

# Umpire and Referee Committee

November 4, 2021, 7:00PM | Via Google Meet

## MINUTES

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT	Russell Groh, Tom McTighe, Chris Preston, Chris Wilson (Chair)
COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT	Joan Vormbaum, John Wong
STAFF LIAISON PRESENT	Michelle Wilson
GUESTS	
CALL TO ORDER	7:05pm

### Approval of June 3, 2021 Committee Meeting Minutes

DISCUSSION	Approval of June 3, 2021 Committee Meeting Minutes	
MOTION	Chris Preston motioned to approve the June 3, 2021 Committee Meeting Minutes	SECONDED & VOTE COUNT
		Tom McTighe seconded the motion. The motion was approved 3 in favor, 0 opposed, and 0 abstentions

### 2021 Umpire Awards

DISCUSSION	The Committee discussed awarding the Umpire Awards in 2021. They discussed how COVID-19 has affected the number of events and umpires working in 2021. After discussion they agreed to send out a form for nominations that the Umpire and Referee Committee will review in December.
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### Sample Referee Agreement

DISCUSSION	It was brought to the Committee's attention that during a couple of the monthly webinars some umpires have asked for a sample referee agreement so they have an idea of what they can or negotiate when working out an agreement to work a tournament with a tournament director. Following discussion, the Committee decided to put a sub-committee together to create a list of items that umpires could consider negotiating when agreeing to work a tournament.
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## Court Monitor Program Update

### DISCUSSION

Staff gave the Committee an update regarding the Court Monitor Program. It was noted that USTA NorCal has had 50+ people work as court monitors or sign up to be court monitors so far this year. USTA NorCal has had 3 Play Monitor/Court Monitor Workshops this year and is scheduled to have 4 more by the end of the year. Staff is working to follow up with those who have registered to be court monitors to help them through the process. Staff also mentioned that they have followed up with the court monitors that are interested in becoming umpires and 5 of the individuals who have signed up to be court monitors have also signed up for an Officials First Account (USTA National officials database).

## 2022 Umpire Recruiting Ideas and Help

### DISCUSSION

Staff informed the Committee of the need for more umpires in the section. The Committee was informed that 10 new umpires have been recruited to date for 2021; however, around 10 umpires have also retired from umpiring or moved out of state in 2021.

The Committee discussed a couple of ideas to help recruit that included:

1. Recruiting at some of the bigger USTA NorCal events.
2. Creating a brochure that includes a spot for umpires to put their name and email address for umpires to take around with them while working events so that they can give it to people interested in becoming an umpire.

The Committee also agreed to help follow up with the new prospective umpires.

## Update Regarding Stipend to Help NorCal Umpires with Purchasing NASO Insurance Starting in 2022

### DISCUSSION

First, It was noted that the Committee passed the following two resolutions by unanimous written consent on October 6, 2021:

1. Effective immediately, to look at the funds allotted to the Umpire and Referee department for 2021 and if there are enough funds left to reallocate some of the funds to offer a \$20 or \$30 reimbursement for NorCal umpires who purchase or renew a NASO Membership by November 30, 2021.
2. Effective January 1, 2022 USTA NorCal will reimburse NorCal umpires who purchase or renew a NASO membership by November 30 of each year \$30 to help with the NASO membership fee.

The rationale for this resolution is having this incentive would hopefully incentivize umpires to get the NASO membership that includes insurance. Getting the NASO membership that includes insurance may help umpires to feel more comfortable enforcing the rules. NorCal giving a stipend to help lower the cost of a NASO membership that includes insurance will also show support to the umpires. It was also noted that this is something that we are trying to do yearly for as long as we could do it.



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The Committee was then made aware that this Committee Decision was discussed at a Budget and Finance Committee meeting when discussing the 2022 budget and then went to the Board in October. The Board has sent it to be re-reviewed back due to potential conflicts of interests of the members on the Umpire and Referee Committee regarding this item.

The Committee was also informed that since the Board sent the resolution back and the next Board meeting where they will take Committee Decisions will be in December, it is too late to pass the resolution of possibly reallocating funds to start this program in 2021 and that the resolution regarding 2022 would be now the main focus.

### Discussion Regarding Complaint Against an Umpire

#### DISCUSSION

In closed session, the Umpire and Referee Committee discussed complaints against an umpire that they have received.

### Deputy Referee Requirement at Satellite Sites for Level 6, 5, 4, and 3 Tournaments

#### DISCUSSION

The Committee discussed the USTA NorCal Junior Tournament Rules requiring a deputy referee at each satellite site for level 6, 5, 4 and 3 tournaments. Staff informed the Committee that they have confirmed with the USTA national umpiring staff that Deputy Referees need to be certified as a referee. However, it is a section's decision as to whether they are going to use deputy referees or umpires that do not have to be certified as a referee at satellite sites. The Committee discussed the concern of currently not having enough umpires certified as referees to fulfill this requirement and the concern of requiring the umpires to go through steps to become certified as a referee.

#### MOTION

Following discussion, Russell Groh made a motion to recommend to the Junior Council to replace "A Deputy Referee is required at each satellite site and that person must be a USTA Certified Official." in Rule 30A with "A USTA Certified Official is required at each satellite site."

#### SECONDED & VOTE COUNT

Chris Preston seconded the motion. The motion was approved 3 in favor, 0 opposed, and 0 abstentions

#### RATIONALE

There are currently not enough certified referees in NorCal to fulfill having a referee at each satellite site. It may also be challenging to require umpires to go through the step to become certified as a referee.



NORTHERN CALIFORNIA

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### Sportsmanship Initiative Regarding Videoing at Tournaments

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DISCUSSION	Staff informed the Committee of a new Sportsmanship Initiative is being looked into regarding having all matches filmed at some tournament in an effort to help deter some of the current sportsmanship issues.
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### Potential Plan for USTA NorCal to Offer Additional Services to Organizations hosting tournament

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DISCUSSION	The Committee was informed by staff that they would be looking into ways to potentially offer additional services to organizations/tournament directors that may be interested in extra services from USTA NorCal such as possibly helping to hire the umpires and doing the draws.
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ADJOURNMENT TIME	9:06pm
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