***IPRO Director’s Message February, 2021***

***Facing Reality***

**Changing lifestyles is a difficult endeavor for most of us. During this pandemic, a large segment of the population has been placed into the unenviable position of ‘having to do so.’ As members and frequent consumers at athletic clubs for many years, we are on hold or are negotiating compromises. A bright side is that we can now internalize greater options to satisfy our court fix. Will we take advantage of this opportunity? The longer one is absent from something or someone, the easier it becomes to enter a new ‘comfort zone.’ Even for the clubs that have remained open, capacity and membership have decreased. A fragile club environment exists, as does that for many industries. Some of our business leaders have filed for bankruptcy or have permanently closed many or all their doors.**

**Prior to the pandemic, many of us did not think outside the lines. Now, with time and more breathing room, we see the many practical options to play and perspire away from the clubs; using virtual and outdoor platforms. One’s personal agenda and loyalty become conflicting partners. Yet, let us consider ways to assist the clubs in their quest to remain viable:**

1. **Support and promote ALL of our clubs that have courts.**
2. **Integrate skilled programmers with passion to create win-win opportunities.**
3. **Maintain constant contact with the club administrators and owners.**
4. **Be available and be transparent.**
5. **Support the manufacturers with equipment and soft goods purchases.**

**In closing, we are the leaders and the role models. We can and should make a difference in the future of our sports and in the future of the club industry.**

**February Feature: *Rogelio Medina***

***One in a long line of the Bolivian racquetball elite! Originally from La Paz, he now resides with his wife in Temuco, Chile, where he is a professor of racquetball. Rogelio is a dedicated international IPRO clinician, as well as one of the Chilean National Team coaches. He is a master at combining theory with practice. Over the previous three years he has certified close to one hundred new and continuing students. FOTO***

**International on the Horizon:**

 **Pan Am Championships 2021; Santa Cruz, BOL Level 3 officiating course Gustavo Farell**

 **IRF 36th World Senior Champs. 2021, Albq Performance course Allan Chacon**

 **Instructor Certification, Temuco Levels 1-3 Rogelio Medina**

 **IRF Junior World Championships 2021 Level 3 officiating course Gary Mazaroff**

 **World Games, Birmingham, AL 2022 Level 3 officiating course TBA**

 **Pan Am Games; Santiago, CHI 2023 Level 3 officiating course TBA**

**Quote of the month**

***‘When life sends you rain, play in the puddles’ L Leyba***

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