

Umpire & Referee Committee

February 28, 2022, 7:00 PM | Via Google Meet

MINUTES

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT	Russell Groh (Vice Chair), Carol Kim (Chair), Tom McTighe, Chris Preston, Joan Vormbaum, John Wong
COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT	Tony Jelinek
STAFF LIAISON PRESENT	Chris Wilson
GUESTS	
CALL TO ORDER	7:06 pm

Approval of November 4, 2021 Committee Meeting Minutes

DISCUSSION	Approval of November 4, 2021 Committee Meeting Minutes	
MOTION		SECONDED & VOTE COUNT
Tom McTighe motioned to approve the 11/4/21 Committee Meeting Minutes		Joan Vormbaum seconded the motion. The motion was approved 5 in favor, 0 opposed and 0 abstentions
RATIONALE		

Distribution of Committee Meeting Minutes to the USTA NorCal Umpires

DISCUSSION	The committee felt that the group of officials in the section should be kept aware of decisions that the Committee are making and things that are happening in the section.	
MOTION		SECONDED & VOTE COUNT
Chris Preston motioned to send the Committee Meeting Minutes to the umpires in NorCal with information sent after our monthly meetings.		Tom McTighe seconded the motion. The motion was approved 5 in favor, 0 opposed and 0 abstentions.
RATIONALE	As a way of maintaining transparency the Committee felt that the Minutes from Committee Meetings should be send to the USTA NorCal umpires and referees in the packet of information sent after our monthly webinar meetings.	

Distribution of Years of Service Pins to umpires; and what starting year to use

DISCUSSION	USTA NorCal has been sending years of service pins to umpires in 5 year increments. The starting year is the year that the official started officiating in NorCal. The information is obtained from
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	various sources including the umpire database, old data cards, directly from the umpires, etc. USTA National just started sending years of service pins to all USTA officials and sent out a questionnaire to find out the umpires' first year of service. The committee discussed whether we should continue the pins, and what year should be used as the starting year.
MOTION	SECONDED & VOTE COUNT
Joan Vormbaum motioned to continue the pins and to use the first year of service in NorCal based on information NorCal has on file, and if an umpire disputes the starting year, it would be resolved on a case by case basis.	Tom McTighe seconded the motion. The motion was approved 5 in favor, 0 opposed and 0 abstentions.
RATIONALE	

Grievances Against Umpires - Processes

DISCUSSION	The committee discussed which procedures to use when there is a grievance filed against an umpire.	
MOTION	SECONDED & VOTE COUNT	
Joan Vormbaum made a motion that the Umpire & Referee Committee would adopt the grievance procedures outlined by the Sportsmanship Committee, and that when appropriate, the Committee Chair could advance the grievance directly to a hearing if necessary	Chris Preston seconded the motion. The motion was approved 5 in favor, 0 opposed and 0 abstentions	
RATIONALE		
The committee felt that this would be the most transparent way to handle grievances against an umpire.		

Ways to communicate with the officials after complaints/grievances

DISCUSSION	The Committee feels that there should be more discussions between umpires. One way to better do this is for the Committee, or USTA NorCal, to send out an email blast to the umpires to let them know of certain situations that have come up recently and some tips, bullet points, suggestions on how they can handle the situation. This would be a learning experience for all. However, the email will not include specifics about a grievance/complaint (including but not limited to the parties involved, the names of the umpires involved, etc.)	

Court Monitors to be invited to monthly USTA NorCal Umpire Webinars

DISCUSSION	The committee felt that the NorCal approved Court Monitors should be invited to the monthly webinars for USTA NorCal Umpires.	
MOTION	Tom McTighe made a motion that USTA approved Court Monitors be invited to the monthly USTA NorCal Umpire Webinars	SECONDED & VOTE COUNT Joan Vormbaum seconded the motion. The motion was approved 5 in favor, 0 opposed and 0 abstentions.
RATIONALE		

The Committee felt that information from the monthly webinars would benefit the approved court monitors and may serve several processes including getting more information to the court monitors that will help them when they are on court at a tournament. It could also serve as a way to get more court monitors interested in taking the next step and become a certified USTA umpire.

Tabled discussion regarding Mentoring Program for umpires in NorCal

DISCUSSION	Discussion regarding the mentoring program was on the agenda, but was tabled to the next meeting due to time constraints.
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ADJOURNMENT TIME	8:55 pm
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SUBMITTED BY	Chris Wilson
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