



# ILLINOIS STATE RACQUETBALL ASSOCIATION

NEWSLETTER-

Vol. 10 No. 4  
July/August 1994



## FROM THE PRESIDENT

*Some major refinements for Illinois Racquetball are on the way.*

- The WRSA computer ranking system will be used in Illinois from now on. Match results data, including scores, for every Illinois sanctioned tournament player and Travel League player will be entered in the ISRA's own computer. Finally, we have a dependable and accurate rankings and seeding system. *Read all about it inside.*
- State Doubles is moving to December. There was just too much happening in February. After many requests, players will be able to enter *two skill or two age divisions*, and not be limited to *one skill and one age*, as in the past. Also, the AA Division, which proved so popular at State Singles, will be used at State Doubles. **Rich Clay** will be Tournament Director. More about State Doubles (and the entry form) will be in the September Newsletter. See you at Glass Court, December 1 - 4.
- I'm sure all of us have seen those little signs at bank windows which read: **"Please Don't Be Offended If We Ask For Identification"**. Well, please read Rich Clay's article, right here on the front page. The ISRA needs your help and co-operation. To anyone who might be offended or inconvenienced this coming season; we apologize in advance.

*Have a great summer.*

*Bill Piggott*

## WE ARE ALL IN THIS TOGETHER

The ISRA and AARA exist to develop and promote racquetball. The ISRA is a volunteer organization, where countless hours of service, given by many people, are devoted to help the members enjoy racquetball. Most of our funding comes from the small (\$7) state portion of the \$20 AARA/ISRA membership fee, charged to receive your competitive license. Lost memberships mean a decline in the quality of tournaments, and service we provide. Conversely, the larger the membership, the more services we can afford to give.

***Beginning with the first sanctioned tournament this fall, each tournament participant will be expected to provide proof of paid dues.***

- If you do not have your new card, then you *must produce* a signed, paid receipt from a prior tournament, or local sign-up.
- If you renew directly through the AARA, and have not yet received your card, we must see a copy of your payment check.
- ***Any tournament entrant who cannot verify membership will have to pay an additional \$20.*** This will extend your membership twelve months from the current expiration (e.g. if you had two months remaining, you will then have fourteen months).

Travel league players entering a sanctioned tournament must show the competitive license or receipt that they receive when joining the league. ***The ISRA will no longer allow a player to pass tournament check-in without proof, simply because he or she is known to play on a travel league team.***

Competing in a sanctioned tournament without current membership status is a rules violation, and can lead to suspension. This has been a chronic problem for years, and it must be eliminated. Players - please carry your card or receipts. Check your membership today.

- If your renewal notice from AARA has arrived, please send it in.
- Or - call ISRA's Membership Chairman Lori Kaiser (708) 837-9152 or President Bill Piggott (708) 597-0770, for a membership form.
- Or - check with your club. They may have membership form available.

Please - stay ahead of the game. We need your co-operation. After all, we are all in this together.

*Rich Clay*  
ISRA Rules Chairman

## ADDRESS CHANGES

Every time the ISRA sends out a bunch of first class mail, ( even including state championship award medals) about five percent comes back marked: "Moved - forwarding time expired", (which means that the member's move is older than one year).

If you move, *please send a change of address form to the AARA, 1685 West Uintah, Colorado Springs CO 80904.* Sending to the ISRA can only delay the change. The ISRA Newsletter, State Tournament Medals, and special mailing are all sent to members using labels prepared by AARA. Please - help us by notifying AARA of any address or name change. Thanks.

# EKTELON®



## ISRA TRAVEL LEAGUE 1994 - 1995 SEASON

The ISRA Travel league will start the week of October 3, and run through the end of March, 1995. We took a poll regarding an earlier (September 12) start date, and the vote was 46 to 3 in favor of October 3.

