

**NOTE:** All resolutions were approved by the USTA NorCal Board as of May 20, 2026. These minutes were approved by the committee on June 23, 2026.

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Leslie Airola-Murveit, chair of the Adult Tournament Committee, called the meeting to order at 7:01pm and roll call was conducted. The meeting was held by Google Meet video conference.

**Committee Members Present:** *Leslie Airola-Murveit (Chair), Darrin Cohen, Michael Rogers, Andie Mouzes, Mariko Fritz-Krockow, Wendell Pierce, Mark Fairchilds*

**USTA NorCal Staff Present:** *Michelle Wilson, Cherryl Silva, Joanna Broda-Schunck*

1. Guest speaker: Cherryl Silva talked about Advocacy and Mass Participation, Strategic Priorities for USTA NorCal
2. **Approval of Minutes.** The Committee considered approval of the minutes of the meeting held January 7th, 2026. The following motion was duly made by Leslie Airola-Murveit, seconded by Mariko Fritz-Krockow and **approved** by a vote of 6 in favor, 0 opposed, and 0 abstentions or recusals

**RESOLVED:** That the minutes of the Adult Tournament Committee meeting held January 7th, 2026, be approved as presented.

3. **Approval of Minutes.** The Committee considered approval of the minutes of the meeting held March 17, 2026. The following motion was duly made by Michael Rogers, seconded by Leslie Airola-Murveit and **approved** by a vote of 6 in favor, 0 opposed, and 0 abstentions or recusals

**RESOLVED:** That the minutes of the Adult Tournament Committee meeting held March 17th, 2026, be approved as presented.

#### 4. **Staff Report**

- Item 1: Joanna Broda-Schunck presented to the Committee the current participation numbers in Adult and NTRP tournaments. She explained that the numbers presented take into account the year-to-date tournament and the categories: Adult, Family and NTRP, level 1-7. The number of unique players increased from previous year by 7.9%. The number of tournament registrations increased by 15.6% and the number of tournaments increased by 36.1%.
- Item 2: Joanna Broda-Schunck told the Committee members about the participation in 2026 NTRP National Championships. This year we had players participate in:
  - 18+ Singles: 21 players (1 gold, 2 silver)
  - 40+ Singles: 16 players (1 silver, 2 bronze)
  - 55+ Singles: 14 players (2 gold)
  - 18+ Doubles: 15 teams (1 gold, 2 silver)

40+ Doubles: 12 teams (2 gold, 2 silver)  
55+ Doubles: 4 teams (1 bronze)  
18+ Mixed: 4 teams (no medals)

- Item 3: 2026 Bay Area Senior Games - Joanna Broda-Schunck told the Committee Members that participation at the 2026 BASG increased by almost 50% and that interest seems to be growing. While next year is not a qualifying year for National Senior Games it should be considered to move to a larger venue that offers more courts with lights, so that more players can be accepted

## 5. **Topic #1 – Discussion on Tournament Director for Hire program**

The Committee discussed the option of creating a program to train tournament directors that could be hired by organizations to run their tournaments, if the organizations staff does not have the time. Joanna Broda-Schunck explained that during the preparation and conducting of the Bay Area Senior Games she has worked with Mike Rogers to train him as a tournament director. This included player selection, creating draws and scheduling matches as well as actually running the event. Mike talked about his experience and gave feedback as to what the program should entail. It has been decided that before the program is approved it is necessary to investigate more as to how many organizations would be interested in hiring someone for their events, how insurance would cover these TDs, and what a suggested compensation could be.

## 6. **Topic #2 – Referee/Tournament Director Dual role at Level 6 tournaments**

The Adult Tournament Committee discussed the ways to grow level 6 tournaments. One problem that has consistently been brought up was the cost of hiring a referee, especially when the number of participants is small.

Keeping in mind the necessity of having a certified referee on site for level 6 tournaments, the committee agreed that if the tournament is small (6 courts or less), the tournament director can take on the dual role with the stipulation that they are a certified referee. Similarly, the organization can hire a referee and ask them to fulfill the duties of the tournament director. It was noted that, because the tournament director will also be the referee, they are required to be on site at all hours of tournament play.

Following discussion, the following motion was duly made by Michael Rogers, seconded by Leslie Airola-Murveit, and approved by a vote of 6 in favor, 0 opposed, and 0 abstentions or recusals.

**RESOLVED:** That effective January 1, 2027, Regulation 24 of the USTA NorCal Adult Tournament Rules be amended as set forth below (underlined language is proposed to be added; stricken-through language is proposed to be deleted).

- 24. Certified Officials.** The Referee of each USTA NorCal sanctioned adult tournament shall be a referee certified by the USTA. A Certified Official is recommended at each satellite site and for each 8 courts of play. The following are exemptions to these certified officials requirements:

- a. Level 7.** Level 7 (One Day) Tournaments are exempt from this rule Regulation 24.
- b. Level 6.** The Tournament Director of a Level 6 Tournament that has been sanctioned to be held on six or fewer courts, may serve in the dual role of Referee, provided that the Tournament Director is a USTA Certified Referee. A tournament that is originally sanctioned to be held on six or fewer courts, but after entries close expands to use more than six courts must meet the Referee requirement of Regulation 24.

**Rationale:** Allowing the dual role for a tournament director and referee at small Level 6 Adult Tournaments, with the stipulation that they are a USTA Certified Referee, will allow both smaller organizations and those overwhelmed with other programs to host tournaments, even if they are smaller, by alleviating the financial and/or time burdens. Several sections, including Eastern, New England and Northern currently are not requiring referees at Level 6s with no issues. SoCal allows tournament directors to serve in the dual role of Referee for Level 6 Tournaments with the stipulations that: (1) the tournament director or affiliated party must provide proof of certification to both section staff and have it accessible on site; and (2) the tournament director or affiliated party must be willing and available to assume the responsibility of a Referee when needed.

