

# USTA Northern California BOARD RESOLUTIONS 11/18/2016

DATE	COMMITTEE	ACTION
10/13/2016	ADULT LEAGUES	

**Withdraw Facility Use Proposal Passed at June 8 meeting**  
**Reserving Home Courts LLAR 7c.** – Teams are required to reserve home courts for all home matches during the season. Home teams are responsible for all direct or indirect fees associated with the use of their courts.

**Approved 8-0, 1 abstention**

**Rationale:** Board leadership requested ALC to withdraw its decision regarding Local League Rule 7c “home team to pay any fees associated with home matches,” thinking it premature as no home teams had yet charged fees to visiting teams. The Board leadership indicated such a decision could be sent to the Board at a later time if needed.

**The Calendar and Court Utilization sub-committee presented three rule change recommendations for the 2017 Adult 40 & Over season.**

**Rule: Format – Descriptions of All Leagues (LLAR 8)**

Increase the Adult 40 & Over playoff format to 2 Singles, 3 Doubles

Adult 40 & Over	3.0, 3.5, 4.0, 4.5+	1 Singles and 2 Doubles Local League 2 Singles and 3 Doubles Championship Play
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When national introduced the 5 line Adult 40 & Over league in 2013, they gave sections the option to select a different format for local league. The ALC and Board opted for 3 lines through playoffs then teams must increase to 5 lines at Districts. For the past 3 years at District Championships, there has been an average of 50 individual match defaults, significantly higher than any other NorCal championship event. Teams with smaller rosters more frequently defaulted matches and did not advance. The Calendar and Court Utilization sub-committee proposed increasing the match format to 5 lines at playoffs with the expectation teams with small rosters would be eliminated before reaching Districts.

**Revision:**

Adult 40 & Over	3.0, 3.5, 4.0, 4.5+	1 Singles and 2 Doubles Local League 2 Singles and 3 Doubles Playoff & Championship Play
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**Approved 8-0, 1 abstention**

**Rationale:** Teams pay a fee to come to all championship events; they expect to play matches. Defaults are disappointing to the players who receive them. Players who participated in the Adult 40 & Over

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league were surveyed and support this change; 60% want 5 lines at playoffs, 20% prefer 3 lines and 10% had no opinion.

**Rule: Scheduling Local League Matches (LLAR 10b)**

2. Extend the scheduling of Adult 40 & Over Playoff matches on weekends,, allowing matches to start as early as 8 am or as late at 7 pm, giving facilities two more available hours to schedule.

**Approved 8-0, 1 abstention**

3. Allow playoff matches to be scheduled on Thursday, adding one day to the current Friday-Sunday parameters.

**Approved 8-0, 1 abstention**

Current Rule in black, addition in red:

**Start times** for weekday matches are between 6:00 PM and 8:00 PM; and for weekend matches, between 9:00 AM and 6:00 PM. A second shift shall be scheduled to start up to 75 minutes later.

**EXCEPTIONS:**

**1. NorCal 65 & Over and NorCal 70 & Over Leagues:** Unless captains agree otherwise, start times are between 10:00 AM and 1:00 PM, Monday through Friday.

**2. NorCal Women's Daytime Leagues:** Unless captains agree otherwise, start times are between 9:00 AM and 11:30 AM, Monday through Friday.

**3. Adult 40 & Over League (Playoffs Only):** Unless captains agree otherwise, playoffs may be scheduled Thursday - Sunday of the designated playoff weekend. Start times for weekend matches are between 8:00 AM and 7:00 PM.

**Rationale:** Provide more scheduling opportunities to captains and facilities because weather can be an issue in March/April and the 5 line playoffs for the Adult 40 & Over league will overlap with the beginning of the 5 line Adult 18 & Over league.

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6/08/2016

ADULT LEAGUES

**1. Rule: Rescheduling Matches LLAR 7c (Q and A)** Inclement weather is NOT a valid reason to unilaterally change the home court location to a different facility with indoor courts. The visiting captain must agree to this type of change.... The visiting team is not required to pay fees for indoor court usage.

**Revision:** Inclement weather is a valid reason to change the home court location to a different facility with indoor courts. The visiting team is not required to pay fees for indoor court usage.

**Approved 8-0**

**Rationale:** The previous rule stated inclement weather is NOT a valid reason when in fact it is the predominant reason for moving the match indoors if it is to be played.

**2. Rule: NTRP Dynamic Procedure (Three Strikes Procedure) LLAR 29C** "...If a player receives a third strike during playoffs,

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Districts or Section Championships, any matches played at that postseason level will be adjusted to reflect a 6-0 6-0 win for the opponent [ULR 2.04B]."

**Revision:** "...If a player receives a third strike during playoffs, District or Section Championships, only the match that generated that third strike will be overturned, reflecting a 6-0 6-0 win for the opponent."

