

IPRO Director Message August, 2021

Globalracquetball.com

Defending your turf

Being territorial can be productive when the motivation is to enhance the 'greater good.' As an organization which serves the sport of racquetball throughout the world, IPRO promotes others who share its passion. Working together with other governing bodies and organizations will be a win-win venture. Because some sports share the same infrastructure, it is natural to help grow the other disciplines as well. Even when the infrastructure is not shared, exposing other brands will be a service to the general population.

Take the sport of handball. While there is some growth at the lower age spectrum, it consists mainly with the outdoor disciplines (1 wall and 3 wall) because of easy access and low cost. Most of the indoor variety is blessed with a more elderly set of participants. The introduction of 'large ball' into the arena has helped; yet, it is negligible in the big picture. The physical demands become overwhelming for many with time and with age. Dropping out is a reality; yet, seeking other means of fitness seems more palatable. One may just look over their shoulder at the adjacent court.

Now to the sport of pickleball. Hopefully, the pickleball hierarchy will not make the same mistake as those racquetball aficionados did during its heyday (mid 1970's to late 1980's). Promotion, smart dialogue between competing groups, and slow/incremental growth should be a more solid game plan. Today's demographics favor expansion, with the average age of participant in the middle bracket. Watch out for expanding too quickly as did racquetball and 'padle.'

Finally, let us take care of our own back yard; yet, let us assist and enjoy the merits of others who live down the block. There may be room for all to live together in a tranquil, fulfilling setting; one which 'promotes the greater good.'

QUOTE OF THE MONTH...

***'We're all happier when we give others a
bit of our heart instead of a piece of our mind' LL***