

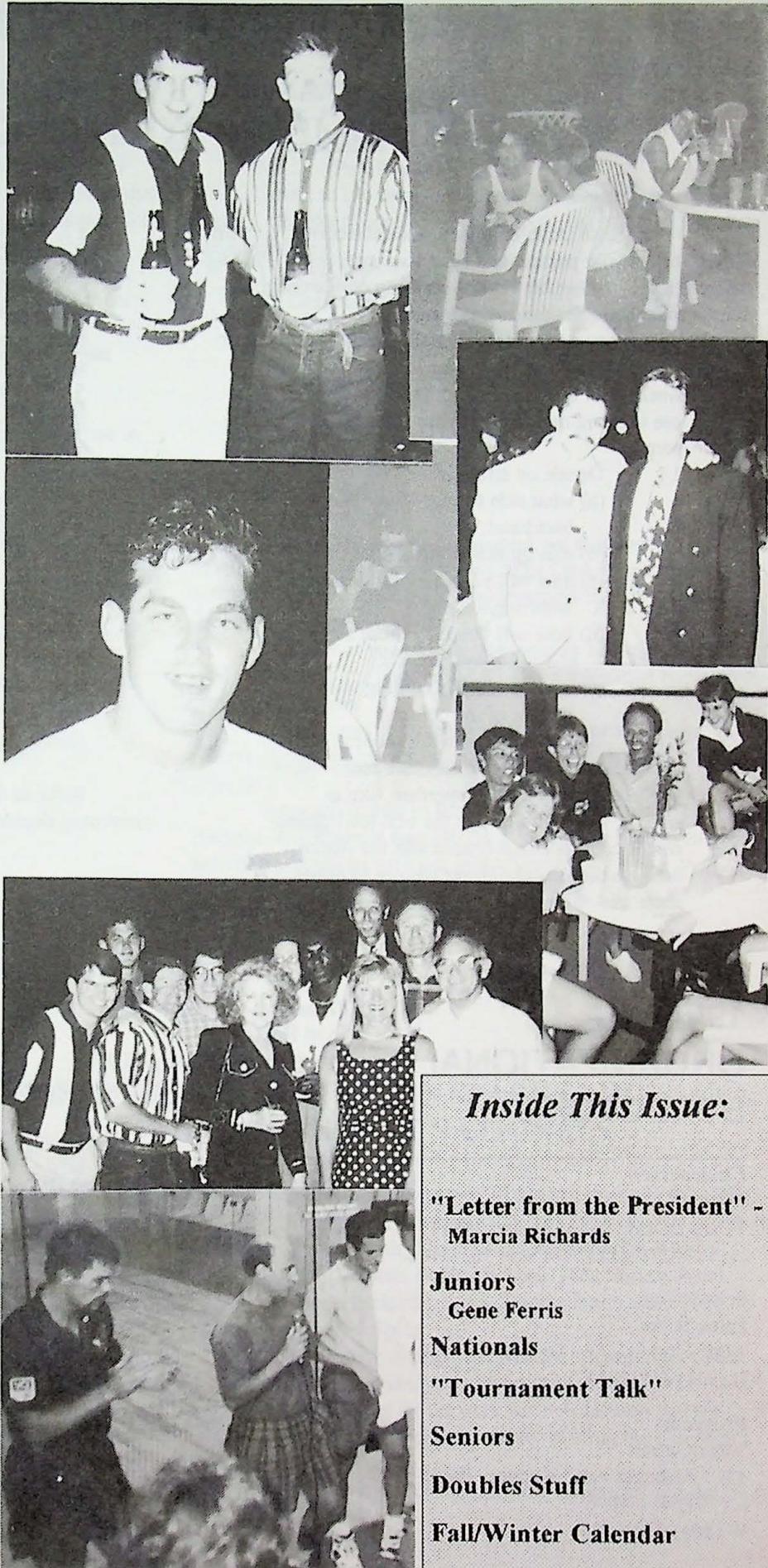
DOWN THE LINE

LOUISIANA RACQUETBALL ASSOCIATION

"DEDICATED TO
PROMOTING THE GAME
OF RACQUETBALL"

September, 1994 Vol 16, No. 9

The Louisiana Racquetball Association
3609 Perkins Road, Suite F
Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70808
(504) 346-8657



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Marcia Richards

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Gene Ferris

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LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

IT IT IS IS TIME TIME TO TO THINK THINK DOUBLES !

