

NOTE: *All minutes are final after approval by the committee and all approved resolutions are subject to final approval by the USTA NorCal Board.*

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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, Marilyn Morrell-Kristal, Tuesday Powers, Paul Startz

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

Guests Present: Sarah Robinson

- 1. Approval April 27, 2026 Minutes.** The Committee considered for approval the draft minutes of the meeting held on April 27, 2026.

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 April 27, 2026 be approved as presented.

- 2. 2026 Combo Sectional Dates.** The Committee reviewed the proposed 2026 Combo Sectional Dates.

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

RESOLVED: That effective immediately, the 2026 Combo Sectional Dates be approved as follows:

- Daytime Combo League: January 12-14, 2027 and February 16-18, 2027 (rain make-up weekend)
- Traditional Combo League: January 22-24, 2027 and February 5-7, 2027 (rain make-up weekend)

Rationale: This is the same Sectionals Schedule as the 2025 Sectionals schedule played in 2026. We have rain dates for this event because it is during the rainy season.

Fiscal Impact: None

- 3. 2027 Adult Leagues Calendar.** The proposed draft of the 2027 Adult Leagues Calendar (the "Calendar") was presented to the Committee for review. During the discussion of the Calendar, a discussion was had regarding Easter being on March 28, 2027. In the draft of the calendar, the proposed Mixed 18 playoff week would play the first week of playoffs, the week immediately following the 10th week of Local League, skip Easter weekend and then play the next 2 weeks of playoffs. It was noted that there were only 4 days between local league and playoffs and staff had some concerns about the timing but would do their best in 2027 to avoid playing on the Easter Holiday. It was also mentioned that the Adult 70 League was moved up one month to hopefully avoid the rain.

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

RESOLVED: That the 2027 Adult League Calendar be approved as set forth on Exhibit A.

Rationale: The 2027 Adult League Calendar is similar to the 2026 Adult League Calendar. When preparing the calendar, overlaps, facility load, national and sectional tournaments and holidays were considered. Mixed 18 playoffs starts a week earlier than 2026 to help avoid the Easter holiday. The Adult 70's league is moved up one month to try to avoid Sectionals being played in the rainy month.

Fiscal Impact: None

4. League Regulation Proposals.

- A. Singles Played in order of Strength.** The Committee reviewed a regulation proposal submitted by a player proposing that in a league with two singles lines, the higher-level player be required to play in singles line 1. The Committee discussed if this rule would be able to be easily enforced and if the two players were the same level, it would be difficult to determine who the higher-level player is. Many of the Committee members appreciate the idea of playing in order of strength. Although it was mentioned that specifically requiring players to play in order strength is not in the National regulations so NorCal would need to check with National to see if that is allowed. It was mentioned that if playing in order of strength is a direction that NorCal would like to consider going, to possibly form a sub-committee to review using points per position

After discussion, no motion was made.

- B. Multiple Upheld Grievances.** It was explained to the ALC that USTA NorCal currently files a grievance against any captain or co-captain who has had three (3) players on their team(s) within any rolling 36-month period who were either NTRP dynamically disqualified or disqualified through the NTRP Grievance process. Staff explained that it was being proposed to include players who were disqualified through the Sportsmanship Grievance process as well. It was discussed that there have been a number of grievances filed against players with multiple memberships where many of the players are disqualified to the higher level but because multiple membership grievances are filed as Sportsmanship grievances, they are not currently counting as a part of the captains (3) players that are disqualified when captains should be holding some responsibility for the players on their team.

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

RESOLVED: That effective with the 2027 Championship year, language be added to the (NorCal LLAR) Multiple Upheld NTRP Grievances to include players who were disqualified through the Grievance process as follows (stricken through language is proposed deletion and underline language is proposed addition):

(NorCal LLAR) Multiple Upheld ~~NTRP~~ Grievances. A sportsmanship grievance will be filed against any captain or co-captain who has had three (3) players on their team(s) within any rolling 36-month period who were either NTRP dynamically disqualified or disqualified through the NTRP Grievance or Sportsmanship process. Promotions do not count towards those three players.

Rationale: The NorCal office has recently filed a number of "3 player/3 years" grievances. Often the captains with 3 players with ratings issues have a combination of NTRP grievances and 3 Strike DQs. However, there have been a number of grievances filed against players with multiple memberships where many of the players are disqualified to the higher level but because multiple membership grievances are filed as Sportsmanship grievances, they are not currently counting as a part of the captains (3) players that are disqualified when captains should be holding some responsibility for the players on their team.

