

**NOTE:** All resolutions in these minutes were approved by the USTA NorCal Board as of December 13, 2023.

**NOTE:** These minutes were approved on February 5, 2024.

Christine Costamagna, chair of the Adult Leagues Committee ("ALC" or "Committee"), called the meeting to order at 6:31 pm and roll call was conducted. The meeting was held by Google Meet video conference.

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

**USTA NorCal Staff Present:** Michelle Wilson

**Guest Present:** Sarah Robinson

- 1. Approval of October 2, 2023 Minutes.** The Committee considered for approval the draft minutes of the meeting held October 2, 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 October 2, 2023 be approved as presented.

- 2. Proposal to use Match Team App.** Staff presented to the Committee a proposal to use Match Team App for Adult League Sectionals and other adult league events. The Committee was informed that Staff had piloted the Match Team App at the three Tri-Level events and the Mixed 40 Sectionals in 2023 and that scores are now transferring to the NorCal system almost immediately. The Committee discussed the positive feedback from players, volunteers and Staff as well as some concerns previously raised. During the discussion, Staff informed the Committee that Match Team App is asking for USTA NorCal to sign a 2-year contract for the exclusive use Match Team App at a cost of \$3.00 per player. A discussion ensued around how teams/players would be charged and how Match Team App would collect money. The ALC was informed that for 2024 Sectionals events, a team fee would continue to be charged and that the Committee would consider charging a per player fee in 2025 instead of a team fee. It was recommended that before signing a contract, NorCal should confirm all of the contract details such as the registration process and money collection. It was also suggested that other departments be consulted regarding the use of the Match Team App to possibly include them in the same contract.

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

**RESOLVED:** To approve signing a 2-year contract to use Match Tennis App to help run Adult League Sectionals and other adult league related events for 2024 and 2025.

**Rationale:**

Using Match Tennis App has shown that it creates a better experience for players, volunteers and Staff. The proven benefits include:

- 1) Reduction in the amount of work in running a League Sectionals.
- 2) Ease for players to sign waivers.
- 3) After players sign up on Match Tennis App with their contact information, Staff has the ability to contact players via text through the App and can communicate such things as court assignments without the need of coming to the event desk.
- 4) Captains can submit line-ups through the App eliminating the need for paper line-ups.
- 5) After line-up approvals, players can now see the line-ups and have it with them as they go to court.
- 6) When matches are complete, players or captains can enter the scores using the App which creates less congestion at the event desk.
- 7) With the App, Staff can communicate with captains more efficiently through text.

Michelle Nicholson joined at 7:01pm. Sarah Robinson joined at 7:13pm.

### 3. 2024 Flex Leagues

Staff presented a plan regarding 2024 Flex Leagues to the Committee that includes being WTN based and being run on the Scala Platform. USTA NorCal has used TopDog Sports to run flex leagues through 2023 and that NorCal has had 2 successful pilots using WTN and SCALA. In the past, flex leagues have not counted toward NTRP ratings and under the new system, flex leagues will provide players an opportunity to build their WTNs.

Other items presented with the 2024 Flex League plan were the 2024 Flex League Schedule and proposed Flex League Rule amendments that are confirming changes and is removing the COVID-19 rules that are no longer needed

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

**RESOLVED:** That the 2024 Flex League program will use the ITF World Tennis Number (WTN) as the rating system and the following rule change is hereby adopted (stricken through language is proposed to be deleted; underlined language is proposed to be added):

~~FLEX League results do not affect NTRP ratings. Players with current NTRP Ratings in Tennis Link must use that rating. They may play no more than 0.5 above their rating level and may not play below their level. Players without ratings must self-rate according to the NTRP guidelines set in the self-rate form. Flex League matches will count towards a player's World Tennis Number (WTN) rating.~~

~~FLEX League does not accept NTRP related grievances.~~ Players are expected to exercise the highest level of integrity while competing in this program.

**RESOLVED FURTHER:** That USTA NorCal will use SCALA to run the 2024 Flex League program and the following rule change is adopted so that the SCALA method of breaking ties is incorporated into the rules (stricken through language is proposed to be deleted; underlined language is proposed to be added):

Flight winners will be determined by the standings on the last day of the season. In the event of a tie, tiebreaks will be broken in the following order:

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

**RESOLVED FURTHER:** That the following two rule changes are adopted to remove COVID restrictions (Stricken through language is proposed to be deleted; underlined language is proposed to be added):

~~During the COVID-19 epidemic California is enduring, facilities may prohibit non-members from coming to the facility.~~ If your facility ~~currently~~ does not allow non-members, you will need to find another facility to play your home matches ~~out of~~ within ~~your~~ the designated area you registered for.

