

**NOTE:** All resolutions in these minutes were approved by the USTA NorCal Board as of August 20, 2025.

**NOTE:** These minutes were approved on August 4, 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), Jennifer Holmes, Marilyn Morrell-Kristal, Damon Levy, Paul Startz

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

**Guests Present:** Sarah Robinson

- 1. Introduction of New Committee members.** Andrea Barnes introduced Jennifer Holmes and Damon Levy as the newest members of the Adult League Committee.
- 2. Approval of June 16, 2025 Minutes.** The Committee considered for approval the draft minutes of the meeting held on June 16, 2025.

The following motion was then **APPROVED** by a vote of 5 in favor, 0 opposed, and 0 abstentions

**RESOLVED:** That the minutes of Adult Leagues Committee meeting held June 16, 2025 be approved as presented.

- 3. Adult League Committee Charter.** The Committee discussed the Adult League Committee Charter that was sent out before the meeting. During discussion it was noted that #8 under Responsibilities (8. Develop, compile, review, evaluate and report on the results of the 2023 Player Survey.) is out of date. A suggestion was made to amend the wording of this responsibility to make it general so it would not need to be amended every year. The information included was also discussed.

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

**RESOLVED:** That effective immediately, that #8 under Responsibilities of the Adult League Committee Charter be amended as follows (stricken through language is proposed deletion and underline language is proposed addition):

#### **Responsibilities**

1. To advise, assist, work and collaborate with the USTA NorCal staff, the USTA Network and overall tennis industry.
2. Monitor participation in USTA NorCal adult league programs to identify areas for growth and concerns related to retention.
3. Develop ideas for new Adult League product(s) offerings and analyze and make recommendations for retiring product lines where demand no longer supports the resources to host events. Explore WTN play opportunities for Adult League players.
4. Secure host sites and make recommendations on hosting League Championships, and the annual awards event.
5. Support entry-level growth, retention and customer service for adult league players at all levels.
6. Ensure clear and consistent rules and regulations and are compliant with the National League Regulations.
7. Support education and training for captains and players.
8. Develop, compile, review, evaluate and report on the results of ~~the 2023~~ Player Surveys.
9. Collaborate with the Adult Tournament Committee to grow participation in NTRP National Championship Qualifiers and the NTRP National Championships and develop similar play opportunities.
10. Develop sportsmanship initiatives and recognition opportunities.

**Rationale:** #8 under Responsibilities on the Adult Leagues Committee Charter is currently out of date as it refers to the 2023 Player Survey. Amending this responsibility to remove the specific year will make the responsibility current as time goes on.

**4. Update from the June Board Meeting.** Staff reported that the following items from the June Board meeting were tabled sent back to the ALC.

- A. Reimbursement for Qualifying National Teams.** The action item for Reimbursement for Qualifying National Teams was tabled for further consideration by the Adult League Committee to ensure that an adverse tax consequence is not happening for NorCal Captains.
- B. Combo League Counting Towards NTRP Ratings.** The item regarding Combo League Counting Towards NTRP Ratings was also tabled and sent back to the Adult League Committee for further discussion. During discussion the ALC talked about doing a player survey and asking other sections information about their Combo League.

**5. 2026 NorCal Regulation Proposals.**

- A. Penalty for Lateness at Sectionals (FAQ).** Staff explained to the ALC that the proposed addition to the FAQ regarding Penalty for Lateness at Sectionals was being brought back to the Committee for them to review different language recommended by staff which would start the lateness penalty clock when a match is called as opposed to starting the lateness clock at the published match time.

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

**RESOLVED:** That effective with the 2026 Championship year, language be added to the NorCal League Rules FAQ to explain the lateness penalty at League Sectionals as follows (stricken through language is proposed deletion and underline language is proposed addition):

Q: What is the penalty for lateness?

