



Welcome to ILLINOIS RACQUETBALL

ISRA membership helps racquetball grow in Illinois

What does your ISRA membership provide?

- 6 issues of Racquetball Magazine
- 6 issues of the ISRA newsletter
- Full Season of Sanctioned State, Regional and National Tournaments
- ISRA Travel League
- USRA National Rankings
- ISRA Computerized Seeding System
- Sponsorship of Junior Team Illinois
- ISRA Website (<http://www.illinoisracquetball.com>)
- Membership Promotions
- AmPRO Instructional Clinics
- USRA medical, life and liability insurance at sanctioned events

All this for only \$20. (Price rises to \$30 as of 1/1/02.) Junior memberships only \$15 or \$10 without USRA Magazine

**Support Illinois
Racquetball. Join
the ISRA Today!!!**

Welcome to the ISRA!

The ISRA (Illinois State Racquetball Association) is a group of approximately 1,000 Illinois racquetball enthusiasts looking to play and promote the sport of racquetball in Illinois. We are affiliated with the USRA (United States Racquetball Association), a member of the United States Olympic Committee.

The ISRA is the organizing body for racquetball in Illinois and is governed by an all-volunteer Board of Directors, who happen to have a passion for the sport of racquetball. The mission of the ISRA is to promote racquetball in the state of Illinois and to serve as the sanctioning arm of the USRA for racquetball events held in Illinois.

The ISRA sponsors many programs and events including Junior Team Illinois for players 18 and under, junior clinics, rules clinics, and a nationally renowned travel league. We run the Illinois State Racquetball Singles and Doubles Championships, publish a bi-monthly newsletter and maintain a comprehensive web site at www.illinoisracquetball.com.

Why should **YOU** join the ISRA? Because the ISRA is your resource for racquetball, whether it's training information, information on where to play, tournament applications and results, rankings, or you are just looking for people to play in your area. The ISRA can serve as your connection to racquetball activities, whether you are a recreational player, a "used to play" player or even if you aspire to become a professional. All of the information is in one place!

As the President of the ISRA, I would like to invite you to **try us out**. The annual membership fee is \$20 if you join by December 31, 2001. However, we will offer a **\$5 discount** to anyone who joins using the membership application in this publication. (Please note: The fee will increase to \$30, effective January 1, 2002, so sign up now.) Hope to see you on the courts.

Laurel Davis
ISRA President

What's on the ISRA Website?

**The ISRA website is the
place to go to find out
What's Happening with
Illinois Racquetball**

Upcoming events

Junior Team Home Page

USRA State Rankings

Season Schedule

Tournament Results

ISRA Membership
Application

ISRA Tournament
Applications

Club Locator

ISRA E-mail List

Past Season Results

Who's Moving Up
on the ISRA
Tournament Circuit

Who's winning on the ISRA
Tournament Circuit

Racquetball Links

Official Rules

Come out and see us soon.

[http://
www.illinoisracquetball.com](http://www.illinoisracquetball.com)



"Getting Started in Racquetball"

One of the great things about Racquetball is how easy it is to get started. It's really as simple as 1, 2, 3. Just follow these steps and you will be on your way to becoming hooked on a sport that's fun, inexpensive, and gives you a GREAT workout!

1. Identify a club in your area that supports racquetball. (See Bill Lyman's article on how to choose a club.)

2. Choose your equipment. All you need is a racquet (\$20 - \$200), eyewear (\$10 - \$35), a good pair of indoor court shoes (\$50 - \$100), and a can of balls (\$3). Most clubs will rent or loan racquets and balls to players.

3. Take a lesson. As in any sport it helps to learn the correct rules and techniques from the beginning. This will add to your enjoyment of the game and will help you progress

quicker. Some clubs offer free introductory lessons. If possible, I suggest investing in a couple of lessons from an AmPro certified instructor.

That's all there is to it! Racquetball is relatively easy to pick up and enjoy. Once you get "hooked", it's a good idea to join a league, play on a challenge court, and even test your skills at a tournament. These are great ways to meet new people and to challenge yourself to improve. If you don't think you are ready for tournament play just yet, check out the ISRA schedule and drop by an event sometime. They are free to the public and a great way to see the game played at all different levels.

It's always more fun to start a new adventure with a friend. So grab a pal and hit the courts together!

— Chris Evon



Chris Evon is a former professional player. She has won numerous singles and doubles titles at the State, Regional, and National levels. She is an AmPro certified clinician and has spent many hours teaching players to enjoy the sport. Chris currently is the Promotions Manager for Wilson Racquetball in Chicago.

Choosing And Using A Racquetball Club

Finding a racquetball club in Illinois is an easy process. With 62 clubs in the Chicagoland area alone, choosing among the available options is the difficult process. (For a complete list of Chicagoland clubs and a growing list of downstate clubs, check the Illinois website <http://www.illinoisracquetball.com>). This offers a tremendous advantage to Illinois racquetball players looking for a club to suit their needs.

With so many options to choose from, selecting the right club becomes a very personal issue. Details such as location, cost, availability of other services are very important factors in picking a club. However, for racquetball players, there are a number of services that make a club stand out versus its competition. When joining a club, look for the following features:

1. Does the club have an instructor or club pro available to introduce you to the game and to provide private or group lessons? As described above, your enjoyment of the game will increase as your skills increase. Ask about lesson rates and if the club offers free introductory lessons.

2. Look for a club that offers to introduce you to other players at your level. Finding regular competition not only provides steady exercise but makes it fun, too. Make

sure that you add your name to the list of names of players looking for opponents. Seeing different styles of play helps bring your game up the learning curve.

