31- June 2; 7-9, 2024

2024 NorCal Adult 40 & Over Daytime League

Team registration: November 6, 2023

Closes: December 4, 2023

Season opens: January 1, 2024

Season Closes: March 22, 2024

P: April 8-12; April 15-19; April 22-26, 2024

S: May 31- June 2; June 7-9, 2024

2024 Mixed 18 & Over League

Team registration: November 6, 2023

Closes: December 4, 2023

Season opens: January 1, 2024

Season Closes: March 24, 2024

P: April 4-7; April 11-14; April 18-21, 2024

S: May 10-12, 2024

2024 NorCal Adult 65 & Over Daytime League

Team registration: December 4, 2023

Closes: January 8, 2024

Season opens: February 5, 2024

Season Closes: April 12, 2024

P: April 22-26; April 29-May 3, 2024

S: May 14-16, 2024

2024 Adult 18 & Over League must be completed by September 14, 2024

Team registration: January 22, 2024

Closes: February 20, 2024

Season opens: April 8, 2024

Season closes: June 16, 2024

P: July 11-14, July 18-21; July 25-28, 2024

S: August 9-11; 16-18, 2024

2024 NorCal Adult 18 & Over Daytime League

Team registration: January 22, 2024

Closes: February 20, 2024

Season opens: April 8, 2024

Season closes: June 14, 2024

P: July 8-12, July 15-19; July 22-26, 2024

S: August 9-11; 16-18, 2024

2024 Adult 55 & Over League must be completed by September 29, 2024

Team registration: January 22, 2024

Closes: February 20, 2024

Season opens: March 18, 2024

Season closes: May 26, 2024

P: June 6-9; June 13-16; June 20-23, 2024

S: July 12-14, 2024

2024 Mixed 40 & Over League must be completed by October 6, 2024

Team registration: April 22, 2024

Closes: May 20, 2024

Season opens: June 17, 2024

Season closes: August 25, 2024

P: September 5-8; September 12-15; September 19-22, 2024

S: October 4-6, 2024

2024 NorCal Adult 70 & Over Daytime League

Team registration: June 24, 2024

Closes: July 22, 2024

Season opens: August 19, 2024

Season Closes: October 25, 2024

P: November 11-15; November 18-22, 2024

S: December 10-12, 2024

2024 NorCal Combo League

Team registration: July 1, 2024

Closes: July 22, 2024

Season opens: August 26, 2024

Season Closes: November 3, 2024

P: November 14-17; November 21-24; December 5-8, 2024

S: TBD

2024 NorCal Combo Daytime League

Team registration: July 1, 2024

Closes: July 22, 2024

Season opens: August 26, 2024

Season Closes: November 1, 2024

P: November 11-15; November 18-22; December 2-6, 2024

S: TBD

2024 NorCal Mixed 55 & Over League

Team registration: June 24, 2024

Closes: July 29, 2024

Season opens: August 19, 2024

Season Closes: October 27, 2024

P: November 7-10; November 14-17; November 21-24, 2024

S: December 6-8, 2024