

**USTA NorCal Board of Directors Meeting Minutes**  
**April 17, 2013**  
**USTA NorCal Office, Alameda, California**

**USTA NorCal Board of Directors Present:** Rosie Bareis, Margie Campbell, Chris Caputo, Gordon Collins (Treasurer), Michael Cooke (President), Suzy Cosette, Christine Costamagna (Secretary), Jim Coyne, Mike Dickey (Vice President), Mark Fairchilds, Dana Gill, Paul Kepler, Andrea Norman, Sarah Robinson, Jason Scalese, Tony Silveira (Delegate)

**USTA NorCal Advisory Directors:** Frank Haswell (absent), Pam Sloan

**NorCal Staff Present:** Steve Leube, Executive Director; Jennifer Pitzen, Director of Competitive Play; Summer Verhoeven, ROG Development Coordinator

**Legal Counsel:** Michael Harrison

**Guests:** Craig Jones, National Player Development

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**Call to Order:** Noting the presence of a quorum, Michael Cooke, President, called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm. The President introduced the staff and guests. He reiterated the ground rules for the meeting. Mr. Caputo read the USTA NorCal mission statement. The President then asked for public comments which there were none.

**Approval of Minutes:** The minutes of the February 20, 2013 Board meeting were presented for approval. On motion duly made, seconded, and carried, the minutes of the February 20, 2013 meeting were unanimously approved.

**Executive Director Report:** Mr. Leube provided an overview of his report, a copy of which was provided in the meeting material. He commented on the overall decrease in membership growth and National's concern. He reported on the various section activities, including junior events {specifically play days and Junior Team Tennis ("JTT")}, the upcoming Hall of Fame Banquet, the on-line logo wear store and outreach. Mr. Leube and the Board discussed the reasons membership levels and league participation. Mr. Leube noted that USTA NorCal has the 3<sup>rd</sup> best retention level for adult leagues. In response to questions from the Board, Mr. Dickey will obtain data regarding the "in level" requirement.

**President Report:** The President provided his report to the Board. In addition to Mr. Leube's comments, he reviewed the highlights of the USTA Annual Meeting, including the junior competition changes which were supported by the sections. He also commented on the collegiate development pathway and the potential agreement with Tennislink. He concluded by noting that NorCal was ranked #1 in junior membership growth for the 1<sup>st</sup> quarter.

**Delegate Report:** The Chairman called upon Mr. Silveira to provide the Delegate's report. Referring to the handout in the meeting material, Mr. Silveira reiterated a number of the President's comments

concerning the Annual Meeting. He also commented on the formation of a membership study group upon which he will serve.

**Junior Council Overview and Education:** The President called upon Ms. Norman, Chairman of the Junior Council, to provide an overview of the proposed NorCal competitive structure. Ms. Norman began by noting that in 2012, the NorCal Board voted to endorse a future NorCal competitive structure. Then, referring to a handout distributed at the meeting, she reviewed the underlying principles to the structure which includes earned advancement, purposeful competition and college potential. She then led a discussion concerning the key concepts of the proposal. She reviewed the each of the highlights with the Board: 2 Sectional Championships, segmented calendar, true qualifiers for Sectionals, stand alone Doubles Sectionals, introduction of ratings-based tournaments, age up opportunities, events concurrent with Nationals, entry level tournaments, Summer Grand Prix Circuit and Invitational, and time for training and rest. She responded to questions from the Board concerning these highlights discussed and she commented on the educational plan for players and tournament directors. An additional handout was distribution concerning the Universal Tennis Rating System (UTR) and a discussion ensued concerning the potential piloting of a level based event, the Super Series tournaments dividend into age groups of 18 and Under and 14 and Under, coed round robin tournaments, alternatives should the UTR be unsuccessful, and the benefits for collegiate participation.

Ms. Norman reviewed the timeline for continued refinement of the proposal for presentation at the Board meeting on May 15. She announced that the Board would receive a copy of the proposal on or about April 29 and that there will be a conference call on May 6th to give the Board the opportunity to ask questions about the proposal. She concluded by thanking the Junior Council for their tireless efforts in developing the structure.

