

Minutes of the USTA NorCal Adult Leagues Committee Meeting Monday, February 5, 2024

NOTE: All resolutions in these minutes were approved by the USTA NorCal Board as of February 21, 2024.

NOTE: These minutes were approved on February 26, 2024.

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), Marilyn Morrell-Kristal, Tuesdai Powers, Paul Startz

USTA NorCal Staff Present: Michelle Wilson, Vinod Herur

1. **2024 Adult League Committee Meeting Dates.** It was noted that the 2024 Adult League Committee dates has been set and meeting invites along with a pdf of the dates have been sent to the Committee.

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

The following motion was then **APPROVED** by a vote of 4 in favor, 0 opposed, and 0 abstentions:

RESOLVED: That the minutes of Adult League Committee meeting held December 4, 2023 be approved as presented.

3. **First League Free.** Staff gave the Committee an update regarding the First League Free promotion that was implemented in July 2023. For 2023, with starting the first League Free program mid-year, NorCal had 76 eligible players that took advantage of the promotion. Many have already gone on to play on more leagues. It was also noted that when the promotion was implemented, it was for the first 155 players that registered. It was proposed to the Committee to remove the 155 player cap to encourage more first time players to register for a league at no cost.

After discussion, the following motion was **APPROVED** by a vote of 4 in favor, 0 opposed, and 0 abstentions:

RESOLVED: That, effective immediately, the 155 player cap per year be removed from the First League Free promotion adopted in February 2023 so that any new player participating in an USTA NorCal Adult League for the first time will have his/her registration fee waived.

Rationale:

This is an extension of the First League Free promotion approved in February 2023. The Committee is now requesting the removal the 155 player cap and to encourage more first time players. Hopefully new players will have a rewarding experience and sign up for additional leagues. For 2023, with starting the First League Free promotion mid-year, NorCal had 76 eligible players that took advantage of the First League Free promotion. Many have already gone on to play on more league teams. This promotion is affecting the budget in terms of league revenue being collected (currently \$33 per player) and the \$3.15 Tennislink fee we would be paying to roster the player in Tennislink. However, this program is an attractive incentive which will hopefully support our retention goals.

4. **Smaller League Options/Growth Opportunities.** Staff presented a plan to the ALC to host a 3-day Adult League event for the Adult 65 Men's and Women's 9.0 division since only one team registered in those divisions. It was noted that NorCal has given waivers in the past to attend the 65s National Invitational and wanted to discuss with the Committee option around trying to recruit additional teams. During this presentation, Staff shared the number of eligible players which supports more than one team. The ALC discussed the proposal to have a 3-day event for the 65s 9.0 divisions and also discussed having these types of events for other NorCal Adult League divisions with minimal participation. There were some concerns of trying to implement this event after league registrations had closed and that there would likely need to be some lead to market this type of change. After discussion, the ALC requested that Staff continue gather additional information, including a player survey, and come back to the next Committee meeting to discuss options that can be used for all leagues experiencing minimal participation.

5. League Awards.

A. Most Matches Played at Sectionals Award

Staff presented a proposal to remove the eligibility criteria of "One point per league; Not how many teams in total" from the Most Matches Played at Sectionals Award eligibility criteria. It was explained that counting one point per league was too complicated and reporting would more accurately depict a recipient who had the most amount of matches total at Sectional events. Counting total matches played at would also allow for a more fair opportunity for all age brackets.

After discussion, the following motion was **APPROVED** by a vote of 4 in favor, 0 opposed, and 0 abstentions:

RESOLVED: That, effective immediately, that the eligibility criteria for Most Matches Played at Sectionals Award be amended as follows (stricken-through language is proposed to be deleted):

Award Description	Eligibility Criteria	Process
Most Matches Played At Sectionals Awarded annually to one male and one female	<ul style="list-style-type: none">One point per league; Not how many teams in totalCannot win award 2 years in a rowWithin a calendar yearNational advancing leaguesRecipient cannot have been serving all or part of a 3 month or more probation or suspension within the last 12 months	<i>Objective determination made by staff following a review of the players and eligibility criteria.</i> Rationale for rule amendment: Criteria when reviewing reports would be too complicated to assign a point value to each player based on the league in which they participated in at sectionals. Our reporting would more accurately depict a recipient who had the most amount of matches total at sectionals. Additionally, this allows a fair opportunity for all age brackets.