With "State Doubles" just around the corner, it is time for you to get your partner and plan your strategies. Playing doubles is a lot of fun but if you just jump on the court and expect to feel comfortable... think again.

Here are some pointers that may help you get ready:

1.) Play doubles at least once or twice a week, even if it is with another partner. Get use to being on the court with three other people.

2.) Decide on strategy:

- (a) what side to play--forehand or backhand;
- (b) side by side or up and back;
- (c) how will you cover pinches and wide angle passes;
- (d) how will you play those around the world and Z balls;
- (e) who takes balls coming to the middle of the court.

3.) When receiving serve squeeze the middle so you give yourself more room--more like playing singles. Remember, like in singles, the team that does the best job holding center court position should win the match, because they stand a better chance to return shots and end rallies.

4.) When you hit allow yourself to set up and move just like you would when playing singles, but remember doubles play requires an even keener attention to strategy than singles because you need to adjust to the positions, strengths, and weaknesses of three players.

5.) Talk! Communicate with your partner during the rallies. Ordinarily, the stronger player takes responsibility for calling shots, announcing "mine" or "yours" before responding to an opponent's shot.

6.) Have Some Fun! Hold up if you feel someone is hindering you, but don't be taken advantage of. Appeal to the referee if an opponent is systematically blocking your shot. With this in mind, exercise good sense and appropriate caution by staying clear of your opponents when it is their turn to hit the ball.

7.) Ladies, don't be shy. Pick out a good partner before they are gone!

Refer to the article on page 7 for the AARA rules governing doubles play.

MARCI A RICHARDS

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Jamie Arroyave

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Gene Ferris	Jules Sachs

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Carrie Landry-New Orleans
Mandy Farris-Baton Rouge

Area Representatives

Al Schof-New Orleans
Barry Day-Baton Rouge
Kim Allen-North Louisiana

WHAT'S GOING ON WITH JUNIOR RACQUETBALL?

Good things are happening and it's only the beginning.

Four of the five state team members competed in the Junior Nationals in June: Mark Bloom competed in the 16 & Under and made it to the round of 16 in Gold Division and finished 2nd in Gold Doubles; Davina Bloom competed in the girls 14 & Under. She took 4th in Red Singles and 4th in Gold Doubles. (This is her first year of tournament play.); Jareth Rosman competed in the 10 & Under and took 2nd place in Blue Singles; David Anastasio competed in the 16 & Under and played three tough matches;

Nick Laird (12), our fifth member of the State Team, was unable to make it to the Nationals this year.

With a four division format, all participants are guaranteed at least three games. This same method is used in the World Junior Tournament which is scheduled for December in Jacksonville, Florida.

Franco's Athletic Club hosted a state-wide junior tournament on July 23, 1994 and it was lots of fun for all. Tournament results are:

8 & Under

1st	Laura Garrett (Metairie)
2nd	Matt Fleubaum (Mandeville)
3rd	Sara Garrett (Metairie)

10 & Under

1st	Jareth Rosman (Metairie)
2nd	Brandon McGraw (Baton Rouge)
3rd	John Diaz (Baton Rouge)

12 & Under

1st	Jareth Rosman
2nd	Nick Laird (Covington)
3rd	Trey Pinegar (Baton Rouge)

14 & Under

1st	Nick Laird
2nd	Davina Bloom (Metairie)
3rd	Ryan Boehm (Harahan)

LRA'S, EKTELON'S, EVERYBODY'S : MARK BLOOM

Congratulations to Louisiana's Mark Bloom who once again has excelled in his young racquetball career. Bloom recently returned from the Elite Olympic Training Center where he was one of eleven young men and women selected to the U.S. National Junior Team. This may come as no surprise to LRA members and friend that know him.

Bloom has represented Louisiana very well in national events through his superior game and fine sportsmanship. He has been elected the MVP for Team Ektelon for the past two years, won several state junior titles, and captured the 1994 men's open state title.

The LRA wishes Mark Bloom good luck at the Ektelon U.S. National Doubles Championships in October. Make Louisiana proud!

16 & Under

1st	Mark Bloom (Metairie)
2nd	David Anastasio (Mandeville)
3rd	Pete Nuss (Metairie)

Others in the tournament received a nice "participant trophy." (thanks to our sponsors) The names of the other participants are:

12 & Under

Bo Deshotels
Justin Scalfano

Tim Grove

14 & Under

Tim Grove
Laurence Landon
Stephanie Braud

16 & Under

Adam Goldate

Although participation is good, we still need your help to strengthen the juniors program. The LRA is looking for members and clubs to host junior programs such as tournaments, leagues, clinics, etc.