**ALC elects to table for further and more comprehensive discussion, 8-0.**

**Rationale:** ALC felt that all aspects of overturning matches with 3 strikes DQ in local league, at championship and NTRP grievance should be considered at the same time. The Rules subcommittee will consider and present again in September.

**3. Rule: Scheduling Playoffs LLAR 11c** "...The home team must notify the visiting team of the date and time of the first playoff round by the Monday at 9 PM following the end of its local league season, and the second round by the Monday at 9 PM following the end of the first playoff segment."

**Revision: Scheduling Playoffs and Prescheduling Rain Make-up Dates.** The home team must notify the visiting team of the date and time of the first playoff round by 9 p.m. on the Monday following the end of its local league season, and the second round by 9 p.m. on the Monday following the end of the first playoff weekend. A home team may also preschedule up to 2 rain make-up dates and times within that designated weekend. These additional dates and times must be given at the same time as the original match date and time. If the original match date and time is rained out, these dates and times must be used in chronological order.

**Approved 8-0**

**Rationale:** Captains have asked for guidance on getting matches completed in the 3 day playoff window if rain is forecast. Planning ahead for possible rain problems increases the odds that teams will complete their playoff matches. Prescheduling make-up times benefits both teams by giving them maximum notice.

**4. Total Team Match Defaults LLAR 15d** Team matches will not be validated for scoring if there are more individual match defaults than lines played for both teams. Teams must play two out of three lines or three out of five lines for a match to count in terms of team standings [ULR 2.01C(2)].

**Revision (additional paragraph): Total Team Match Defaults/Local League LLAR 15e**

If a local league match that affects playoff standings is not completed by the season deadline

and is not a team default by either team, the winner will be determined by a draw done by

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NorCal League staff. The draw will be weighted to reflect the win/loss record of each team. Any partially played line will be entered as a retirement in favor of the team winning the draw. Any unplayed line will be entered as a 6-0, 6-0 win for the team winning the draw.

**Approved 8-0**

**Rationale:** The current rule requires a loss be recorded for both teams if the match is not completed, usually due to weather. Staff requested a better way to determine a match winner which reflected team standings.

**5. Total Team Match Defaults/Playoffs 11d**

All playoff matches shall be played. If a playoff match is not completed by the scheduled deadline, then a random method, such as a coin toss, by NorCal will determine the winner.

**Revision:** All playoff matches shall be played. If a playoff match is not completed by the scheduled deadline, the winner will be determined by a draw done by NorCal League staff. The draw will be weighted to reflect the playoff position of the two teams.

**Approved 8-0**

**Rationale:** A coin toss gave each team a 50% chance of winning. A weighted draw changes these odds to reflect more accurately the comparative strengths of the two teams and eliminates the previous situation in which the weaker team might opt for the 50% chance of winning rather than playing the match.

**6. Move Up or Split-Up Rule LLAR 45**

"...Each team will be limited to three sectional winners for that league...."

**Revision:** "Adult 65 & Over is exempt from the Move-Up/Split-Up Rule."

**Approved 8-0**

**Rationale:** The Super 65 league population is so small that it is very difficult for a sectional winner to split up and field viable teams for the following year. This also impacts the other teams in their area who may not have enough opponents for a viable flight. It should be noted that NorCal was the only section out of 17 that was enforcing Move-Up/Split-Up for this league. This puts NorCal teams at a disadvantage in national competition.

**7. Reserving Home Courts LLAR 7c.** – Teams are required to reserve home courts for all home matches during the season.

**Addition:** Home teams are responsible for all direct or indirect fees associated with the use of their courts.

**Approved 8-0**

**Rationale:** A consistent policy of the home team being responsible

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for all court-associated expenses will prevent conflict between opposing teams, unpleasantness regarding unexpected costs and retaliatory charges between opponents.