Rationale:

Reviewing reports to meet this criteria point became too complicated to assign a point value to each player based on the league in which they participated in at Sectionals. The reporting would more accurately depict a recipient who had the most amount of matches total at Sectional event. Additionally, this allows a more fair opportunity for all age brackets.

B. 2023 Adult League Awards Recipients

The Committee discussed the recommendations for the 2023 Adult League Awards that were determined by Staff based on approved criteria.

Following discussion, a vote was taken with a vote of 4 in favor, 0 opposed and 0 abstentions for the Adult League Awards recipients based on criteria. The best win/loss ratio is going to be reviewed at a later time when the Committee has more information. In addition, the Committee suggested also looking at whether self-rated players should not be eligible for certain awards.

C. Adult League Awards Event

Staff updated the Committee on the Adult League Awards event. They discussed possible dates and the Committee noted that there should be a lot of marketing done so that there is a good turnout.

D. Adult League Captain Milestone Award

First, it was noted that the proposal that was passed by the Adult League Committee by unanimous written consent in December (and subsequently approved by the Board in January) to award Captain Milestone

Awards to persons for every 50 teams they captain or co-captain to recognize their dedication to USTA NorCal Adult Leagues.

The ALC was reminded that the number of times as co-captain that would be allowed would still need be determined. A proposal was then presented to use only up to 20% of a person serving as co-captain to reach a particular milestone (i.e. to reach 50, one could be a co-captain 10 times).

After discussion, the following motion was **APPROVED** by a vote of 4 in favor, 0 opposed, and 0 abstentions:

RESOLVED: That effective with the 2023 League Season, when determining the recipients for the Adult League Captain Milestone Award, Staff could include up to 20% of the required number of a player serving in a co-captain role in order for a captain to reach a particular milestone. For example, for a person reaching the 50 League Captain Milestone Award, Staff would only consider a maximum of 10 times the person served as a co-captain. For the 100 League Captain milestone award, Staff would consider up to 20 times the person served as co-captain to help get to that 100 number.

RATIONALE:

20% recognizes a person's role as a supporting captain and mentor and many facilities rotate captains. With requiring that 80% of the awarding number be in the captain role, it still puts emphasis on being the lead captain.

6. 2024 Sectionals

A. Player Award options

Staff proposed ideas about doing different awards for the Sectionals Finalist and Champions such as clothing that the winning team could potentially wear at Nationals. The Committee gave their support of this idea. It was also mentioned that if/and when an e-store is ready, NorCal may also be able to utilize it for the awards and player participation gifts.

B. Volunteer Recruitment

The Committee discussed the need for volunteers to help at Sectional events. It was suggested that regular local volunteers could become ambassadors and help with the recruitment process. It was also noted that new captains could become involved and assist.

C. Championship Committee

The Committee was reminded that beginning in 2024 a committee member would be added to the Championship Committee to all NorCal League events to give input when things come up and decisions need to be made such as inclement weather. It was mentioned that an availability form will be sent to identify those who can help be on the Championship Committee for Sectional events.

D. 2024 Combo Sectional Dates

The Committee briefly discussed the timing of the Combo Sectional dates. The Committee discussed the rain issues that occurred over the past few seasons and the need to use make-up dates. It was suggested playing Combo Sectionals at a different time of year to avoid rain issues.

7. Training and Rules

A. League Match Rules and Etiquette Tri-fold

Staff presented a League Match Rules and Etiquette Tri-fold to the ALC created by Staff. It was mentioned that it has been well received by the players. Some of the Committee members suggested some modifications. Committee members were asked to send in their modifications to Staff by Friday, February 9.

B. Match Tennis App Training

The Committee was informed that NorCal Adult Leagues will be using Match Tennis App for 2024 to help run Adult League events. It was noted that Staff will work with Match Tennis App to host more training webinars for captains and players on how to use the App prior to Adult League events.

8. Playoffs for Two Team Flights. The playoffs for two team flights was briefly discussed and tabled until the next meeting.

There being no further matters to come before the Committee, the meeting was adjourned at 8:09 pm.