So if you or your cub is interested in hosting a juniors event please call me and the LRA will be more than happy to assist and promote.

Also, if any LRA members or club pros know any juniors playing or interested in racquetball, make sure they give me a call.

A special thanks to Elmwood Fitness Center in Harahan and Racquet Run Health & Fitness in Ruston for their help and promotion with our juniors program.

Thanks,

GENE FERRIS

(504) 626-5423

COMPETITION SPARKS LOUISIANA INTEREST AT NATIONALS

Congratulations to our LRA participants in the 1994 "Nationals", held in Houston, May 25 - 30: Kim Allen, Jamie Arroyave, Bob Baudry, John Davis, Gene Ferris, Vicki Garrett, Cyril Hentze, Bobby Jackson, John Parker, Ryan Miller, Marcia Richards, Larry Sharpe, Pattie Schof, Jo Shattuck, Debbie Spica,

This year's participation was the biggest ever, which shows that Louisiana is moving up in the ranks.

A special pat on the back for Bob Jackson, LRA's adopted Mississippi Open player, for placing third in Men's A.

Thank you all for representing Louisiana and the LRA!

1994 TOURNAMENT RESULTS**ELMWOOD FITNESS CENTER****JUNE CLASSIC****June 24, 1994 - June 26, 1994****Men's Open**

1st David Rahn
 2nd John Davis
 3rd Byron Williams
 Cons Jim Bayhi

Men's D

1st Matt Warren
 2nd Robert Vance
 3rd Jason Aguillard
 Cons Michelle Creel

Women's C

1st Nikki Lilly
 2nd Christy VanGruben
 3rd Paige Holstein
 Cons Michelle Creel

Men's Open/A Doubles

1st Al Schof/Byron Williams
 2nd Bobby Jackson/Steve Rogers
 3rd Mike Fibich/Rory Arcement
 Cons Al Kovatch/J.D. Dedeabant

Men's A

1st Keith Brown
 2nd Kim Allen
 3rd Chris Ladner
 Cons James Lilly

Men's 45+

1st Al Reagle
 2nd James Bixler
 3rd Brant Houston
 Cons Hugh Foster

Women's D

1st Clara Simien
 2nd Christine Quinn
 3rd Christine Rola
 Cons Sandra Almerico

Men's B Doubles

1st Michael Harris/R.J. Tamplain
 2nd Benny Thompson/
 Tyrone Martin
 3rd Al Kovatch/J.D. Dedeabant
 Cons Al Reagle/Dale Lambert

Men's B

1st Tyrone Martin
 2nd Ray Hamey
 3rd R.J. Tamplain
 Cons Brian Racasner

Women's A

1st Barbara Berger
 2nd Pattie Schof
 3rd Jan Nick
 Cons Helen Ingram

Boys' 14 & Under

1st Jeffrey Griffin, Jr.

Men's C

1st Charles Hester
 2nd Dwight Payne
 3rd Roy Raziano
 Cons Vaughn Schmitt

Women's B

1st Helen Ingram
 2nd Nikki Lilly
 3rd Daren Ladner
 Cons Christy VanGruben

Boys' 10 & Under

1st Sean Jere

Girls' 10 & Under

1st Danielle Ricks

Mixed Doubles

1st Jim Bayhi/Sharon Lester
 2nd Mark Fusilier/
 Christy VanGruben
 3rd Cyril Hentze/Vicki Garrett
 Cons Pattie Schof/Al Schof

WORLD GYM**KILL SHOT CLASSIC #6****July 15, 1994 - July 17, 1994****Men's Open**

1st Scott Davis
 2nd Charles Pecot
 3rd David Rahn

Men's A

1st Robert Reuther
 2nd Cyril Hentze
 3rd Terrence Pierce

Men's C

1st Roger Anastasio
 2nd Pattie Schof
 3rd Vaughn Schmitt

Men's Open/A Doubles

1st Scott Davis/Charles Pecot
 2nd Al Schof/Mike Fibich
 3rd John Davis/Ryan Miller

Men's B

1st R.J. Tamplain
 2nd Rich Sousa
 3rd James Bixler

Men's D

1st Fritz Owens
 2nd George Bedford
 3rd Ricky Willis

LOUISIANA'S KIM ALLEN SHINES AT THE U.S. OLYMPIC FESTIVAL

The 1994 A.A.R.A. National Championships in May was an important tournament for Louisiana's Kim Allen as she had some very specific goals that she was focusing on. Although Kim had proved her superior racquetball ability by winning many state and regional titles, she has not been pleased with her play at the national level. Kim was always physically prepared and capable, however she often lacked the mental toughness and confidence necessary to compete with the top female racquetball athletes.

