

NOTE: *All minutes are final after approval by the committee. All resolutions in these minutes were approved by the USTA NorCal Board as of August 19, 2026.*

Leslie Airola-Murveit, chair of the Adult Tournament Committee, called the meeting to order at 8:02pm and roll call was conducted. The meeting was held by Google Meet video conference.

Committee Members Present: *Leslie Airola-Murveit (Chair), Luis Reis, Michael Rogers, Wendell Pierce, Marina Wills, Mariko Fritz-Krockow, Mark Fairchilds*

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

1. **Staff Report**

- **Item 1:** Joanna Broda-Schunck recounted to the Committee members that she hosted a parent- child tournament together with Kim Grant Academy in Seaside. The event happened on July 11th and 12th and consisted of a Green Ball doubles event with 8 teams registered; and a Yellow ball doubles event with 11 teams registered. The feedback from the tournament was very positive with many players wishing for more events like this. The main goal from the adult participants was to play with their child.
- **Item 2:** Joanna Broda-Schunck informed the Committee members that, together with Macy Barajas from Communities, she will be running a social clubs cup event. With the goal of giving social players a platform to play within the USTA system, as well as bringing them into the competitive field.
- **Item 3:** Michelle Wilson and Joanna Broda-Schunck informed the committee members that they participated in the Adult Comp workshop with representatives from all sections. The discussions focused on growing participation and improving player experience both in NTRP and Age Group divisions, as well as finding offerings for high level players

2. **Approval of Minutes.** The Committee considered approval of the minutes of the meeting held June 23, 2026. The following motion was duly made by Luis Reis, seconded by Marina Wills 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 June 23, 2026, be approved as presented.

3. **Topic #1 – Update to captain selection procedures for the Women’s Intersectionals and the Men’s Donoff Cup**

The Committee discussed the current issue for Women's Intersectionals and the Donoff Cup, with selecting the overall team captain as well as the team captains at the same time as selecting the players for the team. The idea was brought up to select the captains in the beginning of the year and start the process directly after the conclusion of the previous event. This would give the captains more responsibility on building their teams and making sure that all players apply on time.

- a) Following discussion, the following motion was duly made by Mariko Fritz-Krockow, seconded by Luis Reis, and approved by a vote of 6 in favor, 0 opposed, and 0 abstentions or recusals.

RESOLVED: That, effective immediately, the Women's Intersectionals Player Selection Criteria and Procedures be amended as set forth below (underlined language is proposed to be added; stricken-through language is proposed to be deleted).

Women's Intersectional Team Tournament Player Selection Criteria Procedures

An application page will be established on the NorCal website so all NorCal players have the opportunity to apply. The application deadline shall be June 15.

Selection of Overall Team Captain: Staff will reach out to players at the end of the event and give them the opportunity to apply for the position of the Overall Team Captain for the following year. The deadline to apply shall be January 1st. From among those eligible players who submitted a timely application, an Overall Team Captain is selected by the Adult Tournament Committee and approved by the President of USTA NorCal. This should be completed by the end of January.

Selection of Age Group Team Captains: Staff will reach out to players at the end of the event and give them the opportunity to apply for the position of the Overall Team Captain for the following year. The deadline to apply shall be January 1st. From among those eligible players who submitted a timely application, the Overall Team Captain shall appoint the Age Group Team Captains for each of the teams that will be formed to compete in the USTA Women's Intersectional Team Tournament, by mid-February. The captains are still required to fulfill the play requirement.

RATIONALE: If captains are selected earlier, they will be more active in searching for players. They will also make sure that players apply on time and fulfill the play requirement before the selection process begins

- b) Following discussion, the following motion was duly made by Wendell Pierce, seconded by Mariko Fritz-Krockow, and approved by a vote of 6 in favor, 0 opposed, and 0 abstentions or recusals.

RESOLVED: That, effective immediately, the Donoff Cup Player Selection Criteria and Procedures be amended as set forth below (underlined language is proposed to be added; stricken-through language is proposed to be deleted).

Selection of Overall Team Captain. Staff will reach out to players at the end of the event and give them the opportunity to apply for the position of the Overall Team Captain for the following year. The deadline to apply shall be January 1st. From among those eligible players who submitted a timely application, an Overall Team Captain to represent all age divisions will be selected by the Adult Tournament Committee and approved by the President of USTA NorCal.

Selection of Age Group Team Captains by Overall Team Captain. Staff will reach out to players at the end of the event and give them the opportunity to apply for the position of the Overall Team Captain for the following year. The deadline to apply shall be January 1st. From among those eligible players who submitted a timely application, the Overall Team Captain shall appoint the Age Group Team Captains for each of the teams that will be formed to compete in the USTA Donoff Cup, by mid-February. The captains are still required to fulfill the play requirement.

