



Sanction & Scheduling Committee

Thursday, April 22, 2021, 9:00 PM | Via Zoom

MINUTES

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT	Scott Winn (Chair), Luis Reis, Jon Toney, Stephanie Savides (was late to the meeting), Mark Fairchild, and Andrea Norman
ABSENT	N/A
STAFF LIAISON	Alison Vidal and David Resnick-Dunn
GUESTS	N/A
CALL TO ORDER	9:02pm

Welcome, Roll Call and Approval of Minutes

DISCUSSION	Mr. Winn called the meeting to order and thanked everyone for attending. Mr. Winn noted that Ms. Savides was late, but that there was a quorum so the meeting could continue without her present. Mr. Winn approved the minutes from the previous meeting on March 30 th .
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Approval of Meeting Agenda

MOTION	SECONDED
Mr. Winn asked the committee to approve the meeting's agenda. Mr. Reis made a motion to approve the meeting's agenda.	Mr. Fairchild seconded the motion. The committee voted to approve the meeting agenda. Four approved, Zero opposed, Zero abstained.

RATIONALE	The Committee approved the meeting's agenda.
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Approval of June and July Level 3 and Level 4 junior tournament sites and directors

DISCUSSION	Mr. Winn clarified to the committee that he wanted to create a "Consent Agenda" whereby tournament sites and directors that the committee could unanimously agree on would be passed first and those that weren't unanimously passed would be discussed further before brought to a vote. Mr. Reis mentioned that he would be for approving the June tournaments but waiting on the July tournaments until more of the State's health restrictions were lifted. Mr. Resnick-Dunn explained that the July Level 4 tournament at Golden Gate Park had been previously approved. Ms. Norman clarified that 2 more Level 4 tournaments still need to be added onto the Junior Calendar for 2021. She also mentioned that due to the feedback from Junior players and the
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impacted timeline, the committee should approve all June and July tournaments during the meeting in order to allow players to register in a timely manner.

Upon hearing Ms. Norman's explanation, Mr. Reis concurred that approving the June and July tournaments would be in the best interest of the NorCal's junior players.

Ms. Savides, who had just arrived, questioned whether just the dates or also the sites were in the process of being approved.

Mr. Winn reaffirmed that the committee was looking to approve the sites and tournament directors for the aforementioned June and July L3 and L4 dates.

Ms. Savides questioned why an L3 was being proposed for Aptos as opposed to Sacramento where it had taken place in previous years.

Mr. Resnick-Dunn explained that due to COVID restrictions, the site was not available for large events to be run and the tournament director did not put in an application for the tournament.

Ms. Vidal and Mr. Fairchild seconded the sentiments brought up by Mr. Resnick-Dunn.

Ms. Norman indicated that she wanted to pull the Manteca L3 Doubles tournament from the consent agenda as she had questions to address about the site that would be used for the tournament.

Mr. Winn asked her to give a summary about her concerns related to the Oak Park site that was used in a previous Manteca tournament.

Ms. Norman's concerns had to do with a safety issue that was brought at a previous Manteca Level 5 tournament.

Mr. Resnick-Dunn and Ms. Vidal clarified that they had spoken directly to the tournament director and that her concerns, while justified, weren't entirely accurate based on what they had learned from the tournament director.

Mr. Winn posed a question to Mr. Resnick-Dunn as to why the tournament director for this particular tournament took the measures that he did.

Mr. Resnick-Dunn detailed his conversation with the tournament director to help clarify Mr. Winn's question.

Mr. Reis, Mr. Fairchild, Ms. Norman, and Ms. Savides wanted clarification on if the Manteca tournament director would have access to enough courts for the L3 doubles tournament if they were not allowed to use Oak Park for evening matches.

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Mr. Resnick-Dunn confirmed that he had relayed these concerns to the tournament director and the tournament director was planning to have a backup site as well as not run evening matches at Oak Park moving forward.

Mr. Fairchild asked for clarification as to which sites Aptos would be using for their Level 3 tournament.

Mr. Resnick-Dunn listed the sites that Aptos was planning to use for the Level 3 tournament.

Various committee members made mention that the current process to become an approved tournament director is too arduous and should be revisited by USTA NorCal.

Mr. Winn asked Mr. Resnick-Dunn and Ms. Vidal if at another meeting they would be prepared to walk the committee through the tournament director approval process that was implemented for 2021 and explain the reasoning behind putting this process into place.

Ms. Vidal responded that herself and Mr. Resnick-Dunn would be happy to walk the committee through this process at a future meeting.