3. Find a club that offers social racquetball events. This is a great way to meet other players and to interact off and on the court.

4. Inquire if your club offers league play. This will keep you playing on a regular basis and will also indicate if the club is supportive of racquetball players. A number of leagues at different levels of ability offer you the chance to move up as you improve.

5. Ask about tournaments or travel team options. At first you may not be interested in these more competitive events. However, after you start to improve and become a regular player you may want to join an organized event. Tournament levels begin at the Novice level (never played in a tournament before) with additional levels at the D, C, B, A, and Open (the most advanced) level. Older players can enjoy age-group matches so they don't have to face those young guns running all over the court. Juniors from 8 years on up also have their own divisions at some area tournaments. Check the ISRA website for tournament information outside your home club.

6. Some clubs also provide challenge courts, where the winner stays on the court and the loser steps back in line to wait for another chance to play. Challenge courts are a fun way to play a lot of different competitors during one visit, without the commitment to show up at a set time.

7. A club that provides a small pro shop is a helpful option. Too often, beginning players grab that old racquet from 10 years ago when they get back on the court. Technology has changed so quickly in the past few years that you really miss some of the enjoyment of the game without some of the latest equipment.

First impressions are everything. You must feel welcome and comfortable with the people who work at the club. Racquetball is a great sport and one that you can play for a lifetime. I hope these thoughts help you find a club that fits your needs.

—Bill Lyman

Bill has been playing racquetball for 23 years and is a 5 time National Champion. He has 20 ISRA State Championships, 16 Regional and 2 US Open Titles. He is a Board member of the ISRA and has won the ISRA Player-of-the-Year title 3 times. Bill is a Wilson Racquetball Elite team member and is the club pro at the Oak Park Athletic Club in Oak Park, Illinois.



ISRA

2001-2002 TOURNAMENT CALENDAR

2002

September 22
Wilson Women's
One Day Classic
Athletic Club at Bloomingdale
Dave Negrete (630) 893-9577

October 5-7
Octoberfest
Edens Athletic Club
Cindy Flores (773) 286-6700

October 12-14
17th Annual Masters
Athletic Club at Bloomingdale
Rich Clay (847) 918-7407

October 19-21
Ed Lembitz Memorial
B.R. Ryall YMCA Fall Open *
B.R. Ryall YMCA, Glen Ellyn
Sean Nelson (630) 858-0100

October 25-28
Halloween Classic
IRT Men's Pro Stop *
Athletic Club at Bloomingdale
Dave Negrete (630) 893-9577

November 3-4
The Southlake Fall Open *
The Southlake Club, Mundelein
Kathy Logic (847) 949-8180

November 8-11
Glass Court Turkey Shoot *
Glass Court Swim & Fitness, Lombard
Doug Halverson (630) 629-3390

December 7-9
Wilson Holiday Classic *
Oak Park Athletic Club
Bill Lyman (708) 848-5200

January 10-13
Revie Sorey Celebrity Classic
World Gym, Palatine
Laurel Davis (847) 971-9300

January 17-20
Women's Senior/Masters Championship
Players Athletic Club, Warren, MI
Diane Courtney (810) 774-6900

January 19
Doubles Tune-Up
The Southlake Club, Mundelein
Kathy Logic (847) 949-8180

January 25-27
ILLINOIS STATE DOUBLES *
Glass Court Swim & Fitness, Lombard
Tom Griffith (630) 629-3390

February 1-3
B.R. Ryall YMCA Winter Classic *
B.R. Ryall YMCA, Glen Ellyn
Sean Nelson (630) 858-0100

February 8-10
7th Annual Olympic Open
Palos Olympic
Tom Utterback (708) 974-1900

February 14-17
St. Valentines Day Massacre
LPRA Women's Pro Stop *
Athletic Club at Bloomingdale
Dave Negrete (630) 893-9577

March 1-3
Landmark Invitational
Peoria, IL
Terry Sutton (309) 685-8200

March 8-10
Negrete Open *
Athletic Club at Bloomingdale
Dave Negrete (630) 893-9577

March 14-17
Shamrock Shootout *
Glass Court Swim & Fitness, Lombard
Doug Halverson (630) 629-3390

March 22-24
Edens March Madness
Edens Athletic Club
Cindy Flores (773) 286-6700

April 5-7
30th ISRA STATE SINGLES
CHAMPIONSHIPS *
Athletic Club at Bloomingdale
Laurel Davis (630) 893-9577

April 19-21
Ektelon/USRA REGIONAL
CHAMPIONSHIPS *
Athletic Club at Bloomingdale
Dave Negrete (630) 893-9577

April 26-28
Illini Classic
Downtown YMCA
The Fitness Center, Champaign
Jason (217) 356-1616

* Denotes special Junior Focus Tournament

SUPPORT ILLINOIS RACQUETBALL! JOIN THE ISRA NOW!

Receive 6 issues of *USRA Magazine*, 6 issues of the *ISRA Newsletter*, a USRA Competitive License, support for Junior Team Illinois, the ISRA Website, Tournaments, Travel League, National & State Ranking System, and USRA Medical, Life and Liability Insurance at sanctioned events.



NAME _____
ADDRESS _____
CITY _____ STATE/ZIP _____
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BIRTHDATE _____

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2291 Shannondale Rd.
Libertyville, IL 60048

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Total enclosed \$

*\$15 with this ad only. Price increases to \$30.00 after 12/30/01. To save money, you can prepay any number of years at the \$20.00 rate.

All memberships are for one year, and include a subscription to RACQUETBALL Magazine (six times/year) and the Illinois Newsletter (six times/year).

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