~~During the COVID-19 epidemic California is enduring, USTA NorCal is requiring every player to provide a~~ A new can of balls must be provided for every match ~~they~~ participate in. ~~If both players agree, they can use one new can of balls for the match that by the home player will provide.~~

**RESOLVED FURTHER:** That the following 2024 Flex League Schedule is hereby adopted.

**9 Week Season/6-8 matches depending on the number of players in the area**

- Season Dates: January 22 – March 24
- Registration: December 18 - January 16

**9 Week Season/6-8 matches depending on the number of players in the area**

- Season Dates: April 15 - June 16
- Registration: March 17 - April 7

**9 Week Season/6-8 matches depending on the number of players in the area**

- Season Dates: July 8 – September 8
- Registration: June 9 – June 30

**10 Week Season/6-8 matches depending on the number of players in the area**

- Season Dates: September 30 – December 9 (Extra week built in for rain and holiday)

- Registration: September 1 – September 22

**Rationale:** The use of SCALA and WTN is a positive direction for flex leagues and Adult Competition overall as it gives another option for WTN play on an easy-to-use App based system. The rule change proposals are conforming changes and is removing the COVID-19 rules that are no longer needed.

**4. Adult 65 Move Up Split Up Rule.** The proposal to exempt the Adult 65 & Over League from the Move Up Split Up rule was presented again to the Committee. During discussion, it was noted that this proposal was sent out to the Committee in November for approval by unanimous written consent. There was an abstention so it needed to be represented at a meeting for approval. During discussions, good points and suggestions were raised about the benefits of the move up split up rule. It was agreed that the Committee would review the suggestions again at a future meeting to address for the 2025 season.

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

**RESOLVED:** That beginning with the 2024 Adult League year, the USTA NorCal Move-Up Split-Up rule be amended as follows (stricken through language are proposed deletions and underlined language are proposed additions).

**(NorCal LLAR) USTA NorCal Options.** USTA NorCal additionally applies the Move-Up/Split-Up Rule in the following leagues that end at sectionals: Combo Doubles, Mixed 55 & Over, Adult 65 & Over, Adult 18 & Over (2.5 men only) Mixed 18 & Over (combined 5.0 only).

**(NorCal LLAR) USTA NorCal Options, Exempt Teams.**

Teams in the following divisions are exempt from the Move Up/Split Up rule:

Adult DAYTIME Leagues  
 Adult 18 & Over 5.5+  
 Adult 40 & Over Men's 2.5+  
 Adult 40 & Over 5.0+  
Adult 65 & Over  
 NorCal Adult 70 & Over  
 NorCal Combo 10.0+  
 NorCal Mixed 55 9.0

**Rationale:** Since the rule change to require the Adult 65 & Over winning teams to move-up or split up was been put into place in 2023, the winning 2023 teams that would need to move-up or split up in 2024 expressed concerns that there will be less opportunity for Adult 65 and over players to play as there are not enough players in an area to create more teams. There are also some Adult 65 teams that did not win Sectionals who are also concerned due to the availability of players.

**5. Adult League Awards.** Staff informed the ALC that beginning in 2024, NorCal will begin hosting an Adult Competition Awards Ceremony yearly to recognize the accomplishments of Adult League and Adult Tournament players, captains, facilities and volunteers. It was also mentioned that Staff is currently looking into hosting this event in March for 2024 and that the current Adult League Awards and Adult Tournament Awards that have been presented at the ACES Awards would be presented at the Adult Competition Awards Ceremony. The Committee also reviewed and discussed the proposed awards to be presented.

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

**RESOLVED:** That effective immediately, the Adult League Awards be approved as set forth in Exhibit A.

**Rationale:** The criteria for the facility and volunteer awards along with Captain of the Year awards remain unchanged but last year had been approved just for 2022. The Committee is approving the criteria for the following years but will address it if one or more of the criteria needs to be changed in future years. The other player and captain awards will celebrate numerous accomplishments throughout the year. Beginning in 2024 for the 2023 year, we will be hosting an Adult Competition Awards Event yearly to recognize the

accomplishments of Adult League and Tournament players. Having this event will be an opportunity for all to come together and celebrate a great year.

