

# ***IPRO Director's Message May, 2025***

***globalracquetball.com***

***internationalracquetball.com***

In 1998 we took over the AmPRO Instructor/Programming Organization under USA Racquetball. Five years later by default; we became sole operator and next an LLC. With the evolution of the sport, adding the international (IPRO) arm was the right call. In addition, *Coaching and Officiating* options became integral parts of the organization. With the athletic club industry slowly incorporating more fitness options under one roof, indoor court sports lost some clout; and, infrastructure of courts and programs became compromised across the USA. One area of growth was in Latin America; specifically Bolivia, Chile, Costa Rica, Ecuador, and Mexico. IPRO now has certified instructors/coaches/officials representing over thirty countries. Four decades ago when I visited Japan, there were no less than two, full time racquetball instructors at most venues. Is this possible today?

The key to growth in any discipline is involvement of youth. In the USA, youth participation in racquetball has waned. At elite levels, the USA does compete well, because only a few top tier players in each age group are necessary for success. Yet; bottom-up movement is critical to sustenance and growth. Many clubs preclude those under 16 years of age from membership. We must identify those venues that do allow for access and work diligently to recruit more participants. Some state programs are successful; examples being California, Illinois, Iowa, Missouri, Oregon, and Texas.

Everyone in the sport who wishes to improve and have more enjoyment should consider getting involved in active programs; examples being private instruction and clinics, leagues, shootouts, and tournaments. The merits of the game are still apparent. Let us do a better job in promotion and recruitment.

## ***Quote of the Month***

***'Feel your emotions; do not become them' LL***

## ***UPCOMING***

June tbd	Level 1 Instructor Certification; site tbd, Rancagua, Chile, <i>Miguel Quilodran</i>
July tbd	Level 2-3 Instructor/Coach Certification, La Paz, Bolivia, <i>Rogelio Medina</i>
July 19-20	Level 1 Instructor Certification, Highpoint Sports & Wellness, <i>Gary Mazaroff</i>
August 8-9	Level 1-2 Officiating Course; Tianfu Center, Chengdu, China, <i>Gustavo Farell</i>
December 4	Level 3 Officiating Class; Duarte Complejo, Santo Dom, DR, <i>Gary Mazaroff</i>