

Minutes of the USTA NorCal Adult Tournament Committee Meeting, Thursday, September 18th, 2025

NOTE: All resolutions in these minutes were approved by the USTA NorCal Board as of October 15, 2025. These minutes were approved by the committee on November 19, 2025.

Leslie Airola-Murveit, chair of the Adult Tournament Committee Committee, called the meeting to order at 7:12 PM and a roll call was conducted. The meeting was held by Google Meet video conference.

Committee Members Present: Leslie Airola-Murveit (chair), Luis Reis (Vice Chair), Mark Fairchild, Darrin Cohen, Mariko Fritz-Krockow, Wendell Pierce, Marina Wills

USTA NorCal Staff Present: Joanna Broda-Schunck,

Guests Present: n/a

1. Staff Report

- Item 1: Joanna Broda-Schunck presented to the Committee the current participation numbers in Adult and NTRP tournaments. For the YTD of completed tournaments the number of unique players is below the 2024 number at 3,001 (compared to 3,059 in 2024). However, the number of tournament registration is above the 2024 numbers at 5,606 (compared to 5,268 in 2024). The number of tournaments is 114 (compared to 87 in 2024)
- Item 2: Joanna Broda-Schunck reported to the Committee on the Weekday/Daytime Age Group pilot event. While it was a small event (in two parts), the player response was very positive with a strong request for more events like this. In addition, it shows the organization that it is a good option to host events on weekdays mornings.
- Item 3: Joanna Broda-Schunck told the Committee that two organizations have applied to host the NorCal Qualifier: Blackhawk Country Club for the 40+ and Operation Pride for the 55+. The Committee agreed to these organizations hosting the NorCal Qualifier provided the Sanctions and Schedule Committee and the Board approve the sanctioning

2. Grand Prix Prize Money

Joanna Broda-Schunck informed the committee that the numbers for the Open and Age division for the Grand Prix are low. In the Open the men's singles division is full. However, there are no women's Doubles and/ or mixed doubles. There are only two players in the Women's Singles and two teams in the Men's Doubles.

It was noted that the prize money should be adjusted for low numbers. The Committee decided that for the two divisions with only two competitors,

- the champion will receive: \$250
- and the finalist will receive: \$150

3. Growing the number of Level 6 tournament

Joanna Broda-Schunck informed the Committee that one of the points in the operating plan for the Adult Tournament Committee is to grow the number of level 6 tournaments. There are many Level 7s and per USTA Adult & Family Tournament Regulations, there should be more level 6s than level 5s, and more Level 5s than level 4s. It was noted that a new organization usually has problems attracting players, because they are unknown. This means that the first tournament might not have big enough

draws to be financially worthwhile. The committee discussed a promotion to help offset some of the cost. While this kind of promotion was attempted earlier, the committee members agreed that they would help in advertising it for new organizations. It was proposed to offer a stipend of up to \$500 to new and returning organizations hosting level 6s to offset the cost.

Following discussion, it was decided to table the item and look into other ways of helping organizations with the rising cost.

Wendell Pierce joined the meeting during the discussion on growing the number of Level 6 tournaments

4. Approval of Minutes.

The Committee considered approval of the minutes of the meeting held August 5, 2025. The following motion was duly made by Luis Reis, seconded by Leslie Airola-Murveit and **approved** by a vote of 6 in favor, 0 opposed, and 0 abstentions.

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the Adult Tournament Committee meeting held August 5, 2025 be approved as presented

5. Growing the participation

Players often hesitate to try tournaments because of their cost, and the fear of the “one-and-done” match in a single elimination draw. The goal is that after experiencing one tournament, they would potentially continue playing and working on the standing, trying to qualify for the Grand Prix and for the NTRP Nationals

Mark Fairchilde joined the meeting during the discussion on growing participation

Following discussion, the following motion was duly made by Wendell Pierce, seconded by Mariko Fritz-Krockow and **approved** by a vote of 7 in favor, 0 opposed, and 0 abstentions.

RESOLVED: That \$2,500 be allocated in the 2026 Budget to refund eligible players 50% of their first USTA NorCal-sanctioned adult tournament entry fee, until such time as these funds have been spent.

RESOLVED FURTHER: The player eligibility requirements shall be as set for the below:

- Player needs to be a current USTA member and reside in the Northern California section.
- Player needs to be in good standing.
- Player has not played in an Adult USTA NorCal-sanctioned tournament since the January 1, 2021.
- Participation in a USTA-sanctioned junior tournament does not affect eligibility.

RESOLVED FURTHER: The player needs to apply for the promotion using a form designated by USTA NorCal, and register for the tournament. Provided funds remain available, upon verification by staff that the player meets the eligibility requirements, and upon the completion of the tournament, the player will be refunded 50% of the entry fee. If the player plays in two divisions, the 50% will apply to the more expensive event.

Rationale: This program will allow players to try out adult tournaments at a discounted fee. It is anticipated that this promotion will grow participation, especially the unique player numbers. Participating players are eligible for the Grand Prix and will hopefully continue playing in future tournaments. Growing participation in tournaments would help achieving the 35x35 goal. At the end of 2026, a review of whether players that benefited from the promotion played in one or more additional tournaments will be done.