5/11/2016	ADULT LEAGUES	<p>It was approved to adopt the 2017 League Calendar as presented. (See attachment)</p> <p>Discussion: The Calendar and Court Utilization sub-committee (comprised of ALC members and facility representatives) recommended and the ALC has agreed to keep the 2017 calendar the same as the 2016 calendar. All felt that providing players with consistency was important to growing leagues and participation numbers have been strong.</p> <p>The staff requested administrative oversight to adjust specific dates to maintain smooth league operations and to accommodate National deadlines. As with the 2016 calendar, there is no overlap of the four major league seasons for local league play.</p>
2/11/2016	ADULT LEAGUES	<p><b>April 5, 2015 meeting</b></p> <p>It was approved to amend Local League Area rule 12b. to reflect the changes brought by uneven round robin scheduling when determining the advancing team when a playoff match is not completed. A random method will be used to determine the advancing team in lieu of selecting the team higher in standings.</p> <p><b><u>Rescheduling of incomplete or unfinished playoff matches:</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• If a playoff match is not required for advancement, teams are <b><u>not</u></b> required to play unless both teams agree to do so. <del>If a playoff match is not played, the teams will be placed in order of local league standings with the lower team being placed in the wildcard spot. If the two teams are from two different flights, a random method in the NorCal office will be used to determine the placement of the teams.</del> <b>If the playoff match is not held, Captains captains must notify the office. if the playoff match will not be held. In this case, a random method, such as a coin toss, will be used by NorCal to place the teams in the championship flights.</b></li><li>• If a playoff match is required for advancement and is not completed in the designated time frame for that playoff match, no extension of time will be given to complete it. Should a match be incomplete and the teams are not able to work together to get it finished within the designated time frame, <del>NorCal will place the teams in order of local league standings to determine the winner. If the teams remain tied, then head-to-head results will be used to break the tie. If the teams still remain tied, then</del> <b>a random method, such as a coin toss</b>, by NorCal will determine the winner. <del>If the two teams are from different flights, then a random method in the NorCal office will be used to determine the winner.</del></li></ul>

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**Final depiction of Rule Change:****Rescheduling of incomplete or unfinished playoff matches:**

- If a playoff match is not required for advancement, teams are **not** required to play unless both teams agree to do so. **If the playoff match is not held, captains must notify the office. In this case, a random method, such as a coin toss, will be used by NorCal to place the teams in the championship flights.**
- If a playoff match is required for advancement and is not completed in the designated time frame for that playoff match, no extension of time will be given to complete it. Should a match be incomplete and the teams are not able to work together to get it finished within the designated time frame, then **a random method, such as a coin toss**, by NorCal will determine the winner.

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8/8/2016ADULT  
TOURNAMENTS**1. Limited Draw Tournaments**

The committee reviewed the current rule regarding limited draw tournaments in the Adult Tournament Rules. The current rule states that in a limited draw Adult Tournament, the Tournament Committee may select up to 25% of the entries of each draw at their own discretion and the remaining 75% of the entries shall be selected by lot. It was brought to the committees attention that a number of concerns have been received regarding this rule for Gold Cup Series tournaments, including concerns regarding top ranked players not being able to get in and Gold Cup Series Award contenders possibly not being able to get in. To be the Gold Cup Series champion a player must win all the Gold Cup Series Tournaments and the Grand Prix in the same event during the same season.

After discussion, the following motion was duly made and seconded: RESOLVED, that effective immediately, the Committee hereby approves revising the rule as follows to allow the hosting organization to select 25% of the draw, have 25% of the entries be selected using the most recently published Grand Prix Points Race List of the division in the order the players are listed; and the remaining 50%, and if there are any remaining spots not selected by rank or at the discretion of the Tournament Committee, shall be selected by lot. (new language is underlined, deleted language is stricken through):

**6. Limited Draw Tournaments.**

a. NTRP Gold Cup Series Tournaments and NTRP Tournaments of the Year. In a limited draw, NTRP Tournaments of the Year and NTRP Gold Cup Series Tournaments players/teams shall be selected as follows:

- 25% of the draw shall be selected using the most recently published Grand Prix Points Race List of the division in the order the players are listed;
  - 25% of the draw may be selected at the discretion of the Tournament Committee; and
  - the remaining 50%, and if there are any remaining spots not selected by rank or at the discretion of the Tournament Committee, shall be selected by lot.
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Doubles and Mixed Doubles teams will be selected based their combined ranking using the most recently published Individual Doubles Grand Prix Points Race List for the division of the event.

b. All other tournaments. In all other limited draw Adult Tournaments, the Tournament Committee may select up to 25% of the ~~entries~~players/teams ~~off~~ for each draw at their own discretion. All other players/teams for each draw ~~and the remaining 75% of the entries~~ shall be selected by lot. ~~In the event the Tournament Committee selects fewer than 25% of the entries, all remaining entries shall be selected by lot.~~

This motion was **approved 8-0**.

### **Rationale**

By changing the limited draw rule to 25% of the players being selected according to the Grand Prix Points Race List, 25% selected by the tournament committee and the remaining 50% determined by lot, a number of ranked players will be guaranteed a spot in the tournament if they enter, the tournament committee can still select their 25% and 50% of the draw will still be selected randomly.

## **2. Entry Limitation on Players regarding Adult 30, Senior, and Family Divisions**

The Committee reviewed the entry limitation on players pertaining to the Adult 30, Senior, and Family Divisions. The current rule only allows players to play in two events in addition to one mixed doubles event and/or family event. The committee was informed that there are now some players who would like to play 3 events between singles and gender doubles and that some of the tournaments are able to accommodate that.

