

NOTE: These minutes were approved by the Committee on January 13, 2026.

Ogidi Obi, chair of the JTT/Local Play Committee, called the meeting to order at 12:04pm and roll call was conducted. The meeting was held by Google Meet video conference.

Committee Members Present: Ogidi Obi (Chair), Andrea Barnes, David Panconi, Carrie Zarraonandia, Joe Grech, and Shahand Esmaeili

USTA NorCal Staff Present: Trey Astbury, JTT Manager, Chris Samuel, Net Generation Programs Manager, Beth Workeneh, Sr. Manager of Junior Competition

- 1. Approval of Minutes.** The Committee considered approval of the minutes of the meeting held July 15, 2025. The following motion was duly made by Joe Grech, seconded by Andrea Barnes, and **approved** by a vote of 6 in favor, 0 opposed, and 0 abstentions:

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the January Committee meeting held July 15, 2025 be approved as presented.

- 2. Adjustment to JTT Regulations.** Trey presented JTT rule changes to the Committee. In proposal 1, Trey discussed the need to eliminate the rule where doubles players can play together twice in a team match as it could lead to stacking issues and that the 3-court format should be consistent with the 2-court format.

Following discussion, the following motion was duly made by Carrie Z., seconded by Andrea B., and approved by a vote of 6 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstentions, and 0 recusals:

RESOLVED: That, effective immediately, USTA NorCal Junior Team Tennis Regulation IX.D.3. is hereby amended as set forth below (stricken-through language is proposed to be deleted; underlined language is proposed to be added):

IX. TEAM MATCH REGULATIONS

A. Team Match Formats. [unchanged]

B. Order of Play [unchanged]

C. Start Times and Lateness [unchanged]

D. Team Match Line-Ups.

1. Line-Up Must Be Based on Strength. [unchanged]

2. Line-Up Exchange. [unchanged]

3. Match Limits. A player can only play in three total matches in a Team Match. These matches can be either: one singles and two doubles matches or three doubles matches. If a player plays in more than the allotted number of matches, their additional match played will be recorded as a default. Two players ~~cannot~~ only play together as a doubles team twice during a ~~three-court format~~ Team Match. If the same doubles team plays two or more matches together ~~in a two-court format,~~ the additional matches will be recorded as defaults.

4. Substitutions. [unchanged]

a. Before the Start of an Individual Match. [unchanged]

- b. After the Start of an Individual Match.** [unchanged]
- E. Match Formats.** [unchanged]
- F. Recording Scores; Scorecards.** [unchanged]

In proposal 2, Trey proposed changing the 14U and 18U formats to short sets. A discussion ensued regarding teams taking advantage and getting an extra game at 7-5, versus 6-5. Beth explained that the maximum score is 6-5 instead of 7-5 so game totals are consistent.

Following discussion, the following motion was duly made by Joe G., seconded by David P., and approved by a vote of 6 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstentions, and 0 recusals:

RESOLVED: That, effective immediately, USTA NorCal Junior Team Tennis, Appendix A is hereby amended as set forth below (stricken-through language is proposed to be deleted; underlined language is proposed to be added):

14U Yellow Ball – Advanced and Intermediate:

2 COURT FORMAT

- The ITF World Tennis Number (WTN) at the time of the registration will be used to determine player level for the 14U Yellow Ball Intermediate division. Highest Permitted Singles WTN: **31.00 (31.00 and above would be eligible to play 14U Intermediate)**
- There are no WTN restrictions for 14U Advanced, anyone with Singles WTN's of 1-40 are eligible to play
- 2 courts required per match
- 4 Players minimum required per team/match
 - Any combination of boys and girls allowed (gender neutral format)
 - If a team has 3 players, the #4 singles and #4 doubles matches are defaulted
 - If a team has 2 players, it is an entire team default
- 4 total singles and 4 total doubles matches per team match (Four 30 minute timed rounds)
 - 1 singles match and 1 doubles match per round (#1 singles, weakest doubles in round 1)
 - 5 minute warm ups, 25 minutes of match play, total of 30 minutes per round
 - Play to completion of the set or until 25 minutes is called, whichever comes first
 - Both players may agree to skip the 5-minute warm-up. If so, team captains may immediately start the 30-minute match timer for that round.
- 6 **short** game set, no ad scoring. A 7-Point Set tiebreak is played at **5-5. 6-6.**
- Players should compete in singles matches (1-4) in the order of strength as determined by the coach
 - Players cannot play singles more than once per team match
 - Doubles will be played in reverse order of strength if possible (weakest doubles in round 1), followed by stronger doubles towards the later rounds
- Players can play a maximum of 3 individual matches
- Total **games** won determines the overall team match score. A team match may end in a tie.