- C. Coaching.** The Committee discussed a proposal to allow coaching during changeovers or between all sets. During discussion while some members like the idea of coaching, there were concerns that allowing coaching would lead to longer matches as local league matches are not officiated and may also lead to concerns of who is doing the coaching etc. There were also concerns that allowing coaching may not be fair to all players as some may be able to afford a coach while others may not have the ability.

After discussion, the following motion was APPROVED by a vote of 4 in favor, 1 opposed, and 0 abstentions:

RESOLVED: To not adopt the rule change proposal to allow coaching.

Rationale: Allowing coaching for Adult League play may prolong the matches and create issues over who can coach and how many coaches would be out there. Allowing coaching may also create an inequality as some players may be able to afford a coach and others may not.

- D. Limit the number of self-rated players on a team.** The proposal to limit the number of self-rated players on a team was discussed. During discussion, the Committee was reminded that limiting the

number of self-rated players was tried in the past at the National level and it was discontinued because it was found that limiting the number of self-rated players limited the ability for new players to play in leagues as new players need to self-rate before they can play and get a computer generated rating.

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

RESOLVED: To not adopt the rule change proposal to limit the number of self-rated players on a team.

Rationale: As a section, NorCal cannot limit the number of self-rated players on a team because the National rule allows this and there is not currently an option for a section to have a different rule variation of this rule. Additionally, limiting the number of self-rated players on a team was tried in the past and it limited the amount of new players playing USTA leagues as they were not able to get on teams because of the limit on self-rated players and new players need to self-rate in order to play to generate a computer rating. Additionally, if self-rated players do not play enough valid matches in a championship year, they will still be self-rated the next year.

- E. Adult 40 scoring format.** The ALC reviewed the proposal to change the Adult 40 scoring format to 1 point per line. In the proposal it was mentioned that having the #1 doubles line count as 2 points increases the chance that a team's season outcome is heavily driven by a single court. During discussion, a number of committee members saw that having #1 doubles count as 2 points encourages teams to play by strength. Others saw it putting pressure on which players to put in line 1 doubles and putting pressure on the players that play in line one doubles.

After discussion, the following motion was APPROVED by a vote of 4 in favor, 1 opposed, and 0 abstentions:

RESOLVED: To not adopt the rule change proposal to change the Adult 40 scoring format to 1 point per line.

Rationale: Having #1 doubles count as 2 points helps to clearly define a match winner in a 4-line league. This also helps to encourage the teams to play in order of strength which would hopefully lead to better matches.

- F. Playoff decision made by team rather than captains.** The proposal to have a playoff decision made by a whole team rather than captains was discussed.

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

RESOLVED: To not adopt the rule change proposal to allow for a playoff decision to be made by the team rather than captains.

Rationale: Captains are the leaders of their team and typically the liaison between the players and other teams and USTA NorCal in terms of making decisions on behalf of the team. There needs to be one team leader who makes decisions. It is encouraged that captains get players input before making decisions about playoffs.

- G. Match minimums for Playoffs.** The Committee discussed a proposal to allow a default to count for advancement eligibility for self-rated players if the opposing team does not show up for their match.

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

RESOLVED: To not adopt the rule change proposal to allow a default to count for advancement eligibility for self-rated players if the opposing team does not show up for their match.

Rationale: NTRP dynamics are needed for self-rated players to try to ensure that they are in the correct level before advancing to playoffs and beyond. Changing the rule to have a default count for self-rated players would be having one less match counting towards advancement with NTRP dynamics.

H. 8-Week Adult 40 & Over Season. The ALC discussed a proposal for the Adult 40 & Over season to go from a 10-week season to an 8-week season with more double up weeks to try to avoid the Easter Holiday and spring break. Allowing play on holidays and the hurdles some teams have with not enough players during holidays were discussed. It was noted that when drafting the calendar, holiday dates are reviewed and considered.

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

RESOLVED: To not adopt the rule change proposal to change the Adult 40 & Over season from at 10-week season to an 8-week season with more double up weeks

Rationale: Having double up weeks for odd numbered flights is already challenging for some teams. Adding more would make it more difficult. While it is in the regulations that a home team may schedule a match during a holiday, NorCal does its best to consider holidays when scheduling leagues. There are only 52 weeks in a year and NorCal has 12 leagues that are 10 match/10 week seasons.