After discussion, the following motion was duly made and seconded: RESOLVED, that effective immediately, the Committee hereby approves revising the rule as follows to allow the tournament committee to limit the entries as they see fit for the Adult 30, Senior, and Family Divisions. (new language is underlined, deleted language is stricken through):

## **11. Entry Limitation on Players.**

a. NTRP Divisions. Players in NTRP Divisions are limited to entering one singles event, one doubles event, and one mixed doubles event. A Tournament Committee may further limit the number of events a player can enter if the limit is published to the tournament website by the time entries open. Tournament Committees will determine whether a player's entries may be in more than one division and will publish that information to the tournament website by the time entries open.

b. Adult 30, Senior, and Family Divisions. A Tournament Committee may limit the number of events a player can enter if the limit is published to the tournament website by the time entries open. If no limit is published, there is no limit to the number of events that may be entered. ~~Players in Adult 30, Senior and Family divisions are limited to two events, in addition to one Mixed Doubles and/or family Doubles.~~

c. Adult Open Divisions. Players in the Adult Open division may play singles, doubles and mixed doubles, if offered. A

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Tournament Committee may further limit the number of events a player can enter if the limit is published to the tournament website by the time entries open.

d. Wheelchair Divisions. There is no limit on the number of events entered.

This motion was **approved 8-0**.

**Rationale**

By lifting entry limitation for Adult 30, Senior, and Family Divisions and leaving it up to the tournament committee to determine their own entry limitations it is promoting more play.

**3. One Day Tournaments**

The committee discussed the growth and success of one day tournaments in the NorCal section. It was mentioned that there are now organizations that are starting to host pilot singles events at one day tournaments and how there is interest in singles as well. It was proposed that the one day doubles tournament rules in the NorCal Adult Tournament rules be the rules for all sanctioned one day tournaments whether singles or doubles are played.

After discussion, the following motion was duly made and seconded: **RESOLVED**, that effective immediately, the Committee hereby approves revising the one day doubles tournament rules to be the rules for all one day sanctioned tournaments as follows (new language is underlined, deleted language is stricken through):

28. One-Day ~~Doubles~~ Tournaments. Below are special provisions for one-day singles and/or doubles tournaments. Except as provided below, these tournaments shall comply with all other Adult Tournament Rules and Sanction Rules:

This motion was approved **8-0**.

**Rationale**

This rule is being changed to clarify that the one day tournament rules in the Adult Tournament Rules are for all sanctioned adult one day tournaments.

**4. One Day Tournaments – Maximum Entry Fees**

The committee also discussed the current entry fee cap for one day tournaments. They discussed the cost of hosting a one day tournament vs. entry fees for the players.

After discussion, the following motion was duly made and seconded: **RESOLVED**, that effective immediately, the Committee hereby approves revising the one day tournament maximum entry fee rule to \$30 per player for doubles and \$35 per player for singles as follows (new language is underlined, deleted language is stricken through):

28. One-Day Tournaments. Below are special provisions for one-day singles and/or doubles tournaments. Except as provided below, these tournaments shall comply with all other Adult

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Tournament Rules and Sanction Rules:

- a. Maximum Entry Fee. The maximum entry fee for a one-day ~~doubles~~ tournament shall be ~~\$25-30~~ per player in doubles and \$35 per player in singles.

This motion was **approved 8-0**.

**Rationale**

This is the first time the maximum entry fee limit has been raised. It takes in to account the cost of hosting a one day tournament and the cost of inflation. Even if the maximum entry fee limit is raised, the organizations can still charge a lower entry fee.

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06/11/2016

ADULT  
TOURNAMENT

**Residency Requirement for the Senior Grand Prix**

Currently one of the criteria for the NTRP, Senior, and Open Grand Prix is that all players must be Northern California residents. The proposal to lift the residency requirement for the senior divisions for the Grand Prix Tournament was brought to the Adult Tournament Committee. It was explained that in order for the Senior Grand Prix to be designated as a National Category III tournament the residency requirement for players for the Senior Grand Prix needs to be lifted because one of the criteria for a tournament to be designated as Category III tournament is that the tournament needs to be open to all players. The tournament being designated a Category III tournament could attract more players to play in the tournament as the players playing in a Category III tournament would earn more National points.

After discussion, the following motion was duly made and seconded: RESOLVED, that effective immediately, the Committee hereby approves removing the residency requirement for the Grand Prix for the Senior Divisions as follows (new language is underlined, deleted language is stricken through):

The motion was approved.

**10. Calculating Grand Prix Standings, Publication of Grand Prix Points Race Lists, and Selection for Grand Prix Tournaments.**

- B. *Residency Not Required to Appear on List; Residency Required to Play in Grand Prix Tournament for the NTRP and Open Divisions*. All players, regardless of residency in USTA NorCal, may appear on the Grand Prix Points Race List; however residency is required to play in a Grand Prix Tournament for the NTRP and Open Divisions.