14U Yellow Ball – Advanced and Intermediate:

3 COURT FORMAT

- The ITF World Tennis Number (WTN) at the time of the registration will be used to determine player level for the 14U Yellow Ball Intermediate division. Highest Permitted Singles WTN: **31.00 (31.00 and above would be eligible to play 14U Intermediate)**

- There are no WTN restrictions for 14U Advanced, anyone with Singles WTN's of 1-40 are eligible to play
- 3 courts required per match
- 4 players minimum of any gender. It is recommended not to bring more than 6 players to a match to ensure each player can play twice during the team match.
 - If a team has 3 players, the #4 singles and a doubles match are defaulted
 - You would play 1 singles and 1 doubles match per round in this case
 - If a team has 2 players, it is an entire team default
- 6 game **short** set, no ad scoring. A 7-Point Set tiebreaker is played at **5-5. ~~6-6.~~**
- 5 minute warm ups, 25 minutes of match play, total of 30 minutes per round
- Play to completion of the set or until 25 minutes is called, whichever comes first
- Both players may agree to skip the 5-minute warm-up. If so, team captains may immediately start the 30-minute match timer for that round.
- 4 doubles matches and 4 singles matches per team match
 - Round 1: 1&2 singles and 4 doubles (weakest doubles)
 - Round 2: 3&4 singles and 1 doubles (strongest doubles)
 - Round 3: 2&3 doubles (2nd/3rd strongest teams)
 - One extra exhibition match (singles or doubles) can be played on the remaining open court in round 3 if both coaches agree and there are extra players available. This match will not count towards the match score and will not be reported online in TennisLink.
- Players should compete in singles matches (1-4) in the order of strength as determined by the coach
- Total **games** won format determines the team match winner. A team match may end in a tie.

18U Boys and Girls (Same Gender) - Advanced and Intermediate:

3 COURT FORMAT

- The ITF World Tennis Number (WTN) at the time of the registration will be used to determine player level for the 18U Yellow Ball Intermediate division. Highest Permitted Singles WTN: **30.00 (30.00 and above would be eligible to play 18U Intermediate)**
- There are no WTN restrictions for 18U Advanced, anyone with Singles WTN's of 1-40 are eligible to play
- 3 courts are required per match
- 4 players minimum. It is recommended not to bring more than 6 players to a match to ensure each player can play twice during the team match
 - If a team has 3 players, the #4 singles and a doubles match are defaulted. You would play 1 singles and 1 doubles match per round in this case
 - If a team has 2 players, it is an entire team default
- 6 game **short** set, no ad scoring. A 7-Point Set tiebreak is played at **5-5. ~~6-6.~~**
- 4 doubles matches and 4 singles matches per team match (no timed matches)
 - Round 1: 1&2 singles and 4 doubles (weakest doubles)
 - Round 2: 3&4 singles and 1 doubles (strongest doubles)
 - Round 3: 2&3 doubles (2nd/3rd strongest teams)
 - One extra exhibition match (singles or doubles) can be played on the remaining open court in round 3 if both coaches agree and there are extra players available. This match will not count towards the match score and will not be reported online in TennisLink.
- Players should compete in singles matches (1-4) in the order of strength as determined by the coach
- Total **games** won format determines the team match winner. A team match may end in a tie.

- 3. Sectionals Date Discussion and Badge Update.** Trey outlined Sectionals team availability challenges due to the Thanksgiving holiday and conflicts with L5 tournaments. After discussion, the committee agreed that the dates should not be changed, and no vote was required. Trey also discussed physical badge challenges, which will result in the use of digital badges for the Fall season, with captains permitted to reuse existing badges and potential future integration with digital wallets.
- 4. Calendar Discussion.** Summer events for Orange and Green players were discussed; the planned team event was canceled due to low sign-ups. It was noted that participation has lagged in some areas during summer, though Team Challenges have been successful, with a suggestion to use a large venue. Scheduling conflicts and overlaps with events like the Laver Cup were noted. The 2026 JTT Pathway was reviewed, including the IMPACT Team Tennis Junior Nationals 18U qualifier on February 7–8; event feedback was positive, but challenges included filling full teams and high travel costs.
- 5. PCA Requirements.** Trey asked if the Positive Coaching Alliance is helping and if it should still be required for captains. A discussion ensued. Many committee members felt that the Positive Coaching Alliance training should remain required. Some felt it was redundant with other requirements, while others supported keeping it mandatory for captains, parents, and volunteers, especially for first-time participants. Additional discussion included training frequency, parent requirements, group training options, incentives, and concerns about volunteer time commitment. It was agreed the topic should be discussed further offline.
- 6. Next Meeting.** The next meeting will tentatively be planned for November/December.

There being no further issues or discussion to come before the Committee, the meeting was adjourned at 1:14pm.