The Travel League is made up of teams from private clubs, YMCA's, and Park Districts from the Chicagoland Area. The league entry fee is \$100 per team. *All travel team members are required to be members of the Illinois State Racquetball Association for the duration of the league season. Membership is \$20 per year, and must be paid at the time the league entry fee is due.*

Divisions of play are as follows:

Men's Open/A	Tuesday at 8 P.M. or later
Men's B	Wednesday at 8 P.M. or later
Men's C	Thursday at 8 P.M. or later
Men's D	Monday at 8 P.M. or later
Women's Open/A	Monday at 8 P.M. or later
Women's Open/A	Wednesday at 10 A.M.
Women's B	Tuesday at 1 P.M.
Women's B and Below	Thursday at 8 P.M. or later
Women's C	Thursday at 1 P.M.
Mixed Open/A Doubles	Wednesday at 8 P.M. or later

Clubs that played in the league last year will receive an application package in August. There will be an organizational meeting on September 13 at 7:30 P.M. at the Glass Court, 830 East Roosevelt Road, Lombard. For more INFORMATION or a Travel League application package, please call Lori Kaiser at (708) 837-9172.

**ALL LEAGUE APPLICATIONS, FEES AND PLAYER ISRA MEMBERSHIPS ARE DUE NO LATER THAN SEPTEMBER 19, 1994.**

Lori Kaiser, Sara Meline



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# NOTES FROM THE NATIONALS

by Danno

Congratulations to Illinois' top finishers at the National Championships held in Houston Texas, Memorial Day week. The big news was in the Open Divisions, where we entered but two players and both qualified for the U.S. National Team, and taking home third place medals!

Cheryl Gudinas lost in the semi-finals on Sunday to eventual winner, and AARA player of the year, Michelle Gould from Idaho. Cheryl tallied nine and eight points in her two games; quite an achievement when you consider that Laura Fenton, Michelle's quarter final opponent, was able to manage only a single point in each of her games. Cheryl came back on Monday morning to defeat Malia Bailey of Virginia to take third place. Cheryl had won the 19+ National Championship the past three years, and felt she was up to the challenge of the Open this year. She set the semi finals as her goal, and achieved it!

In the Men's Open Division, they blasted away all week long, and when Sunday arose, there were four players left. Doug Ganim from Ohio, Tim Sweeney, Mike Bronfeld from California and last year's champion and AARA player of the year, John Ellis. In the semi finals, Ellis and Bronfeld controlled their matches leaving Tim and Doug to play for third place on Monday. In this one, Tim emerged victorious for Illinois' second third place finish.

Two other Team Illinois players had a great tournament. Laurel Davis was a semi-finalist in the Women's 40+, where she ran into Janet Greene of North Carolina. She was swiftly derailed on Sunday afternoon, and was unable to recover for the third place playoff Monday morning. This was Laurel's strongest performance yet at the Nationals, as she proved that she can play with the elite players in her division. Jim Jeffers lost in the semi finals of the Men's 25+ to David Cardillo of New York, and then lost the early Monday morning coin flip to Rob French from Iowa for third place.

Participating at the National Championships is more than just earning a medal. A number of other players has quarterfinal finishes, showing the quality and depth of Illinois racquetball.

## QUARTER FINALISTS

Erhard Gruenwald  
Greg Hasty  
Dave Negrete  
Andy Pitock  
John Negrete  
Jim Jeffers  
Brenda White

Men's 55+  
Men's 45+  
Men's 30+  
Men's 30+  
Men's 25+  
Men's 19+  
Women's 40+

Congratulations to all of these players and the rest of the 31 Team Illinois players who travelled to Houston.

Denise Bozza, Mike Bogue, Lee Cherry, Rich Clay, Eugene Coyle, Don Davis, Laurel Davis, Tom Fehsel, Rhonda Ferconio, Erhard Gruenwald, Cheryl Gudinas, Kent Hadraba, Greg Hasty, George Henton, Jim Jeffers, Bill Lyman, Greg Mandell, Keith Minor, Dave Negrete, John Negrete, Bruce Nelson, Geoff Peters, Andy Pitock, Joe Quirke, Tim Sweeney, John Talty, Tim VanDenaker, Bill White, Brenda White, Joe Winkiel.