**Rationale**

This change needs to be made to make the Senior Grand Prix a Category III tournament so that the senior players could earn more points for playing in the Senior Grand Prix; hopefully attracting more players. One of the requirements for being designated as a Category III tournament is that it has to be open to all players. However, the requirement of having to play 1 tournament during the season would remain.

2/17/2016

BOARD

Board President brought the Board's attention to the Yellow sheets included in the Board packet. She noted that the committee decision for the Adult League Committee was dated April 5, 2015. During the transition between Adult League Managers, this committee decision,

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involving the use of a coin toss in the event of incomplete or unfinished matches, was never presented to the Board for approval. The use of a coin toss was published in the LLR's for both Mixed 55 and Combo leagues and was used in both leagues. Although there were some complaints, most players accepted this method. It was moved and seconded to reconsider the use of a coin toss for local league playoffs for the Combo league, depending on the timing between playoffs and districts as well as stated deadlines. The motion carried unanimously (13 in favor). It was moved and seconded to amend the Local League Area rule 12b to reflect the changes brought about by uneven round robin scheduling for all leagues when determining the advancing team when a playoff match is not completed. (A random method will be used to determine the advancing team in lieu of selecting the team higher in standings).

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1/6/2016	BOARD	Comerica requested a resolution be adopted which specifies how many and which representatives of USTA NorCal can execute financial documents on behalf of the organization. The Board decided that two officers should be so designated to sign documents, one of whom has to be the Board President. The resolution authorizes the designated officers to execute financial documents with Comerica on behalf of USTA NorCal. It was unanimously approved the requested corporate resolution (Corporate Resolution and Incumbency Certification Authority with Comerica Bank).
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10/13/2016	JUNIOR COUNCIL	<b><u>USTA NorCal JTT Section Championships (Spring/Fall) – Doubles Pairing Rule</u></b> The committee discussed changes to the 2016 USTA NorCal JTT Spring and Fall Section Championships rules and regulations. Conforming rule changes were discussed due to the new Youth Progression system that governs 10U and 12U participation in JTT programs. After discussing all of the conforming program changes, committee felt it necessary to address the issue of the same doubles pairing playing multiple times during the same team match in a section championship event
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Following discussion, the following motion was duly made, seconded and approved by a vote of **5 in favor, none opposed and no abstentions**:

**RESOLVED:** Doubles pairings may be a mix of any two eligible team players, however the same doubles team/pairing may not play more than one time during each individual team match.

**Rationale:** During past Spring/Fall JTT Section Championship events, there have been a number of situations where team captain/coaches have played their stronger players in the same doubles pairings multiple times during the same team match. Each team match has four doubles matches played over four rounds. This has led to uneven matches versus opponents and some team captains/coaches stacking a match lineup via doubles pairings. The rule will eliminate the opportunity for team captains/coaches to play the same double pairing multiple times in a team match at the Section Championships.

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3/21/2016 and 4/11/2016	JUNIOR COUNCIL	<b>1. Junior NTRP Challenger Tournament Format: Approved</b> <b>RESOLVED:</b> That USTA NorCal Junior Tournament Rule 11.D. be amended to permit the use of the following Challenger Ratings
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Round Robin Format beginning with tournaments that accept entries beginning or after July 1, 2016 (underlined language is proposed to be added; stricken through language is proposed to be deleted):

- D. Challenger Tournaments.** Challenger Tournaments offer rookie to intermediate competition the 12, 14, 16 and 18 divisions. All events use a yellow ball on a 78' court and a player's racquet may not exceed 29" in length.
- i. Pathway Eligibility - Players Aged 12 Years and Younger.** To enter and play in a Challenger Tournament, players must first fulfill the pathway requirements as set forth in Rule 10.
  - ii. Traditional Draw Format** [unchanged, but renumbered]
  - iii. Challenger Ratings Round Robin Format.** Challenger Ratings Round Robin Tournaments are ratings-based tournaments that group players with similar ability into 4-player round robins, regardless of the players' ages. The draws will therefore all be designated as 18 division events. These tournaments will take place over a 2-day sanction period.
    - a. Singles Draw.**
      - (1) Draw Size.** There is no maximum or minimum draw size (although a maximum draw size can be set by the Tournament Committee), except that the total number of accepted players must be divisible by 4.
      - (2) Round Robin Singles Draw.** All singles draws will be 4-player round robin draws providing players 3 singles matches.
      - (3) Player Selection and Grouping.** Using the most recently available Junior NTRP rating players will be selected and grouped into 4-player round robin draws so that players with similar ratings are in each round robin draw.
    - b. Doubles Draw Format; Doubles Required.** The four players in each round robin draw will be randomly paired into two doubles teams and will play one doubles match. Participation in doubles is required.
  - iv. Match and Scoring Formats.** The match formats will be as follows:
    - a. Singles.** The singles match format will be the best of 3 tiebreak sets with a 10-Point Match Tiebreak in lieu of the 3rd set.
    - b. Doubles.** The doubles match format will be an 8-game pro set.
  - v. Entry Fee.** There is no maximum per event entry fee for singles, doubles, and mixed doubles, and no maximum base fee in Challenger Tournaments. If the Challenger Ratings Round Robin Format is used, a base fee shall be charged.

