

## **Minutes of the USTA NorCal Adult Leagues Committee Meeting Monday, April 21, 2025**

**NOTE:** All resolutions in these minutes were approved by the USTA NorCal Board as of May 21, 2025.

**NOTE:** These minutes were approved on June 2, 2025.

Andrea Barnes, Chair of the Adult Leagues Committee (the "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:** Andrea Barnes (chair), Leslie Airola-Murveit, Jeff Birkenseer, Anoosh Davoudzadeh, Marilyn Morrell-Kristal, Tuesdai Powers, Paul Startz

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

**Guests Present:** Sarah Robinson

- 1. Approval of March 31, 2025 Minutes.** The Committee considered for approval the draft minutes of the meeting held on March 31, 2025.

The following motion was then **APPROVED** by a vote of 6 in favor, 0 opposed, and 1 abstention (Powers).

**RESOLVED:** That the minutes of Adult Leagues Committee meeting held March 31, 2025 be approved as presented.

- 2. Awards.** Staff presented the ALC with a proposal to add a Question and Answer to the NorCal League Rules FAQ to clarify when and how awards are presented for Adult Leagues.

After discussion, the following motion was **APPROVED** by a vote of 7 in favor, 0 opposed, and 0 abstentions:

**RESOLVED:** That effective immediately, the language in the NorCal League Rules FAQ be amended to add the following question and answer regarding awards:

**AWARDS**

**Q: Which teams receive NorCal section awards?**

**A: Section Awards will be presented to the 1st and 2nd place championship teams in each Division for each league. For divisions held with only two or three teams total for the league, awards will only be presented to the 1st place championship team.**

**Rationale:** Having a question and answer in place about what awards will be presented for the leagues will help make this clear for everyone playing in leagues. There is no financial impact as NorCal is already presenting these awards.

- 3. Requests to anonymize or delete a USTA account.** The Committee discussed the proposal to add a question and answer to the FAQ to explain the process in which USTA Northern California would consider a player request to anonymize or delete a USTA account. During discussion, it was mentioned that requests to anonymize or delete USTA accounts are becoming more frequent and USTA National is sending these requests to the sections to determine if it is going to be approved; however, the approved requests should be limited. The Committee was also informed that the proposed addition has been reviewed and approved by USTA NorCal Legal Counsel. It was also mentioned to the Committee that a number of players that have requested to anonymize their accounts make their request after they self-rate and do not receive the rating they would like. There have also been some who have created another account after anonymizing the first one to receive a different rating. During their discussion, the Committee discussed the issue of players creating duplicate accounts with different variations of their name to obtain different ratings. The Committee requests that staff find more ways to educate players about the USTA League Regulation that state that individuals shall only have one USTA membership account/USTA number and individuals who obtain more than one USTA membership account/USTA number may be subject to a grievance and such suspension penalties as outlined under the League Suspension Point System.

After discussion, the following motion was then **APPROVED** by a vote of 7 in favor, 0 opposed, and 0 abstentions.

**RESOLVED:** That effective immediately, the language in the NorCal League Rules FAQ be amended to add the following question and answer regarding requests to anonymize or delete a USTA account:

Q: Under what circumstances will USTA Northern California approve a request to anonymize or delete a USTA account?

A: USTA Northern California will consider a request to anonymize or delete a USTA account only for serious and compelling reasons, such as verified safety or privacy concerns. Each request will be evaluated on a case-by-case basis and must be supported by appropriate documentation. Decisions will be made in consultation with USTA National and in accordance with applicable state privacy laws.

**Rationale:** The USTA is sending player requests to anonymize or delete a USTA account to the Sections to decide. The Committee believes USTA NorCal needs to have a stated process in place to approve or deny these requests.

In the guidance that National sent the Sections regarding handling these requests, it states that "Each player request is taken on a case-by-case basis by the Section Office in collaboration with the National Office (Membership and Customer Care). The approved requests should be limited, but there should be consideration for each request."

NorCal Legal Counsel has reviewed and approved of the proposed verbiage. Counsel also confirmed that the proposed language is supported under California privacy law (CCPA/CPRA). Legal Counsel informed the Committee that "People do have the right to request deletion of their personal info, but there are clear exceptions - like when NorCal needs to keep the data to run its programs, track suspensions, prevent fraud, or fulfill league obligations. As such, it is totally fine (and legally supported) for us to deny requests tied to things like rating manipulation or active suspensions. At the same time, NorCal is covered if it does approve requests tied to personal safety concerns, as long as they're documented."

There has been an increase in players requesting to have the memberships either anonymized or deleted. Many times, players request this because they do not like their rating and their self-rate appeal has been denied. Other players have tried to request for their account to be deleted when they have been suspended for a year or more.

Although this proposal is being submitted by the Adult League Committee, setting a policy regarding deletion or anonymization of USTA accounts applies to all requests, not just requests made by League Players.

- 4. Electronic Line Calling.** The Committee was informed that USTA National and USTA NorCal are looking at possibly of using of electronic line calling at events. During the discussion the ALC was informed that there has been a NorCal working group comprised of Committee Chairs and staff that oversee the competition departments to review different line calling systems and to give feedback on which line calling system to try and how the section could start piloting electronic line calling. The Committee was also informed that the working group is also looking for input from each committee regarding electronic line calling at events and potential pilots.

After discussion, the committee had the following input to give to the Electronic Line Calling Working Group:

The Adult League Committee sees the value of Electronic Line Calling as technology advances. The ALC is willing to embrace the use electronic line calling and is willing to pilot this. However, the Committee feels that electronic line calling should not be piloted at a League Sectional event or an event that qualifies players for a League National but possibly piloted at a pilot event where there is not as much at stake.

- 5. Dynamic Disqualifications at Sectionals.** Staff reminded the Committee that the Mixed 18 Sectionals is going to be the first Sectionals where dynamic disqualifications will be run throughout the Sectional Championship.

**6. Updates.**

- A. 2026 Adult League Calendar.** It was mentioned to Committee that the Adult League Committee Chair will be reaching out to the Adult League Committee members to form a sub-committee to help work with staff on the 2026 Adult League Calendar to be brought to the ALC for approval on June 2.

- B. **2026 NorCal LLAR Rule Change Proposals.** The ALC was also informed that the Adult League Committee Chair will also be reaching out to form a sub-committee to help work with staff on the 2026 NorCal regulation proposals that are received by May 4 to be brought to the Committee for approval on June 2.
- C. **Refund/Credit Policy.** Staff reported that the Refund/Credit policy that was passed at the March 31 Adult League Committee meeting has been sent back to the Adult League Committee to look for a way to give a credit/refund to players who register for a league but cannot play because they get seriously injured before they play a match.
- D. **Stipends.** Staff gave an update regarding the stipends that NorCal has been awarding teams that compete at Nationals.

There being no further matters to come before the Committee, the meeting was adjourned at 8:01 pm.