**Fiscal Impact:** None

#### **4. Topic #3 – Adult Tournaments Awards - time frame and response rate change**

The Committee reviewed the current criteria for Adult Tournament awards. Because these awards are to be presented during the annual Section Connection meeting, it has been decided to change the time frame of which tournaments are to be considered to September 1st to August 31. In addition, due to a low response rate from the player survey (per Medallia the expected response rate is 7%), the Committee decided that while participation and response rate should be considered during the decision, it should not exclude tournaments from receiving an award. The committee also decided that it should be possible for two tournaments to be recognized in the same category.

Following discussion, the following motion was duly made by Leslie Airola-Murveit, seconded by Michael Rogers, and approved by a vote of 6 in favor, 0 opposed, and 0 abstentions or recusals.

**RESOLVED:** That effective immediately, the process for selecting the winners of the Adult Tournaments Awards, as set forth in the USTA NorCal Adult Tournament Awards Criteria be amended as follows (underlined language is proposed addition, crossed out language is proposed to be removed):

##### **Tournament Awards:**

Staff compiles list of eligible candidates and information related to award criteria. Straw vote of ATC determines winner. The tournaments to be considered each year must take place between September 1 of the prior year and August 31 (except that in 2026 only, the tournaments to be considered must take place between October 1, 2025 and August 31, 2026).

**RESOLVED FURTHER:** That effective immediately, the criteria for selecting the award winners will be amended to eliminate minimum evaluation responses and consumer feedback received at Grand Prix, and allow for more than one tournament to win in a category, as follows:

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| <p><b>Adult Tournament Director of the Year:</b><br/>Awarded annually to a Tournament Director of an Adult Open, Age Group, Family and/or NTRP Tournament.</p>          | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Awarded to the tournament director that hosted the most tournaments, and the combined rating of the tournaments is above 4.0 (80%) satisfaction, <del>with a minimum of 25% of the participants submitting an evaluation.</del> <u>The Committee will take the response rate and participation numbers into account.</u></li> <li>• Tournament Director not eligible if the Organization Member holding a sanction for any tournament (any division) in which the person served as Tournament Director had been put on probation or suspension during the calendar year.</li> <li>• Written feedback on tournament evaluations shall be considered by ATC Committee.</li> <li>• <del>ATC Committee shall consider feedback from player survey taken at Grand Prix.</del></li> </ul> |
| <p><b>Outstanding NTRP Tournament of the Year:</b><br/>Awarded annually to the Organization Member sanction holder of an NTRP Tournament.</p>                           | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Organization Member holding sanction must be current USTA member.</li> <li>• Tournament not eligible if Organization Member holding sanction had been put on probation or suspension for any tournament (any division) during the calendar year.</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
| <p><b>Outstanding Age Group Tournament of the Year:</b><br/>Awarded annually to the Organization Member sanction holder of an Age Group Tournament.</p>                 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Tournaments with a player evaluation rating of a 4.0 or higher shall be considered for this award. <del>with a minimum of 25% of the participants submitting an evaluation.</del> <u>The Committee will take the response rate and participation numbers into account.</u></li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
| <p><b>Outstanding Open Tournament of the Year:</b><br/>Awarded annually to the Organization Member sanction holder of an Adult Open Tournament.</p>                     | <p>If no tournament meets this criterion the ATC may select a tournament with a lower rating <del>and/or participant participation rate</del> or declare that there shall be no recipient for the year.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
| <p><b>Outstanding Family Tournament of the Year:</b><br/>Awarded annually to the Organization Member sanction holder of a Family Tournament.</p>                        | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Written feedback on tournament evaluations shall be considered by ATC Committee.</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
| <p><b>Outstanding New Tournament:</b><br/>Awarded annually to the Organization Member sanction holder of an Adult Open, Adult Group, Family and/or NTRP Tournament.</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <del>ATC Committee shall consider feedback from player survey taken at Grand Prix.</del></li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |

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| <b>Outstanding 1-Day Tournament of the Year:</b><br>Awarded annually to the Organization<br>Member sanction holder of a 1-Day<br>Tournament. |  |
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\*\*\* The Adult Tournament Committee reserves the right to not select, or select more than one recipient in any given category in any given year.

**Rationale:** This process criteria applies to the following awards:

- Adult Tournament Director of the Year
- Outstanding NTRP Tournament of the Year
- Outstanding Age Group Tournament of the Year
- Outstanding Open Tournament of the Year
- Outstanding Family Tournament of the Year
- Outstanding New Tournament
- Outstanding 1-Day Tournament of the Year

Because these awards are to be presented during the annual Section Connection, it has been decided to change the eligibility time frame from the calendar year to September 1 to August 31.

There continues to be a low response rate from the player survey/evaluation. The Committee is therefore recommending that, while participation and response rate should be considered during the decision, it should not exclude tournaments based on this criteria from receiving an award. This will also allow the Committee to consider participation at the tournament. Additionally, the consideration of the player feedback at Grand Prix has been removed as no such survey is being conducted.

The option to select more than one recipient will allow the Committee to select two tournaments that are very close in terms of survey results. This would help recognize both organizations that are doing an outstanding job.

The next committee meeting date was set to Tuesday June 23 at 7pm

There being no further issues or discussion to come before the Committee, at 8:25 pm the meeting was adjourned.