Rationale:

- Offers the popular ratings round robin format for NorCal's lowest level of tournament players.
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- The age-blind round robin format guarantees the same number of matches for all participants, regardless of the number of players in an age group that enter.
- It is a format that has proven to be popular with players, guaranteeing each participant three singles and one doubles match during a one-weekend tournament.
- Has proven to be an effective way to accommodate more players in one tournament over two days because the format doesn't increase the number of rounds required to be played with the acceptance of more players.
- At the entry level, provides the ability to play doubles without having to find a partner.
- Introduces ratings-based competition in a way that allows the Tournament Director, and not NorCal staff, to manage selection with maximum transparency that doesn't require a UTR membership.
- Will give NorCal valuable information on the strengths and weaknesses of the new Junior NTRP system.

3/21/2016  
and  
4/11/2016

JUNIOR  
COUNCIL

**2. Marketing Plan for Growth of Challenger Tournaments: Passed without the Challenger Ratings Round Robin Format on March 21, 2016 - Approved  
Passed to include new Challenger Ratings Round Robin Format on April 11, 2016 - Approved**

**RESOLVED:** That the following Challenger Tournament Promotion be approved to encourage the growth of Challenger Tournaments sanctioned in 2016 and 2017:

**Eligible Challenger Tournaments:**

- From the time this proposal is approved through the end of 2016, all newly approved 2016 Challenger Tournaments shall be eligible to receive the benefits below. This includes any existing tournament that adds Challenger events.
- From the time this proposal is approved, any existing 2016 Challenger Tournament that changes to the Challenger Ratings Round Robin Format shall be eligible to receive the benefits below.
- From the time this proposal is approved, any 2017 Challenger Tournament that uses the Challenger Ratings Round Robin Format shall be eligible to receive the benefits below.

**Reduction in Per Player Fees:** Eligible tournaments shall have per player and per doubles team fees of \$1.00 per player/team.

**Participant Gift:** USTA NorCal will provide a player gift to each participant in each Eligible Tournament. Gifts will be sent to the Tournament Director before the start date of each Tournament.

Rationale: These resolutions adopt a Marketing plan to promote the growth of Challenger Tournaments to prospective organizers so that NorCal's schedule can meet the demand of the increasing number of players needing access to Challengers closer to home.

3/21/2016  
and  
4/11/2016

JUNIOR  
COUNCIL

**3. 2017 NorCal Tournament Schedule: Approved**

**RESOLVED:** That the following changes to the NorCal Junior

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Tournament Calendar be made effective January 1, 2017, all as set forth on Exhibit A:

- Excellence #2 be moved from weekends 16-17 to Memorial Day weekend #22, replacing a Championship Singles Only Tournament, so that it is not in conflict with a USTA National Level 3 Tournament and so that it does not fall on Easter 2017;
- Fall Singles Sectional Championships be moved from weekends 38-39 to weekends 43-44 so that it is not in conflict with a USTA National Level 3 Tournament;
- Fall Doubles Sectional Championships be moved from weekend 45 to weekend 39 so that it does not immediately follow the Fall Singles Sectional Championship;
- Excellence #1, held weekends 2-3, including the Martin Luther King Holiday weekend) become a singles-only tournament, and that the Championship held over weekends 11-12 have the doubles event designated as a National Level 4 Ranking Tournament.

Rationale: Effective January 1, 2017, many national tournament dates have changed, putting significant NorCal tournaments in conflict with them. This resolution makes the adjustments Junior Council feels are necessary to best serve the playing opportunities of NorCal players.

*Note: Exhibit A attached includes both these changes as well as the shortening of the June Sectional Championships made under resolution #6.*

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3/21/2016  
and  
4/11/2016

JUNIOR  
COUNCIL

#### **4. UTR Round Robin Match Format and Draw Limit: Approved**

**RESOLVED:** That the following be approved, effective with the July 2016 UTR Round Robin tournaments:

- **Match Format.** Rule 11.F.vi.a. of the NorCal Junior Tournament Rules be amended to change singles match format from the best of 3 Tiebreak Sets to the Best of 3 Tiebreak Sets with a Match Tiebreak in lieu of the 3rd.
- **Draw Limits.** Applicants for UTR Round Robins shall submit the draw limit for the courts available based on the Court Scheduling Requirements published with the sanction application process; Organizers of UTR Round Robins may not exceed the draw limit for the courts required without submitting a plan to accommodate the additional matches.

