

Minutes of the USTA NorCal Adult Leagues Committee Meeting Monday, April 27, 2026

NOTE: All resolutions in these minutes were approved by the USTA NorCal Board as of May 20, 2026.

NOTE: These minutes were approved on June 2, 2026.

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, Anoosh Davoudzadeh Jennifer Holmes, Damon Levy, Marilyn Morrell-Kristal, Marco Sanchez, Paul Startz

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

Guests Present: Sarah Robinson

1. **Approval December 18, 2025 Minutes.** The Committee considered for approval the draft minutes of the meeting held on December 18, 2025.

The following motion was then **APPROVED** by a vote of 8 in favor, 0 opposed, and 0 abstentions

RESOLVED: That the minutes of Adult Leagues Committee meeting held December 18, 2025 be approved as presented.

2. **New Adult League Committee Member.** Marco Sanchez was introduced as the newest Adult League Committee member.
3. **Advocacy Engagement and Strategic Priorities.** Cherryl Silva gave a presentation on advocacy efforts occurring in Northern California

Cherryl left the meeting at 6:51pm

4. **Adult 70 Advancement Opportunity.** It was explained to the ALC that USTA Missouri Valley Oklahoma hosts a 70 & over team invitational and encourages participation from other sections. It was also mentioned that the Adult 70 & Over league players have been asking for an event to advance to. The Committee discussed supporting the NorCal Adult 70 & Over champions that would like to play in this event and saw this as a good opportunity.

After discussion, the following motion was **APPROVED** by a vote of 8 in favor, 0 opposed, and 0 abstentions.

RESOLVED: That the six winners of the 2025 Adult 70 Section Team Champions each receive a \$450 per team stipend to attend the 70 & Over Multi State Invitational in Oklahoma, provided that the team compete in such competition and request the stipend

RESOLVED FURTHER: That \$2,700 be added to the 2026 USTA NorCal Budget for such stipends.

RESOLVED FURTHER: That the six winners of the Adult 70 Section Team Champions in each subsequent year, each receive a \$450 per team stipend to attend the 70 & Over Multi State Invitational in Oklahoma, , provided that the team compete in such competition and request the stipend.

Rationale. Supporting the advancement of players to an event at which players can compete against players from other Sections may help encourage the NorCal 70+ players to play in the Adult 70 League. Players have expressed interest in playing this type of intersectional event. The Multi State Invitational in Oklahoma is currently the only known multi-state event. Offering a \$450 stipend per team to help offset the costs of the players attending the invitational and is consistent with what NorCal is doing with the other advancing teams.

From 2023 to 2024, the NorCal Adult 70 and Over League grew by 51 registrations (15%). In 2023 there were 348 registrations and in 2024 there were 399 registrations. During this time this league also grew in unique by 55 players (18%). In 2023 there were 312 unique players and in 2024 there were 367 unique players.

From 2024 to 2025, the NorCal Adult 70 and Over League grew by 117 registrations (29%). In 2024 there were 399 registrations and in 2025 there were 117 registrations. During this time this league also grew in unique by 115 players (31%). In 2024 there were 367 unique players and in 2025 there were 482 unique players.

This proposal has been submitted to the Budget Committee for review.

Fiscal Impact. \$2,700 to the budget (\$450 x 6 divisions). The \$2700 is to help offset the costs of attending the event.

- 5. Additional Funding for 2026 New Captains Promotion.** Staff explained to the Committee that 136 players have signed up for the 2026 New Captains Promotion. To continue the program more funds are being requested. During discussion the Committee discussed the value and importance of having players step up as captains.

After discussion, the following motion was **APPROVED** by a vote of 8 in favor, 0 opposed, and 0 abstentions.

RESOLVED: That an additional \$3,000 be added to the to the 2026 USTA NorCal Budget to continue the New Captain Promotion Program through the end of the 2026 season, which promotion provides a new captain and his/her mentor a "USTA NorCal Captain" ¼ zip long sleeve pullover at the end of the season.

Rationale: As of April 16, 2026, 136 captains have signed up for the New Captain Promotion. 102 of last year's 180 new captains registered for the promotion after this date in 2025. If that trend holds, NorCal can expect at least 270 new captains in 2026. The current budgeted amount for this promotion will not cover all of these additional new captains.

New captains are needed to help grow adult leagues and this program is a promotional tool to recognize new captains and to enhance their experience. NorCal recognizes the new captains and their mentors with a ¼ zip long sleeve pullover at the end of the season. In terms of success, below are the 2025 participation statistics.

Of the 180 captains that signed up for and qualified for the New Captain Promotion in 2025, 62.2% returned to captain at least one more team. Of the 68 captains that have not yet captained again, 50 of those signed up for the promo in the 2nd half of the year, so that data is a bit skewed based on how much time has elapsed since their first captaining experience.

35% of the new captains have captained one more time and 16% have captained 3 total teams. 11% of the new captains have taken the helm on 4 teams (including their 1st team) with one captain returning to captain a total of 7 teams.

League teams have grown since 2025 for 2026 Leagues that we have currently hosted this year.

This proposal has been submitted to the Budget Committee for review.

Fiscal Impact. \$3,000 to the budget. The budget impact would be approximately \$30 per new captain/mentor receiving a ¼ zip pullover. The \$30 covers the shirt and shipping cost. Staff is anticipating 100 more new captains during 2026.