RATIONALE: If captains are selected earlier, they will be more active in searching for players. They will also make sure that players apply on time and fulfill the play requirement before the selection process begins

4. **Topic #2. Changes to Adult Tournament Player Awards Criteria**

The Committee reviewed the current criteria for Adult Tournament Player awards with the goal in mind to make the awards more meaningful. The members also kept in mind the feedback from players that they would like to be recognized if they are in the #1 position on the ranking list filtered to NorCal. It was brought to the attention of the committee that by increasing the play requirements for all divisions, it is possible that currently some age group players will not be able to receive the award. The goal is to increase the opportunities for those players to play and therefore they would be able to earn the award.

In order to keep the number of awards reasonable, some awards would be eliminated.

Following discussion, the following motion was duly made by Marina Wills, seconded by Wendell Pierce, and approved by a vote of 6 in favor, 0 opposed, and 0 abstentions or recusals.

RESOLVED: That, effective immediately, the Adult Tournament Player Awards Criteria be amended as set forth below (underlined language is proposed to be added; stricken-through language is proposed to be deleted).

<u>Certificates: "Top NorCal Player"</u>		
<u>Certificate Awards</u> Description	Eligibility Criteria	Process

NTRP Singles <u>Player of the Year</u> Awarded annually in each NTRP division to <u>a USTA NorCal</u> player with the #1 ranking on the final ranking list. If <u>the</u> #1 player is ineligible <u>due to the suspension criteria</u>, <u>the</u> #2 player may be awarded.	• Recipient must be current USTA member and a resident of the Northern California section. • <u>Recipient must have played at least 4 sanctioned tournaments in the division, 2 of which were held in the USTA NorCal Section.</u> • Recipient cannot have been serving all or part of a 3-month suspension within the last 12 months	<i>Objective determination made by staff following a review of the players and eligibility criteria.</i>
NTRP Doubles <u>Player of the Year</u> Awarded annually in each NTRP division to <u>a USTA NorCal</u> player with the #1 ranking on the final ranking list. If <u>the</u> #1 & #2 have the same number of points and no tiebreak is possible (they are a team) – both will receive the award If <u>the</u> #1 player is ineligible <u>due to the suspension criteria</u>, <u>the</u> #2 player may be awarded.	• Recipient must be current USTA member and a resident of the Northern California section. • <u>Recipient must have played at least 4 sanctioned tournaments in the division, 2 of which were held in the USTA NorCal Section.</u> • Recipient cannot have been serving all or part of a 3-month suspension within the last 12 months • Based on individual doubles Final Ranking list	<i>Objective determination made by staff following a review of the players and eligibility criteria.</i>
Age Group Singles <u>Player of the Year</u> Awarded annually in each Age Group division to <u>a USTA NorCal</u> player with the #1 ranking on the final ranking list. If <u>the</u> #1 player is ineligible <u>due to the suspension criteria</u>, <u>the</u> #2 player may be awarded.	• Recipient must be current USTA member and a resident of the Northern California section. • <u>Recipient must have played at least 4 sanctioned tournaments in the division, 2 of which were held in the USTA NorCal Section.</u> • Recipient cannot have been serving all or part of a 3-month suspension within the last 12 months.	<i>Objective determination made by staff following a review of the players and eligibility criteria.</i>

Age Group Doubles <u>Player of the Year</u> Awarded annually in each Age Group division to <u>a USTA NorCal</u> player with the #1 ranking on the final ranking list. <u>In Doubles—if If the</u> #1 & #2 have the same number of points and no tiebreak is possible (they are a team) – both will receive the award If <u>the</u> #1 player is ineligible <u>due to the suspension criteria</u>, <u>the</u> #2 player may be awarded.	● Recipient must be current USTA member and a resident of the Northern California section. ● <u>Recipient must have played at least 4 sanctioned tournaments in the division, 2 of which were held in the USTA NorCal Section.</u> ● Recipient cannot have been serving all or part of a 3-month suspension within the last 12 months. ● Based on individual doubles Final Ranking list	<i>Objective determination made by staff following a review of the players and eligibility criteria.</i>
Open Singles <u>Player of the Year</u> Awarded annually in each Open division to player with the #1 ranking on the final ranking list. If <u>the</u> #1 player is ineligible <u>due to the suspension criteria</u>, <u>the</u> #2 player may be awarded.	● Recipient must be current USTA member and a resident of the Northern California section. ● <u>Recipient must have played at least 4 sanctioned tournaments in the division, 2 of which were held in the USTA NorCal Section.</u> ● Recipient cannot have been serving all or part of a 3-month suspension within the last 12 months.	<i>Objective determination made by staff following a review of the players and eligibility criteria.</i>
Open Doubles <u>Player of the Year</u> Awarded annually in each Open division to player with the #1 ranking on the final ranking list. <u>In Doubles—if If the</u> #1 & #2 have the same number of points and no tiebreak is possible (they are a team) – both will receive the award. If <u>the</u> #1 player is ineligible <u>due to the suspension criteria</u>, <u>the</u> #2 player may be awarded.	● Recipient must be current USTA member and a resident of the Northern California section. ● <u>Recipient must have played at least 4 sanctioned tournaments in the division, 2 of which were held in the USTA NorCal Section.</u> ● Recipient cannot have been serving all or part of a 3-month suspension within the last 12 months. ● Based on individual doubles Final Ranking list	<i>Objective determination made by staff following a review of the players and eligibility criteria.</i>

