

December 14, 2023

Read the latest news regarding Adult Competition in the Pacific Northwest!



Adult 40 & Over National Champions!

Congratulations Mercer Island - Yetman

The Adult 40 and Over 3.0 men's team from Mercer Island Country Club, captained by Scott Yetman, travelled to San Diego this past October for the Adult 40 & Over National Championships and brought home a National title to the Pacific Northwest!

The road to the title was not an easy one, as the MI-Yetman team navigated a variety of obstacles as they fought their way through an extremely challenging Northwest Washington league season. Team Captain, Scott Yetman tells the team's remarkable story. *I had a wide range of feelings coming off the last two seasons. It's pretty surreal to have come off of a disappointing exit from sectionals last year but to follow it up with a Nationals appearance this year and to actually come away with a National Championship is incredible. I think my biggest take away from this two year experience is just how hard it is to win at Nationals. It takes more than just a roster of strong players. There are so many exit points for a team to navigate on the road to the final match that it makes me truly appreciate each off-ramp that we passed while remaining on the expressway!*

We had 14 guys travel to San Diego and 10 played at least one match. We won the first 3 matches by winning 3 of 4 courts. Heading into the 4th match, we knew that there were 5 undefeated teams and we were in 4th place. If we wanted to ensure we played Sunday, we had to win all 4 courts to keep our lead over the 5th place team. We were able to do that by playing some of our best tennis of the tournament. My understanding is that this was the first time there's been 5 undefeated teams, so finishing 4th was just one more exit point we dodged!

Our next match would be against the top seeded powerhouse team from Philadelphia in the Semifinal. The match was super close from start to finish, but we played our best on the big points, and managed to squeak out a 2-2 split match with fewer sets lost! The final later that day would be against a very strong team from Atlanta. We needed to somehow recover from our emotional semifinal match and turn our focus to the Atlanta team.

The final turned into another nail-biter. Every point and every game seemed to go on forever! Again, somehow, against all odds, we walked off the court with another 2-2 split match that we won on the least number of sets lost. We were National Champions!

Many of my teammates are emotional and very proud of this accomplishment. I think we recognize just how many times we avoided elimination over 10 months to achieve first place. It was a lot of work, a lot of luck, and a ton of fun. For me personally, I feel really good about getting all of my players qualified as we managed through a variety of injuries and scheduling problems.

I want to thank the USTA PNW staff for all that they do for our Pacific Northwest region. I have a much better appreciation now for just how much work takes place behind the scenes.

Scott, thank you for sharing your team's story and congratulations to your entire team on winning a National Title!

Mercer Island - Yetman 3.0M Team - 2023

- Scott Yetman
- Alex Schmidt-Warneke
- Brian Selby
- Chenyang Li
- Christopher Dickinson
- Christopher Martin
- Dan Kalish
- Geoff Lieberman
- Jason Nowakowski
- Marc Rouso
- Mason Helms
- Michael Fauser
- Morgan Shook
- Richard Ayles
- Russ Carson
- Tom Bice
- Viri Hill

T-Shirt Design Winner?

2024 Design Contest Coming Soon!

In 2023, Dani McIntyre's design was voted as the best design out of the many that were sent to us as part of the 2023 T-Shirt Design Contest.

Maybe 2024 will be your year?

Your artwork will be featured on 2024 USTA PNW League Playoff and Sectional Awards and Merchandise.

A formal announcement will go out in the January Newsletter, so make sure to check in for contest details! Design submissions will be accepted through the end of February.

Our color for 2024 is Mint Green! (Pantone 352)

Get your design ideas together and stay tuned for more details!



Are you sure?

How to handle close line calls

"NO WAY! THAT BALL WAS IN!"

We've all heard these words, and probably even yelled them at some point over the course of our tennis playing careers.

Is this the best way to respond to a close line call? The answer is NO. But let's face it, it is difficult to resist yelling this or something like it while in the heat of the moment.

"One of the best lessons you can learn in life is to master how to remain calm. Calm is a super power." - Bruce Lee

How do we master the ability to remain calm?

It begins with practice and recognizing that close line calls are part of our sport. It is also important to recognize that honest mistakes happen. While watching the recent ATP Tour Finals, where the top 8 men played for the year-end championship, I was surprised to see that the tournament was using human line-officials instead of the automatic "Hawkeye live" line-calling system. Over the course of the week-long tournament, there were several "challenges" to close line calls. Most of the player's challenges did not overturn the officials line call, showing that even the top players don't always see close calls correctly. In some cases, a ball was shown to have landed one millimeter outside the line. How would a human tennis player correctly make that call 100% of the time? The answer is, that they wouldn't. My point here is that without the aid of electronic line calling, tennis players are not able to correctly call close line calls all of the time. Now that we know this, what is the best way to address close calls?

"BUT IT WAS IN. I SAW IT HIT THE LINE!"

Since we don't have the luxury of asking the chair umpire to check an electronic line calling system to clarify whether or not that shot really did hit the line, we need to find another way.

Here are some good practices for handling those close line calls:

Calm is a Super Power - be the calm in the storm. Mastering your ability to remain calm in the heat of the battle will turn a potentially difficult conflict into a peaceful resolution. If a close call occurs and you don't agree with the line call, STOP. BREATHE. TAKE A FEW MOMENTS TO GATHER YOUR COMPOSURE. This is a great time to reflect on why you are playing tennis to begin with...for fun!

Choose Your Words Carefully and How You Say Them - what you say is as important as how you say it.