### 3. NorCal Local League Area Regulations Changes

**A. (NorCal LLAR) Match Tiebreak In Lieu of a Third Set.** It was explained to the ALC that the current (NorCal LLAR) Match Tiebreak In Lieu of a Third Set Rule does not clarify what happens if a home team does not decide at the start of the match if a match tie-break or full third set is going to be played or if Coman format will be used for the tie-breaks. An amendment is needed to clarify these as there have been a number of captain and player inquiries.

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

**RESOLVED:** That effective immediately, the 2.01C(4) Match Scoring and Formats rule be amended as follows (underlined language is proposed additions):

**2.01C(4) Match Scoring and Formats.** It is recommended that all matches be the best of three tiebreak sets with a match tiebreak in lieu of a third set. The match tiebreak shall be scored as one set and one game for tiebreak purposes. For play at or below the Sectional level, the Sectional Association may authorize the use of other USTA approved scoring methods and other scoring methods that are compatible with the USTA NTRP Computer Rating System. Other match formats include: best of three tiebreak sets with a set tiebreak at 6-all, pro-set matches, a single set with a set or match tiebreak at 6-all and timed matches. No-Ad scoring can be used with any of the scoring methods.

The method of awarding points in order to determine the winning team of a local league team match and the winner of the local league competition may be the same as that used in championship competition or may be another method compatible with the USTA NTRP Computer Rating System selected by the local league. (See *Reg. 2.03D Competition Format* and *Reg. 2.03E Team Match and Scoring* for championship competition.) The scoring in the event of a default or disqualification shall be 6-0, 6-0. Retirements shall be scored as described in *Reg. 2.03N Scoring of Retirements*.

#### **(NorCal LLAR) Match Tiebreak In Lieu of a Third Set.**

1. A third set match tiebreak is mandatory under the following conditions:
  - a. when mandated by the host facility
  - b. when an individual match starts play with 2 hours or less of available court time (e.g. facility closing, another match scheduled on the courts, daylight, etc.)
2. When a match tiebreak is not mandatory, the home team decides whether to play a full third set or a match tiebreak and must notify the opponent at the beginning of the match. If no decision is made at the beginning of the match, the match format shall be best of three tiebreak sets with a match tiebreak in lieu of the third set.
3. The home team shall decide which tiebreak format will be used and must notify the opponent at the beginning of the match (note: the Coman tiebreak is the recommended format). If no decision is made at the beginning of the match, the tiebreak format will default to Coman tiebreak.

**Rationale:** The proposed amendments to the (NorCal LLAR) Match Tiebreak In Lieu of a Third Set rule clarifies that 1) if no decision is made at the beginning of the match, the match format shall be best of three tiebreak sets with a match tiebreak in lieu of the third set which is the suggested format, and 2) if no decision is made at the beginning of the match regarding tie-break format, the tie-break format shall be Coman format which is the recommended Tie-Break format. The rule is being clarified due to a number of inquiries.

**B) (NorCal LLAR) Multiple Upheld NTRP Grievances.** Staff proposed amending the (NorCal LLAR) Multiple Upheld NTRP Grievances rule to clarify when a grievance would be filed by NorCal Staff.

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

**RESOLVED:** That effective immediately, the (NorCal LLAR) Multiple Upheld NTRP Grievances rule be amended as follows (stricken through language is proposed deletion and underlined language is proposed addition):

(NorCal LLAR) Multiple Upheld NTRP Grievances. A sportsmanship grievance will be filed against any captain, or co-captain or others who have ~~had condoned, assisted or approved of three (3) players on their team(s) within any rolling 36-month period~~ who were either NTRP dynamically disqualified or disqualified through the NTRP Grievance process by an NTRP Grievance Committee ~~within any rolling 36 month period~~. Promotions do not count towards those three players.

**Rationale:** This amendment provides clarity to Staff and players regarding when a grievance would be filed if a captain or co-captain has had 3 or more players who were either NTRP dynamically disqualified or disqualified by an NTRP Grievance Committee during the season in which they played for that team. This amendment would also take the discretion away from Staff of having to decide if a captain or co-captain or others condoned, assisted or approved of these players who were dynamically disqualified or disqualified by the NTRP Grievance Committee. It would be up to the NTRP Grievance Committee to determine if a captain, co-captain or other condoned, approved of, or assisted. This is not a frequent situation and has not happened in the last 1.5 years. We are only anticipating 5 to 8 grievance per year.

