

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

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Christine Costamagna, chair of the Adult Leagues Committee ("ALC" or "Committee"), called the meeting to order at 6:34 pm and roll call was conducted. The meeting was held by Google Meet video conference.

Committee Members Present: Christine Costamagna (chair), Andrea Barnes, Jeff Birkenseer, Michelle Nicholson, and Tuesdai Powers

USTA NorCal Staff Present: Michelle Wilson (Sr. Manager, Adult Competition), Vinod Herur (Adult League Specialist)

Guests Present: Sarah Robinson

- 1. Approval of February 5, 2024 Minutes.** The Committee considered for approval the draft minutes of the meeting held February 5, 2024.

The following motion was then **APPROVED** by a vote of 3 in favor, 0 opposed, and 1 abstention:

RESOLVED: That the minutes of Adult League Committee meeting held February 5, 2024 be approved as presented.

Tuesdai Powers joined the call at 6:36 pm.

- 2. New Captains Promotion.** It was proposed to the Committee that NorCal continue the New Captain Promotion which began in 2023 that provided a new captain and his or her mentor with a "USTA NorCal Captain" quarter zip pullover at the end of the season. During the discussion, Staff noted that 32 captains took advantage of this promotion in 2023 and of the 32 new captains, at least 17 have continued as captains in 2024. It is anticipated that the number of new captains will increase in 2024. Staff noted that thus resolution provides more clarity of the duration of the program and also removes the cap of 50 new captains and their mentors per year.

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

RESOLVED: That, effective immediately, \$4,000 be added to the Adult League Budget to support the continuation of the New Captain Promotion which began in 2023.

Rationale: In 2023, USTA NorCal initiated a New Captains Promotion to recognize new captains and their mentors with a "USTA NorCal Captain" ¼ zip long sleeved shirt at the end of the season. A "mentor" is a person who has previously captained a USTA NorCal team and is guiding the new captain throughout their first season. More captains are needed to help grow adult leagues and this Promotion provides visible recognition to new captains and their mentors.

In 2023, 32 captains were recognized, and of these 32, 17 of them are captains again in 2024. This equates to an approximately 53% captain retention rate to date. Staff is anticipating that this number will increase with the start of the new league year. In addition, outreach is occurring in areas with lower participation and this Promotion would be an incentive to entice players to start captaining in these areas.

If the continuation of the New Captain Promotion is approved by the Board, the effectiveness of the Promotion will be reviewed annually.

This proposal has been submitted to the Budget & Finance Committee for review.

Fiscal Impact: \$4,000 addition to the budget. The budget impact would be approximately \$30 per new captain/mentor receiving a ¼ zip shirt. The \$30 covers the shirt and shipping cost. Staff is anticipating at least 50 to 75 new captains during 2024. Should more budget be needed, the Adult League Committee will submit another action item.

- 3. 2023 Adult League Awards.** As a follow-up to the last meeting, Staff provided its nomination for 2023 Female Player of the Year. Additionally, the Committee discussed information they received from Staff regarding how players with the Best Win/Loss Ratio were determined. During the discussion, Staff explained the process of determining awardees. The Committee felt the process needs further review and clarification.

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

RESOLVED: That, the 2023 Female Player of the Year be approved as presented.

RESOLVED: That, the awards for Best Win/Loss Ratio will not be awarded in 2023 due to the process of determining the player with the best win/loss ratio needing to be further reviewed.

Sarah Robinson joined the call at 6:44pm

- 4. Adult 40 League NorCal Rule Changes.** Staff proposed to add a 4-line Adult 40 conforming language for a 4-line Adult 40 league to two tables in the NorCal Regulations to provide more clarity regarding the number of players required at all NorCal Championships (Playoffs and Sectional Championships) and the minimum number of eligible players required to be available per match.