This proposal was adopted at a meeting held September 18, 2025, by a vote of 7 in favor, 0 opposed, and 0 abstentions.

This Action Item has been provided to the Budget & Finance Committee for review.

Financial Impact: \$2,500 addition to the 2026 Budget.

6. Adult Tournament Sportsmanship Pins

In order to grow the importance of sportsmanship at tournaments, it is suggested to launch a sportsmanship program that recognizes great sportsmanship experienced at tournaments.

Following discussion, the following motion was duly made by Mariko Fritz-Krockow, seconded by Leslie Airola-Murveit and **approved** by a vote of 7 in favor, 0 opposed, and 0 abstentions.

RESOLVED: That, beginning January 1, 2026, and out of the funds currently allocated in the 2025 Budget, the following Adult Tournament Sportsmanship Award Program is hereby approved set forth below:

Adult Tournament Sportsmanship Awards Program

USTA NorCal wants to focus on sportsmanship in the Adult Tournaments program. To accomplish this, USTA NorCal is launching a sportsmanship program that recognizes great sportsmanship experienced at tournaments.

- **Sportsmanship Pins:** Players will be given the opportunity to nominate their fellow competitors for great sportsmanship after a match or even during the event. The nominating player will complete a form after the match is over explaining how the nominee displayed great sportsmanship. All nominated players will receive a Sportsmanship Pin that will be sent out by staff, one per player per year.
- **Resource for Determining Annual Sportsmanship Award Winners.** The nomination forms will be reviewed by the Adult Tournament Committee annually to assist in the selection of the Sportsmanship Award winners at the Adult Competition Award ceremony

Rationale: Currently, for Adult Tournaments, the only sportsmanship award given is at the Annual Adult Competition Awards. Recognizing outstanding sportsmanship throughout the year will encourage great sportsmanship and demonstrate the important role it has in the tennis. The choice of a pin enables recipients to display them on their tennis bags, in view of other players, which may result in new players becoming interested in tournaments.

This Action Item was approved at a meeting held September 18, 2025, meeting by a vote of 7 in favor, 0 opposed, and 0 abstentions.

Fiscal Impact: The estimated cost of the program is as follows:

- \$1,850 for sportsmanship pins (based on 185 tournaments x 2 pins per event = 370 pins x \$5 per pin)
- \$150 shipping cost to ship pins to players.

Total Budget is \$2,000

7. Regulation Proposal Procedures

Currently there are no procedures for players to suggest regulation changes. The committee discussed a way to give the players an option to get involved and suggest changes that may help grow the game. This will be in internal procedure.

Following discussion, the following motion was duly made by Mariko Fritz-Krockow, seconded by Mark Fairchilds and **approved** by a vote of 7 in favor, 0 opposed, and 0 abstentions.

Decision: That, effective immediately the following procedures to propose changes to the USTA NorCal Adult Tournament Regulations and the USTA Adult & Family Tournament Regulations be approved.

THE USTA NORCAL ADULT TOURNAMENTS REGULATION PROPOSAL PROCEDURES AND TIMELINE.

WHO CAN SUBMIT A USTA NORCAL ADULT TOURNAMENT REGULATION PROPOSAL:

- NorCal Committee Members
- NorCal Staff
- Individual USTA Members

TYPES OF USTA NORCAL ADULT TOURNAMENT REGULATION PROPOSALS:

- Propose a change to an existing USTA NorCal Adult Tournament Regulation
- Propose a new USTA NorCal Adult Tournament Regulation

USTA NORCAL ADULT TOURNAMENT REGULATION CHANGES:

All proposals to USTA NorCal Adult Tournament Regulations MUST:

- Include
 - Rationale for the change
 - A description of how it will encourage participation
 - Empirical (not subjective) information to support the proposal
 - A description of how it will positively impact a large portion of NorCal Adult Tournament Players
- Be submitted and filled out in full on the [official form](#)

Unless taken up earlier by the NorCal Adult Tournaments Committee, proposals submitted before April 15th will be considered for the following calendar year. Proposals submitted after that deadline will be considered for the year after that. Please submit a separate form for each proposal.

If a proposal would require a change to USTA Adult & Family Tournament Regulations, if approved by the NorCal Adult Tournaments Committee and the USTA NorCal Board of Directors, it will be submitted to the USTA National Committee on your behalf.

Rationale: Currently there are no procedures for players to suggest regulation changes. The proposed procedures would give the players an option to suggest changes that may help grow the game

8. Player Awards Criteria Subcommittee

The ATC was informed that there is a plan to create an Adult Competition Awards Committee together that would encompass all Adult players. The following members of the Adult Tournament Committee volunteered to join the committee:

Mariko Fritz-Krockow
Leslie Airola-Murveit
Marina Wills

8. Future meetings.

The committee was informed that the next meeting will take place on November 19th at 7pm. The date for 2026 has been discussed and it was decided that it is preferred to meet on Tuesdays at 7:30pm

There being no further issues or discussion to come before the Committee, the meeting was adjourned at 8:40pm.