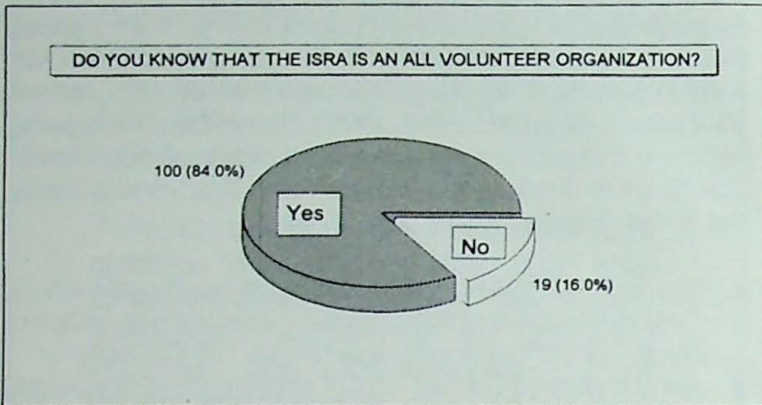
- Some of our alumni were also seen during the week. Chris Evon was a quarterfinalist in the Women's Open. Bryan Fredenburg won the Men's 19+ Division.
- Ask Dave and Denise about table surfing, if you get a chance!
- Eugene Coyle took out the #2 seed, Adam Karp, in the 32's of the Men's 19+ Division. Unfortunately he wasn't able to sustain it as he fell to Rich Baer of New York in the 16's.
- We missed some perennial attendees from Illinois. Next year we hope to see Herb Grigg (injury), Kathy Waggoner, Bev Powell, Susan Johnson, Carol Bastien, Darren Bozza, Dennis Negrete, Glynn Williams, Bill Roberts, Lynne Weisbart, Brian Stuert, and Kim Streed back in Houston.
- Next time, Joe Quirke won't take off his shirt if Jim Hiser is even in the building.
- We're pretty sure the guy with the thong on, poolside, was gay. Sorry Denise and Laurel.
- The Pig game is only to be played by veterans at a bar. I guess that Rhonda now qualifies.
- The sportsmanship award goes to Geoff Peters who opened the court door for his first round, without knocking, and discovered why politeness counts when Geoff's opponent shattered his racquet against the door during warm up. Geoff made up for his faux pas by consistently missing his backhand during the entire March!
- Speaking of Geoff, his wife, Deb, won a case of balls at the Saturday night banquet! Last year Geoff was the lucky recipient.

Join us next year.



## POLL RESULTS

In the last newsletter, and at State Singles, we asked for your opinions. The response was excellent, and the results from key questions are presented here. It was pretty clear that opinions matched individual priorities i.e. senior players gave top priority to seniors issues, women followed suit with women and juniors, etc.



➤ *With the number of courts dwindling and the lack of large court facilities, how would you prefer to have the State Singles and State Doubles tournaments run.*

"Any format is ok." "Would not consider any format other than first two."

➤ *Should State Doubles be played in the month of February?*

"No, due to bad weather." "Yes - should be when weather is worst." "No - too close to State Singles."

Your ISRA Board of Directors will use these opinions to help form future policy. Please write the newsletter, or write or call any board member to voice your opinions and ideas. Thanks for the response. We will be asking about other topics in the future.

Many members responded with "comments":

➤ *Would you like to see the ISRA sanction more or fewer tournaments each year.*

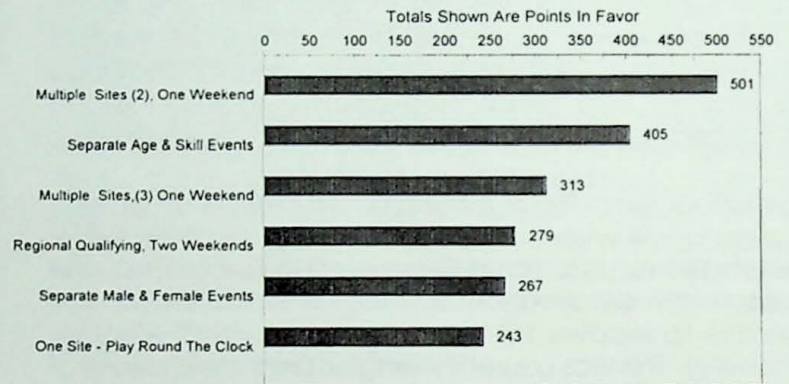
If there were fewer tournaments,...might get better turnout.

