USTA Comment 1.1 (p. 4) as follows:

**USTA Comment 1.1:** Net cord tension. Adjusting net cord tension is recommended before the day's first match and before each match. The ITF recommends net cord tension be between 1.8 kN and 2.0 kN with the tension of all nets at a facility within 0.1 kN of each other. This is approximately equivalent to a net tension between 400 and 450 pounds with the tension of all nets within 25 pounds of each other. Use a net tension device when available. When a device is not available, **How do you tighten the net to the proper tension?** One method is to loosen the center strap, and tighten the net cord until the center of the net is approximately 3940 inches (991 mm) above the ground. Finally, and tighten the center strap until the center of the net is 36 inches (914 mm) above the ground. These measurements should always be made before the day’s first match and when possible before each match.

**Effective Date:** January 1, 2015

**Rationale:** This call item is being proposed in response to a request by USTA President Dave Haggerty to review the impact that net tension has on the game of tennis and to consider whether changes to Friend at Court are in order. The item conforms to ITF recommendations on net tension and makes known the availability of devices to measure the tension of the net.

Research from multiple sources including the USTA lab in White Plains, the ITF Technical Offices in London, the American Sports Builders Association, Gordy Pierce, and David Glass indicate that the tension recommended in this call item will deliver the best playability of a let cord or let serve. (Gordy Pierce and David Glass appear to own patents to net tension measuring devices.)

With the advent of the “no let” serve in men’s college tennis, the net has become a more critical component, and in many cases, a variable component of a tennis court. The Technical Committee surveyed a number of college coaches and the majority of them were in favor of each court being as consistent as possible during a match and from venue to venue throughout their season.

Although the net tension established by the “center strap pull down” method can vary widely and can damage net posts and net post foundations, the current method of tightening the net was not eliminated because many facilities do not have net tension measuring devices available. Additionally, the height to which the net is initially wound has been changed from 40” to 39” to bring it in to conformity with USTA/ASBA Tennis Courts Book. This also lessens the chance of damage.

**C&R Comment:** Regardless of whether the call item passes, a conforming change should be made to USTA Comment 1.1 to include the ITF recommendations on net tension.

**C&R Comment:** A more precise conversion of 1.8 kN is 404.7 pounds; of 2.0 kN is 449.6 pounds; and of 0.1 kN is 22.5 pounds. The Technical Committee advised Constitution and Rules that the conversions used in the call item were typically used when converting from metric to English.

**Part I: Amend USTA Regulation IX.A.9.j.i. (pp. 181-182) as follows:**
(40%) of the quota shall be based on the ratio of the Sectional Association’s junior membership enrollment to the total junior membership. Membership shall be based on the aggregate totals as of December 31 of the preceding year, 2013. The USTA shall calculate this portion of a Sectional Association’s quota by multiplying this ratio by the total quota in Table 19.

ii.  *Portion of quota based on overall junior player strength.* [unchanged]

Each Sectional Association shall have the minimum quota in Table 19. Fractional values obtained shall be rounded up in decreasing order until the total quota in Table 19 is filled.

**Part II: Amend USTA Regulation IX.A.13.g.i.** (pp. 192-193) as follows:

**IX. JUNIOR NATIONAL TOURNAMENTS AND NATIONAL RANKINGS**

A. Junior National Tournament Regulations

13. Closed USTA Regional Tournaments.

   g. *Sectional Associations’ quotas.* Each Sectional Association shall be entitled to a quota of players into its assigned USTA Regional Tournament as follows:

   i.  *Portion of quota based on Sectional Association membership.* Forty percent (40%) of the quota shall be based on the ratio of a Sectional Association’s junior membership bears to the total junior membership of all Sectional Associations in the assigned region. Membership shall be based on the aggregate totals as of December 31 of the preceding year, 2013. The USTA shall calculate the size of a Sectional Association’s portion of the quota by multiplying this ratio by 32.

   ii.  *Portion of quota based on overall junior player strength.* [unchanged]

Each Sectional Association shall have a quota of at least one. Fractional values shall be rounded up in decreasing order until the quota is filled.

**Rationale:** The Membership Innovation Study Group met over the past year and has recommended that the USTA test and implement membership products and delivery methods designed to increase participation and membership. This call item is in support of that recommendation.

The purpose of this call item is to ensure that during the testing of membership models that no change takes place to the 40% portion of any Sectional Association’s quota into USTA National Championships and Closed USTA Regional Tournaments that is determined through a ratio of the actual junior memberships. Although a Sectional Association’s quota may continue to increase or decrease, any change will be affected only by the 60% portion of quota that is determined by the strength of its junior players.

If this call item passes, it will become effective immediately; however, this will result in no change to the quotas that are being used in 2014.

**C&R Note:** On December 9, 2013 the Sectional Presidents’ Committee provided notification to the Chair of Constitution and Rules Committee that it voted to support this call item.

**Effective Date:** Immediately.