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

RESOLVED: That effective immediately, the (NorCal LLAR) Minimum Number of Team Members Required at NorCal Championships chart be amended as follows (underlined language is proposed addition):

MINIMUM NUMBER OF TEAM MEMBERS REQUIRED AT NORCAL CHAMPIONSHIPS			
DIVISION	AGE GROUP	MINIMUM NUMBER AT ALL CHAMPIONSHIPS	MINIMUM NUMBER WITH APPROVED WAIVER AT ALL CHAMPIONSHIPS
ADULT	18 & Over 5.5+, All Daytime Levels	5	3
	40 & Over 2.5, All Daytime Levels		
	<u>40 & Over</u> <u>3.0,3.5,4.0,4.5</u>	<u>7</u>	<u>3</u>
	65 & Over	6	4
	70 & Over		
	Combo Doubles		
MIXED	55 & Over		

RESOLVED FURTHER: That effective immediately, the (NorCal LLAR) Allowable Defaults At NorCal Championships chart be amended as follows (underlined language is proposed addition):

ALLOWABLE DEFAULTS AT NORCAL CHAMPIONSHIPS
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DIVISION	AGE GROUP	MINIMUM NUMBER OF ELIGIBLE PLAYERS REQUIRED TO BE AVAILABLE PER MATCH	MAXIMUM NUMBER OF POSITIONS THAT CAN BE DEFAULTED	REQUIRED POSITION(S) AND ORDER OF MATCH DEFAULTS
ADULT	18 & Over 5.5+, All Daytime Levels	3	1	No. 1 Singles Or No. 2 Doubles
	40 & Over 2.5 women, All Daytime Levels			
	<u>40 & Over</u> <u>3.0,3.5,4.0,4.</u> <u>5</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>Defaulting One Line</u> <u>No. 1 Singles or No. 3</u> <u>Doubles only</u> <u>Defaulting Two Lines</u> <u>No. 1 Singles &</u> <u>No.3 Doubles</u> <u>Or</u> <u>No. 3 Doubles &</u> <u>No. 2 Doubles</u>
	40 & Over 5.0+	4 players who are eligible to combine and compete	1	No. 3 Doubles
	65 & Over			
	Combo Doubles			
MIXED	55 & Over			

Rationale:

The proposed addition is to give more clarification on the minimum number of players needed at Playoffs and Sectionals as well as the minimum number of players needed to be available per match before a total team default would be taken. Like National, some procedural items have historically been listed in the NorCal FAQs so that the rules document is not as long. And the NorCal FAQs state that the failure to play at least two individual matches in a 4-line league would result in a total team default which is the way NorCal would still be operating with these proposed rule additions. The proposed additions are to give more clarification on the minimum number of players needed at Playoffs and Sectionals and the minimum number of players needed to be available per match before it would be a total team default.

5. Playoff for 2 team Flights – The ALC briefly discussed the playoff for 2 team flights and tabled it to the next meeting.

6. Staff Updates

A. 2023 Adult Competition Awards Date

Staff informed the Committee that the 2023 Adult Competition Awards event will be at Blackhawk Country Club on the evening of May 4, 2024 and that all Committee members are encouraged to attend.

B. Mixed 18 and Adult 40 Rain Concerns

It was reported to the ALC that there were a few concerns regarding the rain during this winter season and the potential inability to make up the matches. Staff noted that one facility has expressed concern that it does not have enough courts during the timeframe listed in the NorCal LLARs for all their teams to be able to schedule their makeup matches despite the 2 extra weeks added to the schedule. It was again suggested that Staff encourage captains not to wait until the final two weeks to schedule make-up matches and to encourage captains to be flexible and work together.

C. Combo Player Survey

The Committee was notified that a player survey was sent out to all players who participated in Combo League to get their feedback and that the results would be shared at a later time. It was also noted that player evaluations would be sent out after the completion of every league in 2024 to get player feedback and see NorCal can improve.

D. Women's Summit

Staff updated the Committee about the Women's Summit being held in May. The Committee members were invited to participate in the planning.

Vinod Herur joined at 7:15pm

- 7. Options for Leagues with Smaller Divisions.** Staff gave an update regarding the plan to host a 3-day Adult League event for the Adult 65 Men's and Women's 9.0 divisions that was discussed at the last meeting. It was noted that the captain of the one registered Men's 9.0 team applied for a waiver to play in the 2024 National Invitational. Staff mentioned to the Committee that they also spoke with the captains of the Men's 9.0 team and the Women's 9.0 team and both captains are initially in support of a 3-day tournament type of event. After discussion, it was agreed that Staff would continue gathering additional information and come back to the next Committee meeting to discuss a plan that can be used for all leagues experiencing minimal participation.

There being no further matters to come before the Committee, the meeting was adjourned at 7:40 pm.