**JTT Proposal and Request:** The President called upon Mr. Kepler and Mr. Fairchilds to provide a follow-up presentation concerning JTT sister program to the program approved at the last meeting. Referring to a handout distributed at the meeting, Mr. Fairchild began by noting the critical need for tennis courts to accommodate the influx of new players to the JTT. He noted that there is a critical shortage of courts and that allocated funds can support the renovation of up to 150 courts or 20 to 30 schools. He then made the following motion which was seconded by Mr. Scalese: “to authorize the transfer of up to \$500,000 of unallocated reserves to the NCTF as needed to renovate selected high schedule and junior high school courts throughout the Section. The specific courts to be renovated and on what terms are to be determined by the NCTF Board.”

The Board then discussed the motion/proposal at length with the discussion focus on expansion into courts controlled by park and recreation departments, overall budget constraints and fund availability, prioritization of what courts to renovate, maintenance of renovated courts, and other options besides repairing existing courts. Mr. Kepler noted that the Northern California Tennis Foundation (“NCTF”) could administer the program. Mr. Leube noted that NorCal would need to get a return on investment in order to fund, that staff would need to be involved in the decision making process, that there are 45 court funding requests at National, and that the criteria under the program needs to be clear.

Mr. Kepler and Fairchild then made the following amended motion which was seconded by Mr. Scalese: “to authorize the transfer of up to \$500,000 of unallocated reserves to the NCTF as needed to renovate selected high schedule and junior high school courts throughout the Section. The specific

terms of such transfer are to be determined by the USTA NorCal Board of Directors.” The Board further discussed the need for specific criteria for funding, reciprocity and access issues for renovated courts, and actual renovation costs. Thereafter, upon a restatement of the motion with the amendment, the motion was denied – 7 in favor, 7 opposed, 1 abstention. The President casted a no vote and called for the formation of a committee to gather additional information as discussed by the Board in order to represent to the Board. The Board expressed their appreciation for Mr. Fairchild and Mr. Kepler for their hard work.

**Action Items:** The President called upon Ms. Campbell and Mr. Scalese to present the 4 action items that were submitted to the Board for consideration and decisioning. Referring to handouts distributed at the meeting, Ms. Campbell began by reviewing Action Item #1 which was the challenge to the selection of players by lottery for orange and green balls tournaments. She noted that the action item requests that the decision to select players in limited draw tournaments should be remanded to Committee for further discussion and alternative recommendations besides lottery. A lengthy discussion ensued with insight from Mr. Jones concerning alternatives, flexibility, court availability, the effect of sending back to the Junior Council, and the impact on the junior pathway. Ms. Norman noted that the Committee considered a multitude of alternatives. After discussion, a motion was duly made and seconded to accept the challenge to the selection of players by lottery for orange and green balls tournaments and upon a vote of 8 in favor, 8 against and no abstentions with the President casting a no vote, the motion was denied.

Ms. Campbell requested to table Action Item #2 concerning staff and Committee developing and implementing a process through which ROG tournament players are informed and educated about NorCal standards of sportsmanship and the rules of competing in tournaments as the pathway will be discussed at the next Board meeting.

Mr. Scalese then amended the Action Item #3 concerning that JTT not be a requirement of the junior development pathway and made it a challenge of a Committee decision approved by the Board in October 2012. As a point of order, it was noted that Action Item #3 could not be handled as an action item. Mr. Scalese’ wished the Board to repeal, or, amend an approved Board decision. The President noted that pursuant to the NorCal bylaws, in order to ask for the repeal of an approved Board decision, Mr. Scalese would need to get the approval of the President, or, a majority vote of the Board to discuss the repeal. A motion to have further discussion on the previously approved decision was denied by the President and dismissed as a point of order.

With respect to the 4<sup>th</sup> action concerning a pause of the 12 and Under pathway until its implementation, format, effects, benefits and drawbacks can be reviewed and discussed and then approved by the Board, it was noted that the topic would be discussed at the next Board meeting and the President encouraged to review the pathway provide commentary at the next meeting.

**Treasurer Report:** The Chairman called upon Mr. Collins to provide a report covering NorCal’s financial status. Mr. Collins noted that NorCal was financially sound, however, the budget is behind approximately \$42,000 per month due to the timing of expenses versus recognized revenue.

**Committee Decisions:** The President noted that the Committee decisions were provided in the meeting material. There were no questions from the Board.

**Unfinished Business:** None.

**New Business:** None.

**Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned at 9:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Christine Costamagna  
Secretary