**C) (NorCal LLAR) Split Start Times.** The Committee reviewed the rule regarding split start time. The Committee was reminded that the current LLARs specify that matches for weekend/evening leagues and daytime leagues have to start by a specific time (no later than 8pm for weekday evenings). Another LLAR says that matches can be played in two shifts and that the second shift start time has to be scheduled no later than 75 minutes after the first shift. Staff has received complaints that starting a second shift as late as 9:15pm is problematic for weekday evening matches. It was mentioned that an amendment was needed to specify that 2nd shift start times have to be within the specified times.

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

**RESOLVED:** That effective immediately, the (NorCal LLAR) Split Start Times rule be amended as follows (stricken through language is proposed deletion and underlined language is proposed addition):

**(NorCal LLAR) Split Start Times.** When using split start times, a minimum of three courts must be reserved for NTRP divisions utilizing five individual matches and a minimum of two courts for NTRP divisions utilizing four or less individual matches. The home team must provide the minimum number of courts at either the first or second shift start time of the match. The start time of the second shift shall be scheduled no later than 75 minutes after the scheduled start time of the first shift and within the times specified in the chart above or for daytime, see page 27. For order of play, see [Reg. 2.01C\(6\)](#).

The two charts referenced above are:

LEAGUE	DAYS	MATCH START TIME
Adult, Mixed, Combo	Monday - Friday	6pm - 8pm
	Saturday - Sunday	9am - 6pm
Adult, Mixed, Combo (Playoffs only)	Thursday - Friday	6pm - 8pm
	Saturday - Sunday	8am - 7pm

LEAGUE	DAYS	MATCH START TIME
Adult 18 Daytime Adult 40 Daytime Combo Daytime	Monday - Friday	9am - 11am
NorCal 65 & Over	Monday - Friday	10am - 1pm

**Rationale:** Currently we require that the first match of a split start conform to the above times. The second shift of a split start can be scheduled up to 75 minutes after the first matches start. An evening split start match could be scheduled at 8pm and 9:15pm. Last season, staff received complaints about a captain that scheduled four matches with a 7:30pm start (1st shift) and an 8:45pm start (2nd shift). The concern was about having matches so late that, not only did the match risk being unfinished (the lights at that facility go off at 10pm), but players objected to the potential of having a lengthy drive home. This would explicitly keep the second shift start to a reasonable weekday hour.

**D) (NorCal LLAR) Playoffs.** Staff presented to the Committee proposed changes to the (NorCal LLAR) Playoffs rule to reflect with how we are currently operating regarding playoffs. Clarifications were needed to include daytime.

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

**RESOLVED:** That effective immediately, the (NorCal LLAR) Playoffs rule be amended as follows (stricken through language is proposed deletion and underlined language is proposed addition):

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

- **Flight of five or fewer teams.** A two-team playoff will be held during the designated first playoff weekend dates. Team #1 will host Team #2.
- **Flights of six or more teams.** A four-team playoff will be held. On During the designated first playoff weekend dates, Team #1 will host Team #4, and Team #2 will host Team #3. The winners from the first weekend playoff will play during the designated second playoff weekend dates. 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 dates 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 timeframes as set forth in (NorCal LLAR) Playoffs. Captains may agree to play a playoff match earlier (but not later) than the designated weekend dates.

**(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, or, for Daytime teams by Friday 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, or, for Daytime teams by Friday 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 timeframes. 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 relevant playoff weekend dates.

**Rationale:** This change is to include and be accurate regarding playoffs for Daytime Leagues. In the current rules, Thursdays and Fridays are not weekends. Daytime teams do not have playoffs on weekends and their posting deadlines are different for the second/third rounds of playoffs.

**E) (NorCal LLAR) Total Team Default Procedures.** The Committee briefly discussed total team default procedures and the concerns regarding the current rule. Following discussion, with the recommendation from Staff, the Committee tabled this discussion and will review this rule in early 2024 when Staff has an opportunity to determine the most appropriate course of action. Additionally, it was noted that any change should begin at the beginning of a calendar year.

## 6. 2025 National Regulations Proposals

### 1) 1.04 A – Adding New “10.0” for Adult 18 and “9.0” for Adult 40

The Committee reviewed the proposal to add a new “10.0” division for Adult 18 and a new “9.0” for Adult 40 1.04E(3) to give more playing opportunities to the higher level players. It was noted that Staff did not support this rule change because Adult 18 and Adult 40 and over are currently straight level leagues. Staff was also concerned that a 4.5 playing with a 5.5 could be a big difference in level. During discussion, the Committee looked at this rule change to provide higher level players more playing opportunities and supported this rule in concept. The ALC did feel that this proposal needs more discussion on how to implement this rule and felt that adding a combined level to a straight level league would be confusing.

