

## **Minutes of the USTA NorCal Adult Leagues Committee Meeting Monday, August 18, 2025**

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

**NOTE:** These minutes were approved on September 29, 2025.

Andrea Barnes, chair of the Adult Leagues Committee ("ALC" or "Committee"), called the meeting to order at 7:05 pm and roll call was conducted. The meeting was held by Google Meet video conference.

**Committee Members Present:** Leslie Airola-Murveit, Andrea Barnes (chair), Anoosh Davoudzadeh, Damon Levy, Tuesdai Powers,

**USTA NorCal Staff Present:** Michelle Wilson

**Guest Present:** Sarah Robinson

### **1. Feedback on 2026 League Suspension Point System Proposals**

#### **1) Misrepresenting identity (eg., intentionally registering under different names or versions of the same name, playing and entering scores under someone else's name).**

The Committee reviewed the proposal to remove the examples given in the misrepresenting identity violation.

Following is the proposed change (language to be deleted in [brackets] and language to be added in "quotation marks.")

Misrepresenting identity "by registering under different names and/or versions of the same name or playing & entering scores" [(eg., intentionally registering under different names or versions of the same name, playing and entering scores under someone else's name)].

Following discussion, a straw vote was taken with a vote of 5 in favor, 0 opposed and 0 abstentions to not support the League Suspension Point System proposal to change the wording for the Misrepresenting identity Violation in the USTA League Suspension Point System.

Rationale: After reviewing the information presented to the section regarding this proposal, the ALC found it difficult to determine the specific changes being requested. The Committee recommends that the proposal be rewritten for greater clarity.

#### **2) New suspension threshold & suspension period: 21 points, 9 month suspension.**

The Committee reviewed the proposal to add a new suspension threshold that would allow an Adult League Grievance Committee to assess 21 suspension points and a 9 month violation.

Following discussion, a straw vote was taken with a vote of 5 in favor, 0 opposed and 0 abstentions to support the League Suspension Point System proposal of adding a new suspension threshold & suspension period of 21 points/9 month suspension

Rationale: While both a three- and six-month suspension option is provided in the Table, there is no option for a grievance committee to consider a suspension time between the six- and 12-month time frame. Thus, a player who is assigned 18 points receives the same suspension time as a player who is assigned 23 points. If a committee has considered the facts and circumstances of an individual case and determined that the violation warrants more than 18 points but the case doesn't rise to the level of a 12-month suspension, the committee should have the option to attach a suspension time commensurate with the increased point total. In addition, in cases involving multiple parties, it is not uncommon for a committee to distinguish the culpability of each party by varying the points assigned and associated suspension times. Again, the availability of a nine-month suspension in these types of cases would allow committees to distinguish situations and circumstances without being required to jump to a more long-term suspension.

It was also discussed that a six-month suspension may have little impact if a player participates only in a specific league that takes place at a certain time of year, beginning more than six months after the suspension is imposed.

### **3) Ability to suspend non-playing captains**

The Committee discussed the proposal to add a new violation category to enable USTA to assess suspension points to non-playing captains. It was explained that currently individuals who captain a team but are not playing cannot receive suspension points in Tennislink. The system requires a captain to be a player on the team, but captains who are not players are not able to receive suspension points.

Following discussion, a straw vote was taken with a vote of 5 in favor, 0 opposed and 0 abstentions to support the League Suspension Point System proposal of adding a new violation category to enable USTA to assess suspension points to non-playing captains.

Rationale: Captains are participating in a USTA program by captaining an Adult League and should be held responsible for their actions and the actions of their players. The NorCal Local League Area Regulations state that team captains are responsible for knowing the ULR/LLAR and for informing all team members and spectators of their obligation to be bound by the rules. Team captains and/or their representatives at matches are responsible for not only their actions but the actions of their players and spectators. In NorCal, captains must be USTA members when registering a team. The USTA NorCal system currently verifies the captains USTA membership upon team creation.

### **4) Separate suspension for a playing captain.**

The Committee discussed the proposal to add a separate suspension for a playing captain so that a captain may still be able to play as a player if the captain is suspended for a captain specific violation.

Following is the propose change (language to be deleted in [brackets] and language to be added in "quotation marks.")

The USTA shall suspend League Captains according to the following schedule:

1. First suspension. If a Captain receives 10 suspension points (from conduct as a Captain, or as a player) within a rolling 12-month period, they shall be suspended from "acting as a Captain for any League Events or playing in any League Events or both captaining and playing in any League Events for three months". Upon completion of the suspension, these 10 points shall be cleared from their record. All other suspension points shall remain on their record and count toward a second suspension

Following discussion, a straw vote was taken with a vote of 5 in favor, 0 opposed and 0 abstentions to support the League Suspension Point System proposal to have a separate suspension for a playing captain in concept, with the understanding that the language will be rewritten for clarity before final approval.

Rationale: The Adult League Committee supports having a separate suspension for playing captains, as some captains may receive suspension points and penalties solely for violations related to their captain duties. In such cases, captains should still be allowed to play, since the suspension is tied to their role as a captain rather than their sportsmanship as a player. The Committee does believe that the proposed language needs to be rewritten for better clarity.

There being no further issues or discussion to come before the Committee, the meeting was adjourned at 7:08 pm.