A. Once a championship match has been assigned, all players must report to the desk and be ready to play within 15 minutes of the assigned time. Failure to do so will result in a default, and the match will be awarded to the opposing team or player. Submission of the lineup by the team captain serves as confirmation that all listed players are on-site, available, and prepared to play. This rule applies regardless of whether courts become available before or after the originally scheduled match time.

**Rationale:** Currently, there is no written rule outlining lateness penalties for Sectional Championships. Adding a clear lateness policy to the Rules FAQ will ensure consistency, eliminate confusion, and support fair play across all matches. Captains are informed prior to the event that all players must be onsite and lineups must be submitted no later than 30 minutes before the published match time. Matches may begin being called as soon as the lineup is submitted, and all players listed must be present at that time. Establishing a defined lateness penalty reinforces the importance of timeliness and helps ensure that matches begin on schedule.

- B. Court Time Limitations.** The Committee discussed a rule change proposal regarding how to handle incomplete matches due to home court facility limitations such as restricted lighting hours, time constraints, or poor scheduling. During discussion it was mentioned that while there are times that completing a match may be challenging at facilities, there are currently existing reschedule rules on how to handle matches that are not completed. Understanding that different facilities may be scheduling leagues differently in terms of timing, the ALC felt that they needed more information regarding how facilities are operating and tabled this item until more information is received.

**6. National Regulation Proposals.**

- A. Removal of Auto Appeal Down.** The Committee discussed a proposal to remove the ability for players with a computer-generated rating to appeal down. It was discussed that the removal of the auto appeal down will make the computer generated NTRP ratings a truly computer-generated program. Staff also discussed a recent situation where a player auto appealed down and then got dynamically disqualified at the end of the league season which then disqualified the player from participating with their team at Nationals and also made the player's other team not qualify for playoffs due to the number of matches that

were overturned due to the dynamic disqualification. While some committee members understood the benefits of removing the auto appeal down, others also brought up that auto appeals help players that may have been moved up but might not necessarily be at that level and if they are on the line between levels, they will have an opportunity to move back down to the lower level.

After discussion, the ALC tabled this item to discuss further at the next meeting.

- B. NTRP Rating Appeal Procedures – Computer (C) Rated Players.** The ALC reviewed a proposal to allow players aged 60 and older with a current 5.0 rating to appeal to a NorCal Ratings Committee for a potential adjustment to 4.5. With this process, it would supplement the existing NTRP algorithm by offering a human-reviewed process, based on: Current WTN rating, recent rating history (e.g., if the player has held a 4.5 rating for many years and was only recently bumped to 5.0), a written statement from the player outlining their case for appeal. During discussion, the challenges of being moved up to a 5.0 including fewer playing opportunities at 5.0 was brought up. It was also discussed that sometimes players may be on the line of 4.5 and 5.0 and get bumped up based on their USTA sanctioned play but there are other factors that show otherwise that they could be a 4.5.

After discussion, the Committee tabled this until another meeting.

The remaining League Regulations Proposals were tabled until the next meeting.

- 7. Addition of Events to Combo Daytime League.** Currently only Men's 5.5 and Women's 5.5, 6.5, and 7.5 divisions are offered for the Combo Daytime League. Staff explained that there have been requests to have a Men's 7.5 and Women's 8.5 Daytime League. The Committee agreed that it would be positive and promote more play to have Daytime Leagues for Men's and Women's 5.5, 6.5, 7.5, and 8.5 divisions.

Following discussion, a straw vote was taken with a vote of 5 in favor, 0 opposed and 0 abstentions to add a Women's 8.5 and Men's 6.5, 7.5, and 8.5 divisions to the 2025 Combo League as a pilot.

**Rationale:** It is good to offer the same divisions for both men and women. Additionally, adding more divisions where players have shown interest would be promoting play by adding more opportunities for players to play during the day. This will be piloted for 2025 and will be discussed again after team registrations has closed to determine the continuation of the added divisions for future years.

There being no further matters to come before the Committee, the meeting was adjourned at 8:23 pm.