Kim was successful in her pursuit at the nationals as she was able to put together all of the winning elements to place 12th in the Women's Open division. Placing within the top 16th qualified her to compete at the U.S. Olympic Festival Racquetball tournament. She had now proved to herself that she was a winner. Mental toughness and an increase in confidence proved to be the key factors that helped to put her beyond state and regional level of competition.

The U.S. Olympic Festival Racquetball tournament was held July 4th through July 10th in St. Louis. The top 16 qualifiers were divided into four flights, each playing a round robin format. The four flight winners then played to determine the medal winners. Although eager, Kim was nervous going into the match with the number one seed, Robin Levine, who at the nationals had surprisingly defeated Michelle Gould to win the gold. Kim lost the first game to Robin even though she felt strong and competitive. In a surprising comeback in the second game, she became very aggressive and dominated a bewildered Levine. Levine was beside herself that a virtual unknown player had beaten her. Although Levine went on to win the overall competition, Kim also went home a big winner. She proved to herself and others that she is a top contender at the highest level of this great game of racquetball.

Congratulations Kim, we are all proud of you!!

VICKI GARRETT

**ELMWOOD'S PRO-AM SUMMER COOLER
RACQUETBALL CHAMPIONSHIPS
August 10, 1994 - August 11994**

\$15,000.00 PROFESSIONAL RESULTS

1ST	Cliff Swain
2ND	Tim Doyle
SEMI's	Ruben Gonzales Mike Guidry

Men's Open

1st Brian Rankin
2nd Dave Sable
3rd Jeff Bloom
Cons James Bayhi

Men's A

1st Ted Alvendia
2nd Hershel Horton
3rd Eric Fusilier
Cons D.J. Rieder

Men's B

1st Richard Farrington
2nd Steve Wood
3rd R.J. Tamplain
Cons Roy Ronquilla

Men's C

1st Charles Hester
2nd Brian Kashman
3rd Roy Raziano
Cons Robert Lowry

Men's 30+

1st Lance Landry
2nd Kenneth Green
3rd Larry Sharpe
Cons James Lilly

Men's 40+

1st Jim Therrell
2nd Ken Vanzandt
3rd John Parker
Cons Al Reagle

Men's 50+

1st Warren Reuther
2nd Pete Petty
3rd Dirk Stronk
Cons Gene Ferris

Women's Open

1st Kim Allen
2nd Marcia Richards
3rd Debbie Spica
Cons Vicki Garrett

Women's A

1st Karen Kattengel
2nd Jan Nick
3rd Pattie Schof
Cons Nikki Lilly

Women's B

1st Ingrid Davis
2nd Nikki Lilly
3rd Carrie Landry
Cons Mandy Farris

Women's C

1st Pat Perry
2nd Sally Johnson
3rd Davina Bloom
Cons Barbara Day

Men's Open Doubles

1st Bucky Freeman/Mark Bloom
2nd Charles Pecot/Jeff Bloom
3rd Steve Rogers/Bob Jackson
Cons Freddie Wilks/James Bayhi

Men's A/B Doubles

1st Kreg Kadthik/John Alvendia
2nd Jack Jeter/Hershel Thornton
3rd Ray Rivera/Roy Laudumiey
Cons Al Reagle/Brian Recasner

Women's B Doubles

1st Sally Johnson/Pat Perry
2nd Rina Rodriguez/Rosie Bloom
3rd Carrie Landry/Mandy Farris
Cons Neyda Leslie/Michelle Creel

CALENDAR

EKTELON U.S. NATIONAL DOUBLES CHAMPIONSHIPS

Racquetpower, Jacksonville, FL

October 19, 1994 - October 23, 1994

WHEELCHAIR RACQUETBALL & BASKETBALL CLINIC

Elmwood Fitness Center, Harahan, LA

October 22, 1994 - 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

LOUISIANA STATE DOUBLES CHAMPIONSHIPS

Calloway's Court Club, Baton Rouge, LA

October 28, 1994 - October 30, 1994

ELMWOOD FITNESS CENTER TURKEY SHOOT

Elmwood Fitness Center, Harahan, LA

November 18, 1994 - November 20, 1994

IRF WORLD JUNIOR CHAMPIONSHIPS

Racquetpower, Jacksonville, FL

December 17, 1994 - December 21, 1994

ATTENTION CLUB OWNERS/PRO'S:

