

Minutes of the USTA NorCal Adult Leagues Committee Meeting Monday, August 24, 2026

NOTE: *All resolutions in these minutes were approved by the USTA NorCal Executive Committee as of September 7, 2026.*

NOTE: *These minutes were approved on September 28, 2026.*

Andrea Barnes, Chair of the Adult Leagues Committee (the "Committee"), called the meeting to order at 6:31 pm and roll call was conducted. The meeting was held by Google Meet video conference.

Committee Members Present: Andrea Barnes (chair), Leslie Airola-Murveit, Jennifer Holmes, Damon Levy, Tuesdai Powers, Paul Startz

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

Guests Present: Sarah Robinson

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

The following motion was then **APPROVED** by a vote of 4 in favor, 0 opposed, and 1 abstention

RESOLVED: That the minutes of Adult Leagues Committee meeting held July 27, 2026 be approved as presented.

Leslie Airola-Murveit joined the call at 6:36pm.

2. 2027 Suspension Point Proposals

1) Higher point threshold for teams dropping out of championships

The Committee reviewed the proposal to have higher point thresholds for a player that withdraws out of a championship. It was explained that while NorCal charges a per team fee to attend sectionals, many sections charge a per player fee. It was also explained that in NorCal, grievances are typically filed when a total team default occurs at Sectionals, not when one line needs to be defaulted. It was also mentioned that in the Adult League regulations, the minimum number of players at a championship are defined which allows room for line defaults.

Following discussion, a straw vote was taken with a vote of 6 in favor, 0 opposed and 0 abstentions to not support the suspension point change proposal to have a higher point threshold for teams dropping out of championships.

Rationale: An extra category is not needed. Points can be assess through the category of failing to comply with a USTA League Regulation or Guideline or Championship Procedure. (2-24 points)

2) Additional language to clarify what happens when suspension points are assessed at the district level.

The proposal to add additional language to clarify what happens when suspension points are assessed at a district level was discussed.

Following is the proposed addition:

If a player is assessed 24 or more suspension points by a local, area or district League grievance committee, the player shall be suspended from participating in League events for a period to be determined by the Section League Grievance Committee, which shall have the power to conduct such investigation as deemed necessary by the Committee in its absolute discretion and to affirm, modify, remand for cause or reject the decision of the League Grievance or Grievance Appeal Committee, as applicable, but may not impose a harsher penalty. Any player suspended for a period of 12 months or more may appeal the decision of the Section League Grievance Committee to the National League Grievance Appeal Committee within the deadline established by the Section League Grievance Committee.

Following discussion, a straw vote was taken with a vote of 6 in favor, 0 opposed and 0 abstentions to abstain from voting on the rule change proposal to add language to clarify what happens when suspension points are assessed at the district level.

Rationale: NorCal does not have districts and it is already in the regulations that if a player gets a 12+ month suspension, they can already appeal to the League National Grievance Committee.

3) National review process for proposed changes to the USTA League Suspension Points Table

The Committee discussed the proposal to change the review process for proposed changes to the USTA League Suspension Point Table.

Following is the proposed change:

Suspension points. After consultation with the Sectional Associations, a committee comprised of the chair and vice chair of the USTA League Committee and the National League Administrator shall determine the violations that will result in suspension points and the number of suspension points for each violation and shall publish the violations and suspension points in the USTA League Suspension Points Table

Following discussion, a straw vote was taken with a vote of 6 in favor, 0 opposed and 0 abstentions to not support the rule change proposal to change the National review process for proposed changes to the USTA League Suspension Points Table

Rationale: Having a whole committee review the regulation proposals through the committee decision process ensures more representation of the sections and helps ensure that the proposal is vetted by the Committee before voting. If only the chair, vice chair and National League Administrator are making the decisions, less sections will be represented when the decision is made.

4) Defrauding the USTA

The ALC reviewed a proposal to add a "Fraud or Defrauding USTA" category to the Adult League Suspension Point System. The Committee discussed the examples of fraud given which were misuse of coupon codes and purchasing a membership, canceling it and then purchasing another membership.

Following discussion, a straw vote was taken with a vote of 6 in favor, 0 opposed and 0 abstentions to not support the rule change proposal to add a "Fraud or Defrauding USTA" category to the Adult League Suspension Point System.

Rationale: If there are issues with using a coupon code, a change may need to be made to the system or the way the coupon codes are issued to help with the situation rather than assessing suspension points. In regards to purchasing a membership, then canceling it to purchase another membership, there are already, suspension point categories for that such as Misrepresenting identity (24 points).

5) Making tanking its own category

The Committee reviewed the regulation proposal to make tanking its own category with 1 to 24 suspension points. They discussed the current issue with tanking and how it can be hard to prove. It was also discussed that at league events, umpires can give a code violation for "best efforts" and the Championship Committee can assess between 2-4 suspension points for each code violation. If a grievance is filed and the Adult League Grievance Committee finds a player guilty of tanking, they are able to assess 2-24 suspension points for failing to comply with a USTA League Regulation or Guideline or Championship Procedure.

Following discussion, a straw vote was taken with a vote of 6 in favor, 0 opposed and 0 abstentions to not support the rule change proposal to make tanking its own category.

Rationale: There is already a category for this where up to 24 suspension points can be assessed.

6) Adding a new category for lack of communication

The Committee reviewed the regulation proposal to add a new category for lack of communication. It was discussed that the USTA NorCal Adult League Grievance Committee makes a couple attempts to reach out to a player who has not responded. It was also considered that some players may not want to respond due to various reasons including having nothing to say knowing they are guilty.

Following discussion, a straw vote was taken with a vote of 6 in favor, 0 opposed and 0 abstentions to not support the rule change proposal to add a new category for lack of communication.

Rationale: The NorCal Adult League Grievance Committee already tries to reach out to players they have not heard from. If a player doesn't respond, the Grievance Committee can act accordingly. It is up to the player to respond and they should not get suspension points for not responding.

There being no further matters to come before the Committee, the meeting was adjourned at 7:26 pm.