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

**EOY 2021, the International Racquetball Federation Board of Directors voted to incorporate a new set of scoring rules for all ‘open’ play at future events. The change launched February 1 of this year. The upcoming Pan American Racquetball Championships (Santa Cruz, Bolivia) will be the inaugural event for implementation. Dates are April 9-16.**

**The scoring protocol is now; ‘rally scoring’, similar to squash, tennis, volleyball, and a host of other sports. Discussion for a change started brewing about five years ago. With video streaming/broadcasts becoming more prevalent, providing efficient and value oriented presentations became a huge concern. Many matches amongst professional players (mainly men), have numerous pauses due to arguing, towel time outs, and questionable officiating behavior. The addition of potential side outs without a score change can send viewers to the kitchen. Momentum and energy wane. It’s equivalent in other sports is downtime due to appeals for video review. Spectators want to watch the ‘action.’**

**Rally scoring allows each side (player or team) to earn a point at the completion of each rally (exception is a dead ball hinder). Therefore, the schedule is easier to predict and follow. Once this system will have had a year of play, a review of the benefits will be assessed. At that time the new system may be tweaked. The new/current rule is 3 out of 5 games for a match. The first four games require 15 points with a win by one point. A tiebreaker (game 5) is 11 points with a win by two points.**

**In November of 2019 we held a pro-am at Fort Bliss in El Paso, Texas. Protocol was ‘rally scoring’ across all categories; yet, matches were the best of three (15-15-11 pts.). Each game required a two point spread to win. The overall consensus from the professionals and others was ‘thumbs up’. There were two matches the entire tournament which lasted over one hour. Most matches took between 40 and 50 minutes. Comments from spectators at the venue and via streaming were positive. Most said they remained engaged throughout the matches.**

***Please take time to watch some of our matches from Santa Cruz, beginning the week of April 9th. Check them out on the IRT network. Let us know your thoughts!***

**Foto gm in Ukraine shirt**

**Quote of the month…**

**‘Allow your wounds to bring you wisdom’ Y Fierro**

**UPCOMING**

**April 7-8 Level 3 Officiating Seminar; Santa Cruz, Bolivia Dean Schear**

**July 8 Level 3 Officiating Seminar; Birmingham, AL Gary Mazaroff**

**August 28-29 Level 1-3 Performance Camp; NMSW, Albuquerque Allan Chacon**

**November Level 3 Officiating Seminar; Guatemala City, GUA Gustavo Farell**

**Dates TBD Level 1-3 Instructor Certification; Chicago, IL David Negrete**

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