Rationale:

- A match tiebreak will allow the events to accommodate a larger number of players.
- A match tie-break for the 3rd set will allow for more accurate scheduling and will help keep the tournament running on time.
- 3 singles matches with the shorter format, and an 8-game pro set doubles match played over one weekend remains a good product for players.

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3/21/2016  
and  
4/11/2016

JUNIOR  
COUNCIL

#### **5. Counting High School Tennis Tournament Results in NorCal Junior Rankings: Approved**

**RESOLVED:** That effective July 1, 2016, in advance of the girls' CCS Section high school tennis season that begins in the fall of

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2016, the CCS Section singles and doubles tournaments (Central Coast Section, North Coast Section, Northern Section, Oakland Section, Sac-Joaquin Section, and San Francisco Section) shall be designated as Sectional Ranking Tournaments in the 18 Division in Rule 3 of the USTA NorCal Points Per Round Ranking Rules and players shall earn points equivalent to points earned at Championship Tournaments (Sectional Level 3).

Rationale:

- Will promote sanctioned tournaments to high school players not currently participating.
- Will ease the difficult choice many players have to make between high school and USTA tennis.

3/21/2016  
and  
4/11/2016

JUNIOR  
COUNCIL

**6. Elimination of June Sectional Championship Qualifier Effective 2017: Approved**

**RESOLVED:** That effective January 1, 2017, USTA NorCal Junior Tournament Rules 11.J.iii.b. and c. be amended to eliminate the June Sectional Championships singles qualifier (underlined language is proposed to be added; stricken through language is proposed to be deleted):

**iii. June Sectional Championships - Singles and Doubles Events Held**

**b. Selection for Singles.** Players shall be selected for the June Sectional Championships as follows:

**(1) Players on Combined Sectional Final Ranking Lists.**

60 players shall be selected based on their ranking on the most recently published Combined Sectional Final Ranking List of the division of the event.

**(2) Up to Four Wild Cards.** Up to four wild cards may be selected by the Wild Card Committee as follows:

- To be considered for a Wild Card, a player must submit a timely entry into the tournament and apply for a Wild Card no later than the entry deadline (see tournament website for Wild Card application information).
- The Wild Card Committee shall be comprised of two members of the NorCal junior staff and Chair of Junior Council.

Wild Cards do not have to be awarded.

**(3) Additional Players on Combined Sectional Final Ranking List.** If the Wild Card Committee awards fewer than the maximum number of wild cards, the remaining spots in the draw shall be filled with players remaining on the Combined Sectional Final Ranking List used to select players into the draw.

**RESOLVED FURTHER:** That effective January 1, 2017, the sanction period for the June Sectional Championships shall be shortened by one day by eliminating the last day of the tournament.

Rationale: Following a review of the number of qualifiers held

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during the past 2 years (only 3 total have been held), a review of the ranks of the last players accepted into the June Sectional Championships that in many cases are beyond 100, as well as feedback from Sectionals tournament directors that indicate not knowing whether or not a qualifier will be held creates significant organizational problems, Council determined there is no longer a need for the qualifiers.

*Note: Exhibit A attached includes both the shortening of the June Sectional Championships as well as the changes made under resolution #3.*

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3/21/2016  
and  
4/11/2016

JUNIOR  
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## **7. Sectional Champions Qualifying for USTA National Championships: Approved**

**RESOLVED:** That effective January 1, 2017 the endorsement policy for The USTA National Championships (Hard Courts) shall be amended to include new paragraph 1 as follows (underlined language is proposed to be added; stricken through language is proposed to be deleted):

### **The USTA National Championships (Hard Courts) Endorsement Policy:**

1. Winner of the June Sectional Championships singles event of the division shall be placed within the USTA NorCal quota for the division, provided if the player remains age eligible for the division.
2. Up to 1 player per division may be granted a waiver to appear on the Endorsement List within the NorCal quota.
3. Remaining players shall be endorsed using most recently published Sectional Final Ranking List of the division.
4. Additional players may be granted a waiver to appear on the bottom of the Endorsement List so that the player may be accepted into a USTA National Championship when remaining vacancies are filled with players from the National Standings List.

Rationale: Beginning in 2017, the singles champions of the June Sectional Championships will no longer be automatically accepted into The USTA National Championships (Hard Courts) as part of the national selection process if they remain age eligible and submit a timely entry. Council concluded that providing this opportunity for a player to earn a spot by winning Sectionals continues to be desirable and gives a player who may have been hindered by injury, limited financial resources, or school/work schedules the chance to make Nationals. As part of the discussion, Council is continuing the endorsement policy for the winners of the Fall Sectional Championships to be within quota for the USTA National Winter Championships.