Following discussion, a straw vote was taken with a vote of 6 in favor, 0 opposed and 0 abstentions to not support the rule change proposal of 1.04 A – Adding New “10.0” for Adult 18 and “9.0” for Adult 40. The Committee would like to see 5.0, 5.0+, 5.5, etc. to go along with the straight levels.

### 2) 1.04 A – Adding New “10.0” for Adult 18 and Adult 40

The Committee reviewed the proposal to add a new “10.0” division for Adult 18 and Adult 40 to give more playing opportunities to the higher level players. Similar to the first and second proposal, it was noted that staff did not support this rule change because Adult 18 and Adult 40 and over are currently straight level leagues. Staff was also concerned that a 4.5 playing with a 5.5 could be a big difference in level. The Committee referred to their comments that they have for #1 above.

Following discussion, a straw vote was taken with a vote of 6 in favor, 0 opposed and 0 abstentions to not support the rule change proposal of adding New “10.0” division for Adult 18 and Adult 40. The Committee would like to see 5.0, 5.0+, 5.5, etc. to go along with the straight levels.

### 3) Adding New “Open” division for Adult 18 , Mixed 18, Adult 40, and Mixed for Leagues.

The Committee discussed the proposal to add a new “Open” division for Adult 18, Mixed 18, Adult 40, and Mixed 40 Leagues. It was noted that Staff supports the proposed amendment but feels that the division should be called a 5.5 Open since the term “Open” typically means “open to everyone” and the minimum rating needed to play in this “Open” division according to the proposal would be a 5.0. The ALC also supports of this proposal and recommends that the “Open” division be renamed to “5.0+”

Following discussion, a straw vote was taken with a vote of 6 in favor, 0 opposed and 0 abstentions to support adding a New “Open” division for Adult 18 , Mixed 18, Adult 40, and Mixed for leagues but felt that “open” wasn’t the word to use but instead recommended calling it a 5.0+ league or appropriate NTRP level.

### 4) Extending the Adult league two-team league composition (min. 40% at level) combined levels to (Adult 55, Mixed 18 and Mixed 40)

It was explained to the ALC that the current rule stating that if any Adult Division Age Group consists of only two teams in a level of play, each team must maintain its roster with a minimum of 40 percent of its players at the designated NTRP level of play, currently excludes the Adult 55 division because Adult 55 is

played using combined levels. It is now being proposed to apply this rule to the Adult 55 Division, Mixed 18, and Mixed 40 Division.

Following discussion, a straw vote was taken with a vote of 6 in favor, 0 opposed and 0 abstentions to support requiring for the Adult 55 Division, Mixed 18, and Mixed 40 Division to maintain a roster with a minimum of 40 percent of its players at the expected rating level in combination or with a combination with the next level up, in its level of play:

6.0 teams require a minimum of 40 percent at 3.0 and/or 3.0 + 3.5  
7.0 teams require a minimum of 40 percent at 3.5 and/or 3.5 + 4.0  
8.0 teams require a minimum of 40 percent at 4.0 and/or 4.0 + 4.5  
9.0 teams require a minimum of 40 percent at 4.5 and/or 4.5 + 5.0  
10.0 teams require a minimum of 40 percent at 5.0 and/or 5.0 + 5.5

#### **5) Section Option to Require all Mixed Doubles Teams to be within .05 of the level**

The Committee discussed giving sections the option to require that all combination level teams must maintain a .5 differential between player doubles teams from the division or flight in which they are playing. An example is partners whose combined rating is 6.5 may play in the 7.0 division but partners with a combined rating of 6.0 are not eligible to play in a match in the 7.0 division or flight. During discussion, there were concerns that this would impact player participation who are used to the 1.0 differential. There were also concerns that this rule change proposal is addressing concerns of a few but would impact more players negatively.

Following discussion, a straw vote was taken with a vote of 6 in favor, 0 opposed and 0 abstentions to not support requiring all Mixed Doubles Teams to be within .05 of the level.