➤ *What programs would you like to see the ISRA focus more attention on in the future? Please rank from 1 to 7, with 1 being the most important.*

"...organize YMCA Tournaments.." "Small local tournaments" "Highschools" "Charity efforts" "Round Robin invitational." "Pro clinics and exhibitions." "Working with clubs all over state to

### What Is The Best Tournament Organization?

(For State Championships)



➤ *Should State Singles be played in the month of March?*

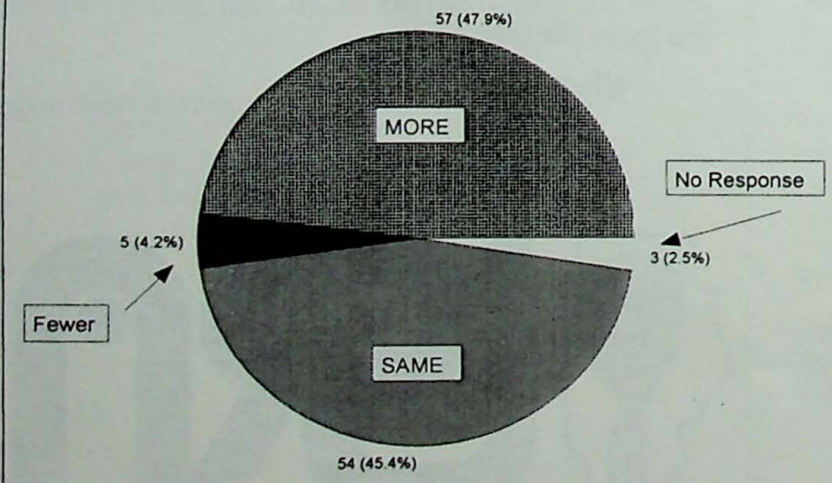
"No...indoor sports should end in April." "No - too close to regionals."

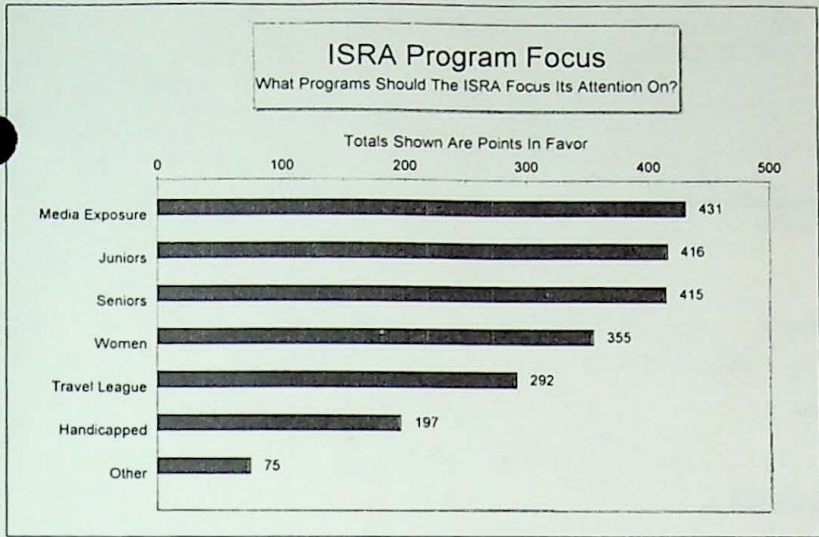
➤ *Over the past ten years, the cost of playing in tournaments has increased significantly. In order to maintain or reduce entry fees, which of the following items do you feel could be eliminated or scaled back (This applies to all tournaments, not just ISRA State Championships).*

### Admit Out-Of-State Players

61 (51.3%)