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3/21/2016  
and  
4/11/2016

JUNIOR  
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## **8. Change to Alternative Match Format: Approved**

**RESOLVED:** That effective immediately, USTA NorCal Junior Tournament Rule 21 be amended as follows (underlined language is proposed to be added; stricken through language is proposed to be deleted):

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**21. Change to Alternate Match Format.** The Tournament Committee may change the match format before the start of play in any round in a draw without notice on the tournament web page when in the Tournament Committee's discretion the change is necessary to complete the draw after inclement weather, health concerns, or safety concerns causes the tournament to fall behind its published schedule; *however*, the Tournament Committee may not switch from regular scoring to No-Ad scoring. The Tournament Committee shall use their best efforts to have all matches in a round in a draw use the same match format.

In the event the Tournament Committee has to change the match format in more than one singles draw, the Tournament Committee shall use their best efforts to use the same alternate match format in all changed singles draws. In the event the Tournament Committee has to change the match format in more than one doubles draw, the Tournament Committee shall use their best efforts to use the same alternate match format in all changed doubles draws. Once the match format in a draw has been changed, the Tournament Committee may revert back to the original match format provided that when doing all matches in a round in a draw use the same match format.

Rationale: Following a review of the Change to Alternate Match Format Rule, Council determined that it was in the best interest of the players to, when possible, permit a return to the original match format, recognizing that staff will need to educate the Tournament Committees on how to make good decisions in this area when challenged with inclement weather.

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3/21/2016  
and  
4/11/2016

JUNIOR  
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**9. Base Entry Fees & Entry Fee Refunds: Approved**

**RESOLVED:** That effective immediately, USTA NorCal Junior Tournament Rule 24.C.v. be amended as follows (underlined language is proposed to be added; stricken through language is proposed to be deleted):

**24. Entry Fees.**

**C. Refunds.** Pursuant to this section, when an entry fee refund is required the Tournament Committee shall not be obligated to refund the Tennis Link non-refundable registration fee.

**i. Withdrawals No Later than 7 Days Before Start of Tournament.** [unchanged]

**ii. Entries Not Accepted.** [unchanged]

**iii. Credits Not Permitted.** [unchanged]

**iv. Fees for Refunding Not Permitted; Administrative Fee for Full Rain Out Permitted.** [unchanged]

**v. Partial Rain Out Policy.**

**a. When Per Event Fee Charged.** No refund of the per event fee will be required to be made to a player if that player finishes one match in an event and the event is subsequently rained out.

**b. When Base Fee Charged.** No refund of the base fee will be required to be made to a player if that

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player finishes one match in in the tournament, regardless of whether it is a singles or doubles match.

A finished match is a match that takes place on court and is played to completion, meaning a player has either won a match point or has won after the start of the match because their opponent has retired or been defaulted.

Rationale: Following a review of the refund policy for Base Entry Fees, Council determined that rule effectively penalized the tournaments for weather that is beyond their control by creating a scenario where the tournament was highly likely to lose money. Council concluded that so long as a player in a base entry fee tournament completed one match, regardless of the event, it was reasonable that the player not be entitled to an entry fee refund. During the review, Council also determined there was a need to clarify the definition of the term "finished" match.

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3/21/2016  
and  
4/11/2016

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### **10.Awards: Approved**

**RESOLVED:** That effective immediately, USTA NorCal Junior Tournament Rule 30 be amended as follows (underlined language is proposed to be added; stricken through language is proposed to be deleted):

### **30. Awards.**

- A. All Round Robins.** Awards shall go to the 1st place finishers in each singles Round Robin. Medals are acceptable awards for Challenger, Open and UTR Round Robins.
- B. Non-Round Robin Challenger and Open Tournaments.** Awards shall go to the 1st and 2nd place finishers. Medals are acceptable awards for Challenger and Open Tournaments.
- C. Super Series.** Awards shall go to the 1st and 2nd place finishers in all flights.
- D. All Other Tournaments.** Singles and doubles awards shall be presented to:
  - i. 1st, 2nd, 3rd and 4th place finishers;
  - ii. when a Feed-In Championship is held, the 5th place finishers; and
  - iii. consolation winners, *except* when a Compass Draw is held the tournament is not required to give awards to the winners of all consolation draws. Medals are acceptable awards for 4th and 5th place finishers and consolation winners.
- E. Sportsmanship Awards.** Sportsmanship Awards must be presented to two players each day of a tournament. USTA NorCal shall provide the Sportsmanship Awards no later than the start date of the tournament.

Rationale: Following a review of the awards rules, Council determined they needed amending to clarify the awards presented at any round robin, regardless of the tournament type. It also determined that the Challenger rule was not adequate in that it

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didn't give clear instruction on how awards are presented when a traditional draw is held, and that the Open requirement should be the same as for Challengers.

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