

Minutes of the USTA NorCal Adult Leagues Committee Meeting Monday, April 29, 2024

NOTE: All resolutions in these minutes were approved by the USTA NorCal Board as of May 15, 2024.

NOTE: These minutes were approved on June 10, 2024

Christine Costamagna, chair of the Adult Leagues Committee ("ALC" or "Committee"), called the meeting to order at 6:35 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, Marilyn Morrell-Kristal and Paul Startz

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

Guests Present: Sarah Robinson

- 1. Approval of February 26, 2024 Minutes.** The Committee considered for approval the draft minutes of the meeting held February 26, 2024.

The following motion was then **APPROVED** by a vote of 6 in favor, 0 opposed, and 0 abstentions

RESOLVED: That the minutes of Adult League Committee meeting held February 26, 2024 be approved as presented.

- 2. Local Area Coordinator (LAC) Job Description Review.** Staff presented a job description for LACs that the ALC reviewed. Ms. Costamagna noted that formal approval was not required of the Committee. Staff provided a brief overview of the current LAC program. It was mentioned that some LACs have been serving for a long time, some are new, and some are serving in the area where they reside. It was also mentioned that for the areas that currently have lower participation, Staff would try to recruit a LAC who resides in the area that can hopefully help to encourage and grow participation. It was also noted that for all other areas, when LAC positions became open, Staff would fill the opening with an individual that is best fit for the position whether the individual resides in the section. In response to a recruitment request from a prior meeting, LACs would be encouraged to recruit volunteers for league events.

Following the discussion, the Committee confirmed that they have no issues with the LAC job description.

- 3. Local Area Coordinator (LAC) Recruiting Incentive.** Staff presented a recruiting incentive for LACs in which they would receive \$10 for each new player they can recruit, up to 20 players per year. The Committee also suggested that a player who had not played leagues for a period of time also be considered a "new player". They discussed the number and ultimately agreed that it could be between 3 and 5 years.

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

RESOLVED: That, effective immediately, a Local Area Coordinator (LAC) Recruiting Incentive Program be created that awards \$10.00 to an LAC for each New Player recruited for an Adult League subject to the details set forth below:

New Player Definition: A New Player is defined as a person that:

- Has never played an Adult League, or
- Has not played a USTA NorCal Adult League in 4 years.

Maximum Payment: The Recruiting Incentive is capped 20 players per year (a maximum of \$200 payment per LAC).

Requirements to Receive Payment:

- New Player must complete a form listing the LAC who encouraged and helped them to play in their first USTA NorCal Adult League.
- New Player must have played at least one match in their first league.

Duration of the Program: The LAC Recruiting Incentive Program will be for the 2024 and 2025 years. The Program will be reviewed annually beginning in 2025 to determine success and continuation in future years.

Incentive Payment Schedule: LACs will be compensated once a quarter in April, July, October, January.

RESOLVED FURTHER: That an additional \$3,400 per year be added to the 2024 NorCal Budget, and \$3,400 be included in the 2025 NorCal Budget for the LAC Recruiting Incentive Program.

Rationale: Having an incentive program for the LACs could help grow participation and incentivize LACs to help recruit new players. There is currently a first league free incentive for new players. These two promotions complement each other as it would reward LACs who find new players and give the new player their first league free. The first league free program has seen an increase in new players playing more leagues.

The budget request was calculated based on participation of up to 17 LACs recruiting 20 new players per year.

The budget request has been submitted to the Budget & Finance Committee for review.

This resolution was approved at a meeting held on April 20, 2024 by a vote of 6 in favor, none opposed, and no abstentions.

Financial Impact: Addition of \$3,400 to the Budgets for 2024 and 2025.

- 4. Playoff for 2 team local leagues.** The Committee discussed the topic of having playoffs for 2 team local league. During discussion, the Committee was reminded that under the current rule, in a two-team league, a playoff match will not be played unless both captains agree to play a playoff match. It was noted that the Committee was asked to re-review this rule as a part of a recent grievance. One idea that was presented is for two team leagues, in a ten-week season, the last two weeks of matches would be playoff matches. If one team wins both matches, they would win their local league. If both teams win one match, the teams would play one more deciding match in week one of playoffs.

Staff has been requested to review this proposal to see if it is compatible to the current league system. Staff was also asked to gather to help in reviewing this regulation. Staff will give a report regarding this at the next Committee meeting.

- 5. Alternative Play Options for Smaller Leagues.** The Committee was updated regarding alternative play options for smaller leagues. It was mentioned that Staff is still currently still working on the plan and surveying players. An update was also given about the Adult 65 9.0 teams applying for the waiver in 2024. It was noted that Staff would give an update at the June 24 Committee meeting. The Committee requested that they options try to be launched as soon as possible.

6. Staff Updates

A. Tri-Level Dates

Staff reported the following 2024 Tri-Level dates have been set and will be announced shortly.:

- 4.0-5.0: 7/26-28 - Solano Community College
- 3.0-4.0: 10/11-13 - Blackhawk Country Club
- 3.5-4.5: 10/25-27 - Diamond Hills Sports Club

B. Committee Calendar

It was mentioned to the Committee that Staff is working on a calendar of items that need to be reviewed by the Committee on an annual basis.

C. 2025 League Calendar

It was noted that the 2025 League Calendar is currently being drafted and will be presented to the ALC at the next Committee meeting in June. Subcommittee members were assigned to help with the calendar.

D. Boundary Project

The boundary project was discussed. It was noted that a subcommittee would be formed to help with this project.

E. Regulation Review

Staff gave an update that they will be starting to review the NorCal Local League Area regulations for 2025. A subcommittee was assigned to help with this project. Additionally, it was brought to the

Committee's attention that Staff is working to put a process in place to submit rule change proposals similar to the process that National currently utilizes.

There being no further matters to come before the Committee, the meeting was adjourned at 7:46 pm.