Please contact Pattie Schof, (504) 468-2813, regarding scheduling 1995 tournaments. Tournaments added to the schedule early will receive added coverage in *Racquetball U.S.A.*,

**GOT A GRIPE?
FULL OF
PRAISE?**

We want to hear from you. About everything regarding your organization. If we don't receive your input, we can't correct the problems that we have. On the same note, we would like to hear from you when you like what's going on.

Please direct all correspondence to me at 1749 42nd St., Apt. D., Kenner, LA 70065. Your letters will be responded to personally by mail and both the letter and the response will be published in the next issue of *Down the Line*.

HOPE TO HEAR FROM YOU!

Al Schof

Deadline for the next newsletter is November 1, 1994

THE FOLLOWING IS CLASSIFIED INFORMATION:

The following are guidelines approved by the Professional Association of Racquetball Professionals (PARI) that will help you determine an accurate skill level for you.

What is a "D" Player? A player who is just beginning to receive instructions. Lacks playing experience. Is in the process of learning, safety, rules, forehand and backhand strokes, Z serves, backwall shots, angles, passing shots and is ready to start participating in club leagues and friendly competition.

What is a "C" Player? A player who has played over six months, plays frequently, and is developing strengths in the basics listed above for a "D" player. Level of knowledge is rising and can execute most shots with some precision, i.e., ceiling, pinches, pass shots, and an occasional kill shot. Has taken an occasional lesson and has attended a racquetball clinic. Has started entering small tournaments and has an extra racquet.

What is a "B" Player? A player who plays regularly and has found time to practice on their own to perfect their

shots. Has good knowledge of court strategy and positioning. Has good knowledge of offense and defense situations. Is able to select the proper shot most of the time. Probably is still inconsistent but improving. Is developing patience and is able to accept tips on their game from better players. Shows interest in private racquetball lessons and instructional camps. Participates in most club events, i.e. club tournaments, leagues, round robins and etc.

What is an "A" Player? A player who plays regularly. Is a top player in the club. Trains for racquetball and both backhand and forehand strokes are near equal. Has high level of knowledge. High percentage of executing most shots and has no apparent weakness. Perfected the kill shot and now re-kills opponents attempted kill shots. Can and probably does compete in sanctioned tournaments. May seek to participate in the AARA Elite Camp and either has a coach or is seeking a coach.

CALLING ALL SENIOR RACQUETBALL PLAYERS (OVER AGE 55)

In 1993 Racquetball was finally added to the U.S. National Senior Olympics (USNSO). The name has been changed to Senior Sports Classic. This event is held nationally every two years. The 1993 event was held in Baton Rouge where 189 participants turned out for the racquetball event.

Louisiana has one national champion--Danny Lyons from Mandeville (75+ age division). **GREAT JOB!**

To qualify for the Nationals, you must:

- 1.) Qualify in the top three in your age group in the state games (October 18, 1994 - October 24, 1994);
- 2.) Finish in the top three in a national championship competition. For racquetball, this includes: AARA U.S. National Singles, AARA U.S. National Doubles, U.S. National Masters Racquetball Championship, Golden Masters Championship, and U.S. National Women Senior Championship.

While the deadline has past for entry in the state senior games, we hope that our seniors will be successful in next year's games.

Results of 1993 Louisiana USNSO are as follows:

Men's 55-59

1st	Webb Marcantel
2nd	Tommy Lofton
3rd	Thomas Wilson
4th	Jerry Juneau

Ladies 60-64

1st	Babe English
-----	--------------

Men's 60-64

1st	Gene Ferris
2nd	Fred Frey
3rd	C.J. Glynn
4th	Roland Rojas

Ladies 65-69

1st	Mary E. Norckauer
-----	-------------------

Men's 65-69

1st	George Williams
2nd	John Graham
3rd	Paul Tabary
4th	Roy Hoffmann

Men's 70-74

1st	Cecil Thomas
-----	--------------

Men's 75-79

1st	Danny Lyons
-----	-------------

Gene Ferris

AARA RULES - DOUBLES

Rule 1.1 - TYPES OF GAMES

Racquetball may be played by two or four players. When played by two it is called singles and when played by four, doubles. A non-tournament variation of the game that is played three players is called cutthroat.