"NO WAY! THAT BALL WAS IN! Can turn into something like..."That was a close one! Are you sure it was out? I'm seeing that one differently." The first response is sure to elicit a confrontational response, while the second option recognizes that it was a close call, asks for confirmation of the call, and let's your opponent know that you see the call differently. If the reply to your question is "Yes" then move onto the next point...Master Your Calm!

Practice Makes Perfect - one of our PNW league team captains recently had the fantastic idea of using their team practice sessions to practice the proper phraseology when faced with close line calls. The team was headed to Nationals and the captain felt it was important to prepare the team for every situation that may come up, including how to handle close line calls. The team discussed the best words and tone to use when faced with a close call. The captain stressed the importance of good sportsmanship at all times, and recognized that there was a way to address close line calls while still displaying good sportsmanship. So, rather than waiting for a close call to happen and then react to it, practice how you will react to a close call, because they will happen.

Bring Your Best Self to the Match - last but not least, is that you should always remember to bring the best version of yourself to every match. Had a bad day at work? Don't let that carry over to your tennis match. Tennis players have the uncanny ability to sniff out a bad attitude. Bringing yours to the court will set the tone of the match on edge, creating more opportunity for conflict. Instead of being there instigator of conflict, flip the script and be the first one to congratulate your opponents good play. Do your part to make the match fun.

Your next league tennis match WILL include one or more close calls. I hope this helps you find a better way on how to address them. Have fun and remember...Calm is your Super Power!

2024 League Section Championships

Dates and Locations

As we wrap up 2023, we turn our focus to 2024 and the Section Championship schedule.

All dates and locations have been confirmed as follows:

- ADULT 55 & OVER - JUNE 21-23, 2024 YAKIMA, WA
- MIXED 18 & OVER - JULY 12-14, 2024 BEAVERTON, OR
- ADULT 18 & OVER - AUGUST 9-11, 2024 PORTLAND, OR
- ADULT 40 & OVER - AUGUST 23-25, 2024 PORTLAND, OR
- ADULT 65 & OVER - SEPTEMBER 12-14, 2024 VANCOUVER, WA
- ONE DOUBLES - SEPTEMBER 13-15, 2024 TACOMA, WA
- MIXED 40 & OVER - SEPTEMBER 20-22, 2024 TRI CITIES, WA
- MIXED 55 & OVER - SEPTEMBER 21-23, 2024 TRI CITIES, WA

You can find more details [HERE](#)



USTA PNW Player Resources

Check out the 2024 updates

Now that you've bookmarked your [USTA PNW Leagues website](#) and taken a screenshot or printed your 2024 league calendar, here are a couple of other important documents that have been updated for 2024.

[2024 USTA League Rules & Regulations](#)

[Rules of Tennis](#)

[Friend At Court](#)

[Play By The Code - USTA PNW Sportsmanship Handbook](#)

[EZ Reference Guide - A quick reference guide for in-match situations](#)

[USTA PNW Refund Policy](#)

[TennisLink - How To's](#)

Happy Holidays!

The holidays are a time for celebrating with friends and family and as part of our USTA PNW family we want to wish you a very Happy Holiday season and a joyful New Year.

It's been an incredible year for us at USTA PNW thanks to the hundreds of players across the Pacific Northwest who share a passion for the sport of tennis. In 2023 USTA PNW saw record growth in participation, ranking #1 in the country and increasing, on average, 15% each year over the past 5 years – the highest rate of any section and double the national average.

Your commitment to growing the game has been energizing, as have the dedication and talent of our team. Thanks to the generous support of our donors, this past year we provided over 540 youth tennis scholarships helping to live out our mission "To Promote and Develop the Growth of Tennis in the Pacific Northwest."

May your holidays be bright this season and we look forward to seeing you on court in 2024!

Archive:

Read more about what's going on in the PNW!

[November 2023 Newsletter!](#)

[October 2023 Newsletter!](#)

[September 2023 Newsletter! - What type of Doubles Partner are you?, Thank You Cocol, Coordinator's Corner, Walk Up Song, What Is Flex Singles?, Do You Know The Rules?](#)

[August 2023 Newsletter! - Register Fall Leagues, Sportsmanship Shines in the PNW, Summer and Fall Tournaments, John McEnroe Speech, Coordinator's Corner, Junior Pathway, Vote Facility and Captain of the Year!](#)

[June 2023 Newsletter! - Father's Day Tribute, 2023 US Open Giveaway, Become an Official, Help Wanted!, Summer Season, Roving Eye, Coordinator's Corner](#)

[May 2023 Newsletter! - NTRP Doubles Championships, Mother's Day, T-Shirt Design Winner, Award Nominations](#)

[April 2023 Newsletter! - NTRP National Championships, Summer Leagues, EZ Guide, Ring Culture](#)

[March 2023 Newsletter! - Part 2: National Champions, Tennis News, Roving Clinic, Tournament Season, Defenders](#)

[February 2023 Newsletter! - Shine a Light On Sportsmanship!, Tennis Growth: Live Long & Prosper, T-Shirt Design Contest, Part 1: National Champions, The Roving Eye: Foot Fault!](#)

[January 2023 Newsletter! - National Champions, Captain of the Year Female, Captain of the Year Male, Sportsmanship Award, Facility of the Year, 2023 Tournament Calendar!](#)

[December 2022 Newsletter! - Captain Marvel, T-Shirt Design Contest, Coach Developer Workshop, USTA PNW #1, Store Front Reminder, SWW Mixed 18 Playoff Recap](#)

[November 2022 Newsletter! - My Tennis Journey, Summer Flex Singles Recap, 2023 League Registration, USTA Member Benefits, The Roving Eye](#)

[October 2022 Newsletter! - Bananas, Around the League, Nominations, Event Spotlight, Ball Hopper](#)