***IPRO Director’s Message June, 2022***

**In New Mexico, we are planning our *State Association Celebration*---*NM Racquetball 45th.* Having reviewed materials collected over that time, we can more easily reflect on our sport; where we havebeen, where we are, and where are we going.Changes; good, indifferent, and not so good, keep us engaged and keep us wondering. Let us look at the rules.**

**The 1977 USA Racquetball edition was published by Leach Industries, the dominant racquet manufacturer at that time. A couple of the accepted rules of play were not necessarily supported by the printed version (egs. 3 bounce rule while serving and 18 “ rule on screens). What follows is a list of those that have changed. Notated are those from 1977 & 2022 from A to Z:**

**…..Delay of game 1977 10 second delay for both server/receiver was a loss of serve or point awarded.**

 **2022 10 second delay from either is a referee technical (or warning 1st time).**

**…..Equipment/uniform 1977 Restricted to white or light colors 2022 All colors accepted.**

**…..Forfeiture time 1977 Failure to report for match 20 minutes after posted match time.**

 **2022 Failure to report for match 10 minutes after posted match time.**

**…..Out of court ball 1977 Off the serve (fault); during the rally with or without a bounce (replay).**

 **2022 Off the serve (out); in the rally with a bounce (replay); without (loss of rally).**

**…..Protective eyewear 1977 Not required 2022 Required during match & warmup (lensed).**

**…..Return of serve 1977 Legal to strike return if ball had crossed the short line.**

 **2022 Legal to strike after 1st bounce; or, once ball crosses plane of receiving line.**

**…..Server/partner 1977 Each may leave respective zone once served ball crosses the short line.**

 **2022 Each may leave respective zone once server makes contact.**

**…..Scoring 1977 Two out of three games; each to 21 points. Regular scoring.**

 **2022 Two out of three games; 15 pts with 11 point tiebreak. Regular scoring.**

 **IRF: three out of five games; 11 points each; win by two points.**

**…..Time-outs 1977 Three per game; 30 seconds in length. (International---3/game; 1 minute).**

 **2022 Three per games 1 & 2; 30 seconds OR 1 per game; 1 min.**

**Are we and the game better off today with the changes over time? With regard to rules; perhaps! Factoring in variables like club industry, demographics, and marketing strategies; I am not so sure.**

***UPCOMING World Games; Birmingham, AL USA 10-13 July***

***Streaming of matches daily on IRF Facebook***

***Quote of the Month: ‘Hang around those who make you a better person’ LL***