5. League Sectionals Lateness Penalty. Staff gave an update on the Lateness Penalty at League Sectionals.

There being no further matters to come before the Committee, the meeting was adjourned at 8:10 pm.

Early Start 2027 Adult 40 & Over Reno/Tahoe must be completed by September 26, 2027**Team registration:** July 6, 2026**Closes:** July 27, 2026**Season opens:** August 17, 2026**Season Closes:** November 15, 2026**P:** December 3-6, 2025; December 10-13, 2026**S:** May 7-9; 14-16, 2027**Early Start 2027 Mixed 18 & Over Reno/Tahoe must be completed by October 10, 2027****Team registration:** July 6, 2026**Closes:** July 27, 2026**Season opens:** August 17, 2026**Season Closes:** November 15, 2026**P:** December 3-6; December 10-13, 2026**S:** April 23-25, 2027**2027 Adult 40 & Over League must be completed by September 26, 2027****Team registration:** November 2, 2026**Closes:** November 30, 2026**Season opens:** January 4, 2027**Season Closes:** March 14, 2027**P:** April 1-4; April 8-11, April 15-18, 2027**S:** May 7-9; 14-16, 2027**2027 NorCal Adult 40 & Over Daytime League****Team registration:** November 2, 2026**Closes:** November 30, 2026**Season opens:** January 4, 2027**Season Closes:** March 12, 2027**P:** March 22-26; March 29-April 2; April 5-9, 2027**S:** April 27-29, 2027**2027 Mixed 18 & Over League must be completed by October 10, 2027****Team registration:** November 2, 2026**Closes:** November 30, 2026**Season opens:** January 4, 2027**Season Closes:** March 14, 2027**P:** March 18-21; April 1-4; April 8-11, 2027**S:** April 23-25, 2027**2027 NorCal Adult 65 & Over Daytime League****Team registration:** November 30, 2026**Closes:** January 4, 2027**Season opens:** February 1, 2027**Season Closes:** April 9, 2027**P:** April 19-23; April 26- April 30, 2027**S:** May 19-21, 2026**2027 Adult 55 & Over League must be completed by October 10, 2027****Team Registration:** January 18, 2027**Closes:** February 16, 2027**Season opens:** March 15, 2026**Season closes:** May 23, 2027**P:** June 10-13; June 17-20, June 24-27, 2027**S:** July 9-11, 2027**2027 Adult 18 & Over League must be completed by September 19, 2027****Team Registration:** January 18, 2027**Closes:** February 16, 2027**Season opens:** April 5, 2027**Season closes:** June 13, 2027**P:** June 25-28, July 9-12; July 16-19, 2026**S:** August 6-8; 13-15, 2027**2027 NorCal Adult 18 & Over Daytime League****Team Registration:** January 18, 2027**Closes:** February 16, 2027**Season opens:** April 5, 2027**Season closes:** June 11, 2027**P:** June 21-25, July 5-9; July 12-16, 2027**S:** August 25-27, 2027**2027 Mixed 40 & Over League must be completed by October 17, 2027****Team Registration:** April 19, 2027**Closes:** May 17, 2026**Season opens:** June 7, 2027**Season closes:** August 15, 2027**P:** August 19-22; August 26-28; September 9-12, 2027**S:** September 24-26, 2027

2027 NorCal Adult 70 & Over Daytime League**Team registration:** May 17, 2027**Season opens:** July 19, 2027**P:** October 4-8; October 11-15, 2027**S:** November 16-18, 2027**Closes:** June 21, 2027**Season Closes:** September 23, 2027**2027 NorCal Combo League****Team registration:** June 21, 2027**Season opens:** August 23, 2027**P:** November 11-14; November 18 - 21; December 2-5, 2027**S:** Early 2028**Closes:** July 26, 2027**Season Closes:** October 31, 2027**2027 NorCal Combo Daytime League****Team registration:** June 21, 2027**Season opens:** August 23, 2027**P:** November 8-12; November 15-19; November 29-December 3, 2027**S:** Early 2028**Closes:** July 26, 2027**Season Closes:** October 29, 2027**2027 NorCal Mixed 55 & Over League****Team registration:** June 21, 2027**Season opens:** August 23, 2027**P:** November 4-7; November 11-13; November 18-21, 2027**S:** December 3-5, 2027**Closes:** July 26, 2027**Season Closes:** October 31, 2027