

**USTA NorCal Board of Directors Meeting Minutes**  
**April 18, 2012**  
**USTA NorCal Office, Alameda, California**

**USTA NorCal Board of Directors Present:** Paul Allam, Rosie Bareis, Christine Costamagna (Secretary), Gordon Collins (Treasurer), Michael Cooke (President), Terry Cossette (Delegate), Jim Coyne, Deline Davis, Hunter Gallaway, Dana Gill, Jean Hassoun, Paul Kepler, Rick Kepler, Tony Silveria (Vice President), Pam Sloan

**USTA NorCal Immediate Past President Present:** Marjorie Peterman

**USTA NorCal Board of Directors Absent:** Jack Drimmer

**USTA NorCal Advisory Director:** Frank Haswell

**NorCal Staff Present:** Steve Leube, Executive Director; Jennifer Pitzen, Director of Competitive Play; Anna Elefant, Manager of Adult Leagues; Amy Jensen, Manager of Player Development

**Legal Counsel:** Michael Harrison

**Parliamentarian:** David Shapiro

**Guests:** Dale Russell, Chair of the Adult League Committee; Nigel Pugh, Chairman of the TAUT Committee; Andrea Norman, Chairman of the Junior Tennis Council; Bill Johnston, Chairman of the Sportsmanship Committee; Mike Dickey, Chairman of the Budget & Finance Committee

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. He called for a moment of silence in honor of Mark Manning. He then asked for public comments which there were none. Mr. Collins read the USTA NorCal mission statement.

**Approval of Minutes:** The minutes of the February 8, 2012 Board meeting were presented for approval. On motion duly made, seconded, and carried, the minutes of the February 8, 2012 meeting were approved.

**Leagues Update:** The President called upon Ms. Elefant who first provided a self rate demonstration for the directors. She then provided an overview of the leagues calendar for 2013 and she and Mr. Russell responded to questions regarding the various changes. During the discussion, the Chairman commented on a new software product used for scheduling and noted that the Board was being asked to ratify the Budget & Finance Committee's approval to spend \$14,500 for the schedule balance software. After further discussion, on motion made by Mr. Silveria and seconded by Mr. Collins, the Board approved the expenditure as presented – 14 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstentions.

**10 and Under (TAUT) Update:** The President called upon Mr. Pugh to provide a TAUT update. Referring to a report provided in the Board material, Mr. Pugh provided an overview of the program structure and goals. The directors discussed overall marketing and the need to do school outreach.

**Executive Director Report:** Mr. Leube provided an overview of his report, a copy of which was provided in the Board material. He focused on membership growth figures as well as the various section activities, including leagues, captain's meetings, play days, and outreach expos.

**President's Report:** The President provided an overview of his report, a copy of which was provided in the Board material. He noted that the highlights were covered in Mr. Leube's report and will be reported in Mr. Cossette's report.

**Delegate Report:** Referring to material distributed at the meeting, Mr. Cossette provided a Delegate's report covering current activities at USTA National. He first thanked Ms. Norman for all of her work on the call items for the USTA Annual Meeting. He then commented on the various call items, specifically the Recovery Rule, and the directors discussed notification to tournaments and inclusion on the tournament pages as well as the possible waiver to tournaments already sanctioned. Ms. Norman further discussed the Junior Council Committee decision related to the newly-adopted Recovery Rule, which provided for a policy by which a tournament required to run a Best of 3 set format in the Junior Tournament Rules could apply to use a shortened format. Because tournaments are to be held soon using the Best of 3 set format she suggested there be a waiver policy that can be publicized. Following further discussion, the Board agreed to having a waiver policy. It was noted that, in general, rules should also be revised to include staff titles rather than individual staff names. Ms. Norman also noted that the Junior Council sees the national changes as an opportunity to re-imagine what NorCal's structure could be and announced the Committee was working on philosophical principles and the creation of processes to foster development and competition which will be brought to the Board for review and approval before new policies are developed. Finally, Mr. Cossette briefly reviewed the proposed bylaw amendments.

**Treasurer Report:** Mr. Collins provided a brief report covering USTA NorCal's financial status and reviewed financial reports in the Board material. He noted that USTA NorCal was financially sound. He also reviewed the monthly major variances report which was distributed at the meeting.

**Committee Decisions:** The President referred the directors to Committee decisions that had been made since the last report was issued as of February 2, 2012. Mr. Hassoun and Mr. Pitzen discussed the facts surrounding the 12s Sectionals and responded to questions and comments from the Board. The Board then discussed the process for considering Mr. Hassoun's appeal of the Sanction & Schedule Committee's decision of April 4 to no longer consider Las Palmas Tennis Association as the sanction holder and solicit new bids for the 12s Sectionals. After discussion, on motion made by Ms. Bareis and seconded by Ms. Davis, the Board denied Mr. Hassoun's appeal – 5 in favor, 9 opposed, 1 abstention (by written ballot). Thereafter, the Board accepted the Sanction & Schedule Committee's decision to grant the 12s Sectionals sanction to the University of Pacific – 8 in favor, 3 opposed, 3 abstentions.

The Chairman noted that it was in order for the Board to approve the 2013 League calendar as previously presented by Ms. Elefant. On motion made by Mr. P. Kepler and seconded by Mr. Silveria, the Board approved the 2013 League calendar as presented – 12 in favor, 2 opposed, 1 abstention.

With respect to the Committee decisions, Mr. Collins requested clarification regarding Rule 2.D.i regarding mandatory entry open and closing dates for Sectional Championships, Excellence Tournaments and Championship Tournaments. After discussion, on motion made by Mr. Collins and seconded by Mr. Silveria, the Board approved the Committee decision to amend Rule 2.D.i with the discussed clarification (rule entirety with the change underlined) as noted below – 7 in favor, 2 opposed and 1 abstention:

**2. Sanction Application.**

**D. Information provided on Online Sanction Form.**

i. Application must provide accurate information. It is solely the responsibility of the applicant to provide accurate information on the Online Sanction Form including, but not limited to, tournament dates, entry open and closing dates, sites, events, divisions, draw sizes, entry fees, and contract information, provided, however that the entry closing dates for singles for the Sectional Championships, Excellence Tournaments, and Championship Tournaments shall be no less than 7 days prior to the start date of the respective tournament and the entry open dates shall be 6 weeks prior to the entry closing date. Sectional Championships, Excellence Tournaments, and Championship Tournaments may set a later entry closing date for doubles, provided this date is published to the website before entries open.

The Board then discussed the tournament participation numbers and requested additional data from staff. There was concern expressed for starting the sanction period on May 1 without certain Committee decisions being fully subject to the challenge process. After discussion, on motion made by Mr. P. Kepler and seconded by Ms. Bareis, the Board approved the change in the start of the sanctioning period from May 1 to June 1 – 14 in favor, 1 opposed, 0 abstentions.

**Old Business:** None.

**New Business:** The Board discussed briefly discussed the status of the litigation matter involved current/former Board members.

Ms. Sloan requested an excused absence for the May meeting due to a medical reason. Thereafter, the Board agreed to an excused absence for Ms. Sloan for the May 15 meeting – 12 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstentions.

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

Respectfully submitted,  
Christine Costamagna  
Secretary, USTA NorCal Board of Directors