#### **6) Allowing 5.0 players to play in the 40 & Over league.**

The Committee discussed the rule change proposal to allow 5.0 players to play in the 40 & Over 4.5 league. No more than (3) players on a roster and only (2) 5.0. Staff did not support this because adding a 5.0 would defeat the purpose of it being a 4.5 league. The ALC agreed with the staff recommendation and noted that this format was already tried but changed.

Following discussion, a straw vote was taken with a vote of 6 in favor, 0 opposed and 0 abstentions to not support allowing 5.0 players to play in a in the 4.5 division of an Adult 40 & Over league.

#### **7) 2.01C(4) – Allow local league administrators to mark a match as “invalid” if a combination of defaults and retirements occur**

Staff explained the rule change proposal to allow league administrators to mark a match as “invalid” if a combination of defaults and retirements occur. It was explained to the Committee that this rule was not needed because in NorCal Staff does not make those decisions. A grievance would be filed and the Grievance Committee would investigate and make a determination. The Committee agreed with Staff’s comments.

Following discussion, a straw vote was taken with a vote of 6 in favor, 0 opposed and 0 abstentions to not support allowing local league administrators to mark a match as “invalid” if a combination of defaults and retirements occur.

#### **8) 2.03D(1)c – Tie-break format**

The Committee reviewed the proposal of adding alternative tie-break formats for weather delays. The proposed formats are 7 point set tiebreaker with next point winning at 6 all and 10 point match tiebreaker with next point winning at 10 all. Receivers choice or gender to gender in Mixed. It was noted that staff supports the proposal as this is one more option that staff can consider when we have inclement weather. A section can make the decision to use it. The Committee noted that the referee can make decisions to shorten the match format depending on weather issues. They also felt that shortening tie-breaks does not save that much time.

Following discussion, a straw vote was taken with a vote of 6 in favor, 0 opposed and 0 abstentions to not support the proposed tie-break formats of 7 point set tiebreaker with next point winning at 6 all and 10 point match tiebreaker with next point winning at 10 all. Receivers choice or gender to gender in Mixed.

#### **9) Discussion on breaking ties in unflighted partial round robins (Nationals)**

The Committee reviewed National’s proposal regarding breaking ties in unflighted partial round robins (Nationals). It was noted that at one of the 2023 National Championships, there were five undefeated

teams. It was noted that Staff did not support a rule change because there is already a rule on how to break a tie and they felt that the current rule should be used. The Committee feels that it is a matter left up to National.

Following discussion, a straw vote was taken with a vote of 6 in favor, 0 opposed and 0 abstentions to abstain from the discussion on breaking ties in unflighted partial round robins (Nationals).

**10) Unknown Defaults.**

The Committee discussed the following proposed rule regarding unknown defaults:

"If a player is not present when their line is called, that singles players or doubles team with a missing player shall be moved to the lowest singles position or doubles position on the scorecard and be put on the clock for possible default. The other lines for the team with the missing player shall be moved up based on the chart above. The opposing team has the option to adjust the affected singles or doubles lines. Players not in the original lineup shall not be added."

It was noted that Staff does not support this proposed change because in NorCal, when captains submit their line-up, the captains are attesting that all players are there. NorCal also waits and puts on the matches in order. Staff feels that waiting 15 minutes is easier than shuffling the rule or lines. The Committee also felt that shuffling lines would lead to further problems.

Following discussion, a straw vote was taken with a vote of 6 in favor, 0 opposed and 0 abstentions to not support the rule change proposal regarding unknown defaults.

**11) Allowing sections to utilize a different option of running dynamic disqualifications at each Sectional Championships.**

The Committee reviewed the proposal to allow sections to utilize a different option of processing dynamic disqualifications at each Sectional Championships. Staff explained that they did not support the proposal because the option to give a section the ability to utilize a different option of processing dynamic disqualifications at each Sectional Championships is already included in the rule where it says "The Section shall choose one of the following options for NTRP Dynamic Disqualifications at each Sectional Championship and below:" The Committee agreed with Staff's comments.

Following discussion, a straw vote was taken with a vote of 6 in favor, 0 opposed and 0 abstentions to not support the rule change proposal allowing sections to utilize a different option of running dynamic disqualifications at each Sectional Championships.

**12) Section option to reverse Mixed Doubles wins when a player is Dynamically DQ'd**

The Committee reviewed the proposal to reverse Mixed Doubles wins when a player is Dynamically DQ'd. It was noted that Staff supports this rule with the caveat that if the players new rating combined with their partner is still within the division level, the match will not be reversed. The Committee also supports this rule change.