Mr. Winn asked if there were any more questions regarding the Aptos site.

Ms. Savides posed a question as to what sites were being used for the San Jose L3 tournament.

Ms. Norman brought up sites that this tournament director had used in the past for their tournaments.

Mr. Reis asked why a 3rd site at a previous Manteca tournament became unavailable.

Mr. Resnick-Dunn responded that the loss of the 3rd site was due to circumstances that were out of the tournament director's control. He also went on to reference that via customer service surveys that NorCal has been receiving, this particular tournament director has historically received positive feedback from consumers.

Ms. Norman asked for some clarification on how the survey process is handled internally and what data points are used to come to a conclusion on how a tournament director is being received by the consumer.

Mr. Winn asked that the committee be sent more data that is collected from these surveys so they can better understand how this information is being used when making their sanction recommendations.

Ms. Savides requested that on future sanction recommendations, information about the sites that a tournament is taking place at be included.

Mr. Winn reiterated this request to Mr. Resnick-Dunn.

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	Mr. Resnick-Dunn acknowledged and mentioned that this data would be provided for future sanction recommendations that are sent to the committee.
MOTION	SECONDED
Mr. Winn asked for the committee for a motion to approve the proposed L3 and L4 tournament directors and sites for June and July Junior tournaments. Mr. Reis moved the motion.	Mr. Fairchild seconded the motion. The committee voted to approve the proposed dates for 2021 L3 and L4 Junior Tournaments. Five Approved, Zero opposed, Zero abstained. (Note, Ms. Norman abstained from voting on Phil Cello's L3 tournament as she has a direct conflict of interest due to her working for him as an administrative assistant).
RATIONALE	
The Committee approved the proposed tournament directors and sites for the June and July L3 and L4 tournaments in order to allow NorCal to start marketing the tournaments and to allow players enough time to sign up for these tournaments.	
Additional Discussion Points and Questions	
DISCUSSION	Mr. Winn brought up concerns that were discussed at a Board meeting the previous night including a petition brought by a parent group. The concerns from the parent group included, from their point of view, that USTA NorCal wasn't releasing clear and concise information to the parents within the section and this was having a negative effect on how players and parents were receiving information about upcoming tournaments.
	Mr. Reis commented that although he feels that USTA NorCal, under the current circumstances, is doing a good job of communicating with the section's players, more still has to be done in order to ensure that parents and players feel like they are being heard.
	Mr. Winn asked Mr. Resnick-Dunn to give more details as to the process by which tournament directors are chosen and how this process has changed from previous years due to COVID.
	Mr. Resnick-Dunn explained the process that was put into place and how the lack of tournament directors and sites necessitated the need for a process that allowed tournament directors to apply for tournaments as their sites became available. The previous process whereby the junior calendar for the entire year was made ahead of time was no longer feasible due to the previously mentioned challenges surround the COVID pandemic.
Mr. Winn asked Mr. Resnick-Dunn to clarify how tournament entry fees were decided upon for tournaments in 2021	

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Mr. Resnick-Dunn explained that entry fees were decided upon when the Tournament Director's contract was passed by the board in 2020.

Various committee members remarked how the current prices that are being charged for tournaments do not match the value that the consumer is receiving for being a part of these tournaments.

Ms. Norman asked if the Tournament Director Agreement is valid for 1 year and asked how lower entry fees could be enforced for those tournament directors that have already signed it.

Mr. Resnick-Dunn replied that there is a provision within the tournament Director Agreement that allows for NorCal to make changes as needed.

Mr. Winn asked how the scheduling of tournaments work, i.e., is the process left up to the tournament director, are their guidelines that they are required to follow, etc.

Mr. Resnick-Dunn explained that while NorCal give suggestions to the tournament directors about how to schedule out their tournaments, the decision is ultimately left up to them. He also pointed to the Friend at Court handbook which has specific requirements as to the earliest and latest times that a match can be scheduled.

Mr. Winn brought up Mr. Toney's question "How can NorCal enhance the tournament experience for junior players?" and mentioned that this should be tabled for a future committee meeting.

Ms. Vidal remarked that subcommittee could be set up that directly deals with this topic.

Mr. Winn asked the committee moving forward how often they would want to try and meet.

Each committee member gave their feedback as to what days/nights of the week would work best to meet.

Ms. Norman had some additional questions and concerns.

Mr. Winn informed Ms. Norman that she should put together an email of her concerns and send them to NorCal staff so that they could be addressed separately outside of this meeting.

Mr. Winn said that by the following Monday he would have another date chosen for the next committee meeting.

ADJOURNMENT 10:46pm