Family Player Doubles Team of the Year Awarded annually in each Family division (mother/son, mother/daughter, father/son, father/daughter, husband/wife) to the <u>USTA NorCal</u> team with the #1 ranking on the final ranking list. If <u>the</u> #1 player is ineligible <u>due to the suspension criteria</u>, <u>the</u> #2 player may be awarded.	• Recipient must be current USTA member and a resident of the Northern California section. • <u>Recipient must have played at least 4 sanctioned tournaments in the division, 2 of which were held in the USTA NorCal Section.</u> • Recipient cannot have been serving all or part of a 3-month suspension within the last 12 months • Based on team doubles Final Ranking List	<i>Objective determination made by staff following a review of the players and eligibility criteria.</i>
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Awards		
Awards-Description	Eligibility-Criteria	Process
Match-player-of-the-Year Awarded annually to one male and one female player that played most tournament matches: 1. In the NTRP 18+ division 2. In the NTRP 40+ division 3. In the NTRP 55+ division 4. In the Age Group (no Open) division 5. In the Open division	• Recipient must be current USTA member and resident of the Northern California section. • Recipient cannot have been serving all or part of a 3-month suspension within the last 12 months	<i>Objective determination made by staff following a review of the players and eligibility criteria</i>
Player-of-the-Year Awarded annually to the player that was #1 on the National Final ranking List If #1 team is ineligible, #2 player may be awarded	• Recipient must be current USTA member and a resident of the Northern California section. • Players must have played a minimum of one sanctioned tournament in the NorCal section during the calendar year. The player must have played in their respective division, except that in Age Group tournaments, division is understood as singles or doubles. • Recipient cannot have been serving all or part of a 3-month suspension within the last 12 months	<i>Objective determination made by staff following a review of the players and eligibility criteria</i>
Outstanding-Competitor-of-the-Year Awarded annually to up to three players based on nominations by tournament players, Tournament staff, Referee's, etc throughout the year <u>Nomination Form</u>	Recipient must be current USTA member and a resident of the Northern California section. Players must have played a minimum of one sanctioned tournament in the NorCal section during the calendar year. Recipient cannot have been serving all or part of a 3-month or more probation or suspension within the last 12 months	<i>Adult Tournament Committee decides among the nominations</i>

Sportsmanship Award Awarded annually to up to three players based on nominations by tournament players, Tournament staff, Referee's, etc throughout the year Nomination Form	• Recipient must be current USTA member and a resident of the Northern California Section. • Players must have played a minimum of one sanctioned tournament in the NorCal section during the calendar year. • Recipient cannot have been serving all or part of a 3-month suspension within the last 12 months	<i>Adult Tournament Committee decides among the nominations</i>
Pete Sharkey Award Pete Sharkey Award: Monetary award given annually to a man aged 55 and over who has won his first NorCal Age Group singles tournament in the preceding calendar year. Award amount is \$75 per award recipient Application Form	• Recipient must be current USTA member and a resident of the Northern California section. • For tournament to qualify as a player's first win, it must have at least 5 players in the draw. • Player must apply for the award by the end of the tournament season. • Player must be a man aged 55 and over who has won his first NorCal Age Group singles tournament in the preceding calendar year.	<i>Objective determination made by staff following a review of the players and eligibility criteria.</i>

*** *The Adult Tournament Committee reserves the right to not select a recipient in any given category in any given year.*

Rationale: This amendment changes the awards criteria from recognizing the top national player/team to recognizing the top NorCal player/team. Achieving a National #1 ranking is difficult for many players due to a lower number of higher-level tournaments that take place in the section, and several NorCal players were disappointed that we did not award the player that was #1 on their respective final ranking list when filtered to NorCal. The play requirement in the division and in the section will make the award more meaningful.

Adding in the minimum play criteria may be considered controversial because in some divisions (particularly the age division events) it may be difficult to meet this new criteria. It is for this reason that the Committee has submitted this proposal as an Action Item.

5. Topic #3. Incentives to grow participation in Adult Tournaments

Mark Fairchilds joined during the discussion on incentives to grow participation

The Committee discussed the current promotion of players receiving a refund of 50% of their registration fee for the first tournament since 2020. Staff informed the committee there currently on the list there are 70 approved applications, 30 being for future tournaments. Staff also informed the committee that until June 8th 2026 there were 19 approved applications and 8 players out of those 8 played at least one additional tournament. The committee discussed whether to continue the promotion next year and

decided to table it to see later in the year how many players took advantage of the promotion and how many played more than one tournament.

The committee discussed additional possible incentives to grow participation, including a reward for players and/or tournament directors that convince new players to play in a tournament. Staff will look into logistics of starting such a promotion.

The Committee also asked staff to look into the players that have played adult tournaments before the pandemic and look into why they stopped and/or how to bring them back.

The next committee meeting date was set to Tuesday August 25 at 7pm

There being no further issues or discussion to come before the Committee, the meeting was adjourned at 9:24pm.