Following discussion, a straw vote was taken with a vote of 6 in favor, 0 opposed and 0 abstentions to support the rule change proposal giving the section the option to reverse Mixed Doubles wins when a player is Dynamically DQ'd

**13) Move Up/Split Up Rule for Adult 55**

The Committee reviewed the proposal to amend the move up split up rule to say that for the Adult 55 & Over, no more than 50% of players who were on the roster of any team that advanced to, or qualified for, any National Championship team the previous year may play together in the same Division, same Age Group, and at the same NTRP team level as the National Championship team(s) if their NTRP rating allows. Staff was not in support of the proposed rule change because 50% would be time consuming to calculate as every team would all have different numbers. Staff also felt that 3 is a good number and our section doesn't have problems currently. If the number is increased, that could give the opportunity for the players to pick the same good players.

Following discussion, a straw vote was taken with a vote of 6 in favor, 0 opposed and 0 abstentions to not support the rule change proposal for the Move Up/Split Up Rule for Adult 55.

**14) National advancing teams are allowed to stay together at the same level but will be restricted from advancing to any championships**

The Committee reviewed the proposal to allow National advancing teams to stay together at the same level the following year but restricting the team from advancing to any championships. Staff and the ALC felt that this does not support the spirit of playing and every team should be in contention.

Following discussion, a straw vote was taken with a vote of 6 in favor, 0 opposed and 0 abstentions to not support the rule change proposal to allow National advancing teams to stay together at the same level but restricted them from advancing to any championships.

#### **15) Lowering the strike threshold**

The Committee reviewed the proposal to lower the strike threshold for dynamic disqualifications. It was noted that Staff supports the proposal. Staff also included another option to consider keep 3 strikes with the same threshold and add a 5 strike rule with lower threshold. Or, potentially have the option to strike out a player who has 1 high strike and 3 lower strikes. Staff noted some players play consistently above level but never or rarely reach a strike. The ALC felt that this rule change proposal was only looking at one piece of the rating problem but would approve the proposed rule change if it was addressing the overall accuracy of the ratings.

Following discussion, a straw vote was taken with a vote of 6 in favor, 0 opposed and 0 abstentions to support the rule change proposal for lowering the strike threshold if this is addressing the accuracy of ratings.

Due to the time of the meeting, the Committee agreed to address the remaining National regulations (#15 and tabled regulations by written consent) as well as the rule regarding no playoffs for local leagues with only two teams. If there are issues that arise, a meeting will be called to discuss.

There being no further issues or discussion to come before the Committee, the meeting was adjourned at 9:11 pm.

#### **EXHIBIT A**

##### **Adult League Awards – Facility and Volunteers**

Award Description	Eligibility Criteria	Process
<b>League Facilities of the Year:</b> Awarded annually to a League Facility	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Hosts at least 10 USTA NorCal Adult Leagues teams during the year</li> <li>Offers to host a League Sectional Event</li> <li>Facility and teams playing out of the facility be in good standing with USTA NorCal</li> <li>Recipient cannot have been serving a probation or suspension within the last 12 months</li> <li>Cannot win award 2 years in a row</li> </ul>	<i>Objective determination made by staff following a review of the players and eligibility criteria.</i>
<b>Local League Area Coordinator of the Year:</b> Awarded annually to a Local Area Coordinator	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Assist with League emails and show initiative to resolve issues on behalf of the league staff.</li> <li>Volunteers at League events</li> <li>Cannot win award 2 years in a row</li> </ul>	<i>Objective determination made by staff following a review of the players and eligibility criteria.</i>
<b>Service to Leagues:</b> Awarded annually to an individual who volunteers with Adult Leagues	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Goes above and beyond to make Adult Leagues more successful (i.e. length of service to leagues, years played, regular volunteer at league sectionals, etc.)</li> <li>Cannot win award 2 years in a row</li> </ul>	<i>Objective determination made by staff following a review of the players and eligibility criteria.</i>
<b>League Volunteer of the Year</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Volunteers time/effort to make improving Adult Leagues (i.e. suggesting new formats, new leagues, etc., taking an active role in streamlining processes)</li> <li>Volunteers time/effort to increase Adult League participation numbers</li> <li>Cannot win award 2 years in a row</li> </ul>	<i>Objective determination made by staff following a review of the players and eligibility criteria.</i>

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### Adult League Awards Criteria - Players

