

MICHIGAN RACQUETBALL ASSOCIATION

2808 S. Deerfield, Lansing, Michigan 48910 (517) 882-8789

August 1977

Issue 2

GREETINGS CLUB OWNERS AND MANAGERS!

We hope this August newsletter finds you in good health and spirits. It is the purpose of this letter to acquaint you with the Michigan Racquetball Association - an organization initially set up and organized by the United States Racquetball Assoc. headquarters in Chicago.

We have received official recognition from the State Capitol in Lansing as a non-profit corporation, started for the promotion and organization of racquetball in Michigan.

Because of the tremendous increase of clubs and players throughout Michigan, we have divided the State into three regions, each which will have its' own Regional Chairperson(s). These are the people who will co-ordinate and organize all racquetball activities within their own region, and then feed that information to our Central State Chairperson.

So that MRA members may have easier access to these Regional Chairpersons, we will be using telephone area codes as a basis for sectioning the State.

EASTERN REGION-AREA CODE 313

Gil Schmidt Home: 699-4676
Work: 358-0030
Judy Huhta Home: 588-0249

CENTRAL REGION-AREA CODE 517

Dennis Wood Home: 882-8789
Work: 373-4220

WESTERN REGION-AREA CODE 616

Bob Dykstra Home: 669-5343
Work: 942-5190

AND

John VanDerwell H: 323-3567
W: 323-0011

1977-78 TOURNAMENT CALENDAR

Because of our affiliation with the USRA, the MRA will be able to officially sanction tournaments for the upcoming season. This will enable us to provide shirts (at cost), balls, and other necessary materials for tournaments.

Our first official year will begin October 1st, 1977 and run through August 31st, 1978.

It is our intention in this, our first season, to officially

Affiliated with the United States Racquetball Association

sanction at least six State Tournaments, beginning in October through March. These tournaments will be divided among the Regions as follows:

OCTOBER: Western Region
NOVEMBER: Eastern Region
DECEMBER: Western Region

JANUARY: Central Region
FEBRUARY: Eastern Region
MARCH: State Singles -
Location open

Eventually, we would like to build a solid MRA Tour each season, with one sanctioned tournament a month. (On the order of the present Leach-Seamco Pro Tour.)

The reasons for a regular tournament calendar are both obvious and vital. Too many tournaments, held too close together only promotes scattered entries, limited funds for players, lack of enthusiasm for tournaments themselves and loss of revenue for clubs.

We are therefore now accepting bids from clubs throughout the State, who are interested in holding an MRA tournament. The person to contact will be Mr. Dennis Wood:

2808 S. Deerfield
Lansing, Mi. 48910

The deadline for bidding will be Thursday, September 15th. Criteria for bid acceptance will be judged on an individual club basis, including facilities, location, etc. All final bid offers will be voted on by MRA Regional Chairpersons.

Initial guidelines and detailed instructions for each MRA sanctioned tournament will come from Denny, and thereafter, at least one Regional Chairperson will be available for assistance on location at the tournament itself.

To assist you in advance regarding any areas in question, we have set forth the following MRA Rules and Regulations:

I. CLUB RESPONSIBILITIES:

- a. It will be mandatory that each tournament include the following divisions on their entry forms:

Men's Open, A, & B Women's Open, A, & B
Seniors (35 & over) Master's (45 & over)
Juniors (18 & under)

Note: The actual Number of entries per division will be left up to the club itself.

- b. Hospitality will be up to the club.
- c. Cash money and/or prizes will be up to the club.
- d. Seamco balls, at no cost to the club, must be used.
- e. Shirts or shorts, with MRA Acknowledgment, must be provided each player. Shirts, with no printing, are available for \$2.00 each; with printing, \$2.50.
- f. Entry fees for open events will be \$20.00.
All other events will be \$15.00.
- g. 50¢ of each entry fee will go directly to the MRA.
- h. There must be a consolation round for each division.

II. PLAYER RESPONSIBILITIES:

- a. Eligibility: Players from out-of-state may enter any tournament except for the State Singles, which will be open to Michigan Residents only.

Eligibility (cont'd):

All players must be members of USRA/MRA and be able to show cards upon registration.

- b. Players may not enter more than one event.
- c. Players must play in at least 2 MRA sanctioned tournaments to be eligible for play in the State Singles Championships in March.
- d. For any players involved in the USRA/NRC Pro Tour: Tournament results from the above will have no bearing on MRA tournaments, in regard to prize money or seeding.
- e. The winner of each match MUST referee the next match on that court or automatically forfeit his or her match.
- f. Entry deadlines will be strictly adhered to. Entries will be set up on a 1st come, 1st serve basis. NO exceptions will be made.
- g. State Singles Results from March 1977 - 1st and 2nd place winners of each division from last Springs tournament will maintain that seeding for this years' State Singles.
- h. Limitations on division entrants:
 - I. Open division: None
 - II. A Division:
 - a. A players may play in Open Division.
 - b. A players accepting \$25.00 cash prize for any tournaments (in any state) must move up to Open.
 - c. A Players may refuse cash prizes and remain in A division.
 - III. B Divisions:
 - a. Player may not have been a finalist, (1st or 2nd place) in any B Division, whether in Mich. or out-of-state.

In conclusion, we feel that we have made a good start for the promotion of racquetball in Michigan. Keep in mind that tournaments, small or large, are the lifeblood of this sport, not only for players and fans, but for you, the clubs, as well.

We would appreciate your posting this letter somewhere in your club, so that everyone may be aware of our existence and function.

Again, the deadline to put a bid in for your club is Sept. 15th. There will be a newsletter sent out to all USRA/MRA members the 1st of October. If you wish anything published in the October newsletter, the deadline is also Sept. 15th.

We're looking forward to a long and progressive relationship with you, the court clubs here in Michigan. We welcome your support and encouragement.

Yours for Racquetball,

Denny Wood
State Chairperson

Regional State Co-Chairpersons:
Gil Schmidt
Judy Huhta
Bob Dykstra
John VanDerwell