- 6. Adult League Service Awards.** It was reported the Facility of the Year, Local League Area Coordinator of the Year, Service to Leagues, and League Volunteer of the Year awards would be awarded at the Section Connection in November.
- 7. Use of Electronic Line Calling at Local League and Playoffs.** The Committee discussed the use of Electronic Line Calling at adult local league matches and playoffs. During discussion it was noted that National passed a regulation allowing each section to determine the use of electronic line calling systems in their section. The ALC also discussed how good the systems have become, how much the players enjoyed it when it was piloted at the USTA NorCal Adult Grand Prix Tournament and how ELC can alleviate some issues at a match.

After discussion, the following motion was **APPROVED** by a vote of 8 in favor, 0 opposed, and 0 abstentions.

RESOLVED: that effective immediately, the following language shall be added to the NorCal Local League Area Regulations (LLAR) to authorize the use of electronic line calling systems using the USTA Northern California Electronic Line Calling Procedures for Local League Play and Playoffs as follows (underlined language is proposed addition):

2.01E Electronic Line Calling. Each Sectional Association shall declare if it will allow the use of electronic line calling systems and shall establish procedures to follow. If no such procedures have been established, the Sectional Associations shall adhere to Friend at Court.

NorCal LLAR) Electronic Line Calling. USTA NorCal allows the use of electronic line calling systems for Adult League Play. The USTA Northern California Electronic Line Calling Procedures for Adult Local League & Playoffs must be followed for local league and playoff matches.

RESOLVED FURTHER: that effective immediately, the following Electronic Line Calling Procedures be approved.

USTA Northern California Electronic Line Calling Procedures for Adult Local League & Playoffs

Electronic Line Calling (ELC) has been approved for use in Local League and Playoffs by the USTA NorCal; however it is not authorized for use at the Sectional Championships. Players are still responsible for making their own line calls in league matches. ELC systems are meant to be used as a supplement. ELC systems with the option to make all line calls are not approved for use in the Northern California Section.

The following rules and guidelines shall apply to ELC use in local league play and playoff in the Northern California Section.

ELC systems must be either accredited by the ITF at the Bronze, Silver, or Gold level or authorized by the USTA. [CLICK HERE](#) to view the list of approved ELC systems. The ELC systems must also be managed/maintained by the facility. Personal line calling devices are not permitted for use in official matches.

A match may not be delayed so that a match can take place on a court with an ELC system over a court without one. A multi-line match may be played on a mix of courts with and without ELC systems.

Both teams may agree to opt out of using the ELC system when playing on a court where the system is available. This must be decided before the start of play.

Challenges

- Players may challenge any service fault or out call made by opponents.
- Challenges must be requested immediately, just as out calls must be made without delay.
- For a point in progress, play must be stopped immediately to challenge a call. A player may not go back and challenge a call within a point.
- The system cannot be used to verify in calls, only challenge out calls.
- If a call cannot be determined by the system, the original call stands, and it does not count as an unsuccessful challenge.
- If a player is overruled by the system, they lose the point.

Challenge Limits

- Each team is allowed up to four (4) unsuccessful challenges per match.
- An unsuccessful challenge is when the original call remains unchanged.
- A successful challenge overturns the original call and does not count against the challenge limit.
- After reaching four failed challenges in a match the team loses the right to make further challenges for the remainder of the match.

- If the ELC system is able to track the number of incorrect challenges, the system tracker must be used. If the system cannot track incorrect challenges, players must agree on a tracking method before the start of the match and use it for the duration of the match.

Rationale: Electronic Line Calling will help with player discrepancies regarding line calls and adopting a policy that permits its use may incentivize NorCal facilities to install them. At least one facility, Blackhawk Country Club, would like to install ELC and use it for adult local league matches. Electronic Line Calling was piloted at Blackhawk Country Club for the NorCal Grand Prix in October 2025 and was well received by the players.

The proposed USTA Northern California Electronic Line Calling Guidelines for Adult Local League and Playoffs is similar to Texas and Missouri Valley who are currently allowing ELC in their sections. It also is consistent with Friend at Court when stating "ELC systems must be either accredited by the ITF at the Bronze, Silver, or Gold level or authorized by the USTA."

Allowing 4 unsuccessful challenges per match is simple for players to understand if they are playing a local league match with no umpires.

There are no current plans to use ELC at Sectionals at this time. If and when the time comes, the Adult League Committee will propose appropriate guidelines, as the guidance may be slightly different because Sectionals use certified officials.

Fiscal Impact: None

8. Sub-Committee for 5.0+ Playing Opportunities. It was reported to the Committee that a sub-committee is being formed to explore the playing opportunities for 5.0+ players and to look into new playing opportunities.

Damon Levy left the call at 7:40pm

9. 2027 National Regulations Update. Staff updated the Committee regarding the 2027 National Regulations.

10. USTA Membership. Staff informed the Committee that the issue of duplicate memberships is going to be discussed at the National Section League Coordinator Meeting.

11. Boundaries Review. It was reported to the Committee that a review of the NorCal adult league areas is currently being conducted and that more information will be shared in May or June.

There being no further matters to come before the Committee, the meeting was adjourned at 7:52 pm.