Award Description	Eligibility Criteria	Process
<b>Player of The Year</b> Awarded annually to one male and one female league player	Consider: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Win/Loss Ratio</li> <li>Match count</li> <li>Most times advancing to Sectionals</li> <li>Most Sectional Wins</li> <li>Most Blue Ribbon sportsmanship awards</li> <li>Player must be considered in good standing as determined by USTA NorCal</li> </ul>	<i>Objective determination made by staff following a review of the players and eligibility criteria.</i>

<p><b>Most Matches Played:</b> Awarded annually to one male and one female league player in the following age brackets</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 18-39</li> <li>• 40-55</li> <li>• 55+</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Player who played the most matches (defaults don't count)</li> <li>• Cannot win award 2 years in a row</li> <li>• Player must be considered in good standing as determined by USTA NorCal</li> </ul>	<i>Objective determination made by staff following a review of the players and eligibility criteria.</i>
<p><b>Most Improved Player:</b> Awarded annually to one male and one female league player</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• C rating only</li> <li>• Evaluated by start and end dynamics</li> <li>• Cannot win award 2 years in a row</li> <li>• Player must be considered in good standing as determined by USTA NorCal</li> </ul>	<i>Objective determination made by staff following a review of the players and eligibility criteria and nominations submitted</i>
<p><b>Sportsmanship Award</b> Awarded annually to one male and one female league player</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Eligibility based off Blue Ribbon report</li> <li>• Cannot win award 2 years in a row</li> <li>• Player must be considered in good standing as determined by USTA NorCal</li> </ul>	<i>Objective determination made by staff following a review of the players and eligibility criteria.</i>
<p><b>Best Win/Loss Ratio</b> Awarded annually to one male and one female league player in the following age bracket</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 18-39</li> <li>• 40-55</li> <li>• 55+</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Does not include defaults</li> <li>• Cannot win award 2 years in a row</li> <li>• Player must be considered in good standing as determined by USTA NorCal</li> </ul>	<i>Objective determination made by staff following a review of the players and eligibility criteria.</i>
<p><b>Most Matches Played At Sectionals</b> Awarded annually to one male and one female</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• One point per league (not how many teams in total)</li> <li>• Cannot win award 2 years in a row</li> <li>• Within a calendar year</li> <li>• all leagues included</li> <li>• Player must be considered in good standing as determined by USTA NorCal</li> </ul>	<i>Objective determination made by staff following a review of the players and eligibility criteria.</i>
<p><b>Leagues Played Milestone Awards</b></p>		<i>Objective determination made by staff following a review of the players and eligibility criteria.</i>

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## Adult League Awards Criteria - Captains

Award Description	Eligibility Criteria	Process
<b>Adult League Captain of the Year:</b> Awarded annually to an Adult League Captain in each league area.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Recipient must be current USTA member residing in Northern California.</li> <li>• Recipient must captain a minimum of two leagues during the league year</li> <li>• Player must be considered in good standing as determined by USTA NorCal</li> <li>• Cannot win award 2 years in a row</li> </ul>	<i>Objective determination made by staff following a review of the players and eligibility criteria and nominations submitted</i>
<b>Total number of times captaining a team to Sectional Championships</b> Awarded annually to one male and one female league player	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Based on the calendar year</li> <li>• Cannot win award 2 years in a row</li> <li>• Co-captains are not eligible.</li> <li>• Player must be considered in good standing as determined by USTA NorCal</li> </ul>	<i>Objective determination made by staff following a review of the players and eligibility criteria.</i>
<b>Captain who Captained the most amount of teams</b> Awarded annually to one male and one female league player	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Based on the calendar year</li> <li>• Cannot win award 2 years in a row</li> <li>• Must be the primary captain (co-captains are not eligible)</li> <li>• Player must be considered in good standing as determined by USTA NorCal</li> </ul>	<i>Objective determination made by staff following a review of the players and eligibility criteria and nominations submitted</i>
<b>New Captain of the Year</b> Awarded annually to one male and one female league player	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Eligibility based off Blue Ribbon report</li> <li>• First time captains only</li> <li>• Player must be considered in good standing as determined by USTA NorCal</li> </ul>	<i>Objective determination made by staff following a review of the players and eligibility criteria.</i>
<b>Captain Milestone Awards</b> Recognize captains for years of service/number of teams captained	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Similar to the league match milestones</li> </ul>	<i>Objective determination made by staff following a review of the players and eligibility criteria.</i>

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