Rule 1.3 - OBJECTIVE

The objective is to win each rally by serving or returning the ball so the opponent is unable to keep the ball in play. A rally is over when a player (or team in doubles) is unable to hit the ball before it touches the floor twice, is unable to return the ball in such a manner that it touches the front wall before it touches the floor, or when a hinder is called.

Rule 1.4 - POINTS AND OUTS

Points are scored only by the serving side when it serves an irretrievable serve (an ace) or wins a rally. Losing the serve is called a sideout in singles. In doubles, when the first server loses the serve it is called a handout and when the second server loses the serve it is a sideout.

Rule 1.6 - DOUBLES TEAM

(a) A doubles team shall consist of two players who meet either the age requirements or player classification requirements to participate in a particular division of play. A team with different skill levels must play in the division of the player with the higher level of ability. When playing in an adult age division, the team must play in the division of the younger player. When playing in a junior age division, the team must play in the division of the older player.

(b) A change in playing partners may be made so long as the first match of the posted team has not begun. For this purpose only the match will be considered started once the teams have been called to the court. The team must notify the tournament director of the change prior to the beginning of the match.

Rule 4.7 - SERVE IN DOUBLES

(a) **Order of Serve.** Each team shall inform the referee of the order of service which shall be followed throughout that game. The order of serve may be changed between games. At the beginning of each game, when first server of the first team to serve is out, the team is out. Thereafter, both players on each team shall serve until the team received a handout and a sideout.

(b) **Partner's Position.** On each serve, the server's partner shall stand erect with back to the side wall and with both feet on the floor within the service box from the moment the server begins the service motion until the served ball passes the short line. Violations are called foot faults. However, if the server's partner enters the safety zone before the ball passes the short line, the server loses service.

Rule 4.16 - AVOIDABLE HINDERS

An avoidable hinder results in the loss of the rally. An avoidable hinder does not necessarily have to be an intentional act and is the result of any of the following:

(a) **Failure to Move.** A player does not move sufficiently to allow an opponent a shot straight to the front wall as well as a cross-court hot which is a shot directly to the

front wall at an angle that would cause the ball to rebound directly to the rear corner farthest from the player hitting the ball. Also when a player moves in such a direction that prevents an opponent from taking either of these shots.

(b) **Stoke Interference.** This occurs when a player moves, or fails to move, so that the opponent returning the ball does not have a free, unimpeded swing. This includes unintentionally moving the wrong direction which prevents an opponent from making an open offensive hot.

(c) **Blocking.** Moves into a position which blocks the opponent from getting to, or returning, the ball; or in doubles, a player moves in front of an opponent as the player's partner is returning the ball.

(d) **Moving into the Ball.** Moves in the way and is struck by the ball just played by the opponent.

(e) **Pushing.** Deliberately pushes or shoves opponent during a rally.

(f) **Intentional Distractions.** Deliberate shouting, stamping of feet, waving of racquet, or any other manner of disrupting one's opponent.

(g) **View Obstruction.** A player moves across an opponent's line of vision just before the opponent strikes the ball.

(h) **Wetting the Ball.** The players, particularly the server, should insure that the ball is dry prior to the serve. Any wet ball that is not corrected prior to the serve shall result in an avoidable hinder against the server.

(i) **Apparel or Equipment Loss.** If a player loses any apparel, equipment, or other article, play shall be immediately stopped and that player shall be called for an avoidable hinder, unless the player has just hit a shot that could not be retrieved. If the loss of equipment is caused by a player's opponent, then a dead-ball hinder should be called. If the opponent's action is judged to have been avoidable, then the opponent should be called for an avoidable hinder.



ZEN RACQUETBALL - Doubles, Doubles, Doubles, Doubles...

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*Ranking Points from Entry Into Each Tournament Through Finish
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ADDRESS: _____

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LRA # _____ DATE OF BIRTH: _____ HOME PHONE: _____ WORK PHONE: _____

Mail This Form To:

LRA

3609 Perkins Road, Suite F
Baton Rouge, LA 70808

**By renewing your AARA Membership directly with LRA, the State organization receives the larger portion of the renewal fee*

LRA/AARA MEMBERSHIP - \$25.00 Per Year

THE LOUISIANA

RACQUETBALL

ASSOCIATION

**3609 Perkins Road, Suite F
Baton Rouge, LA 70808**

"Dedicated to promoting the game of Racquetball"