### Should ISRA Sanction More or Fewer Tournaments?

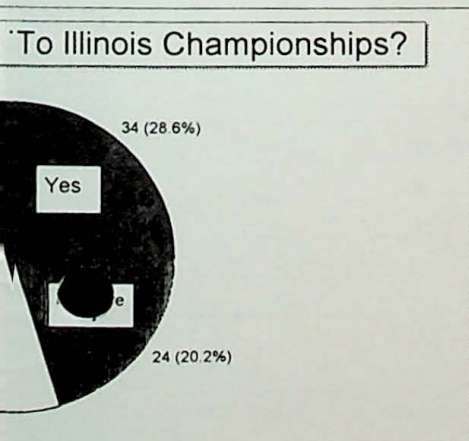
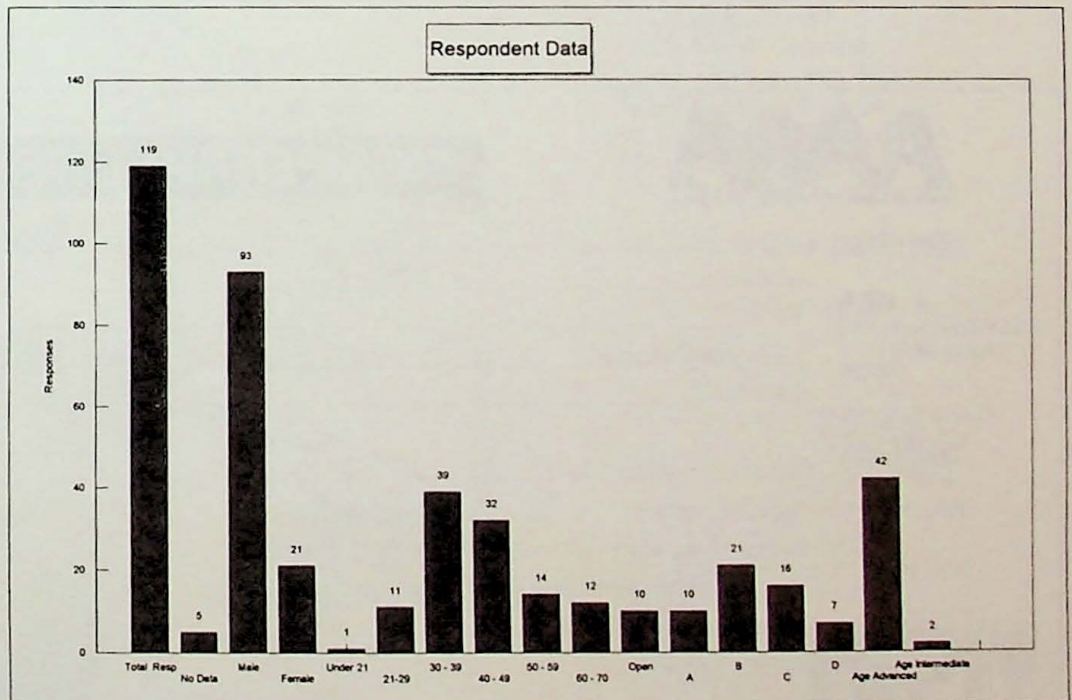
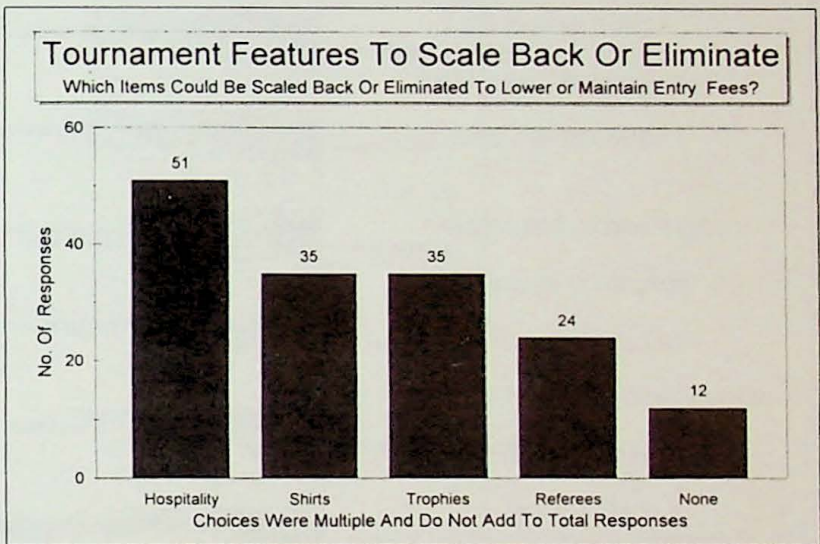




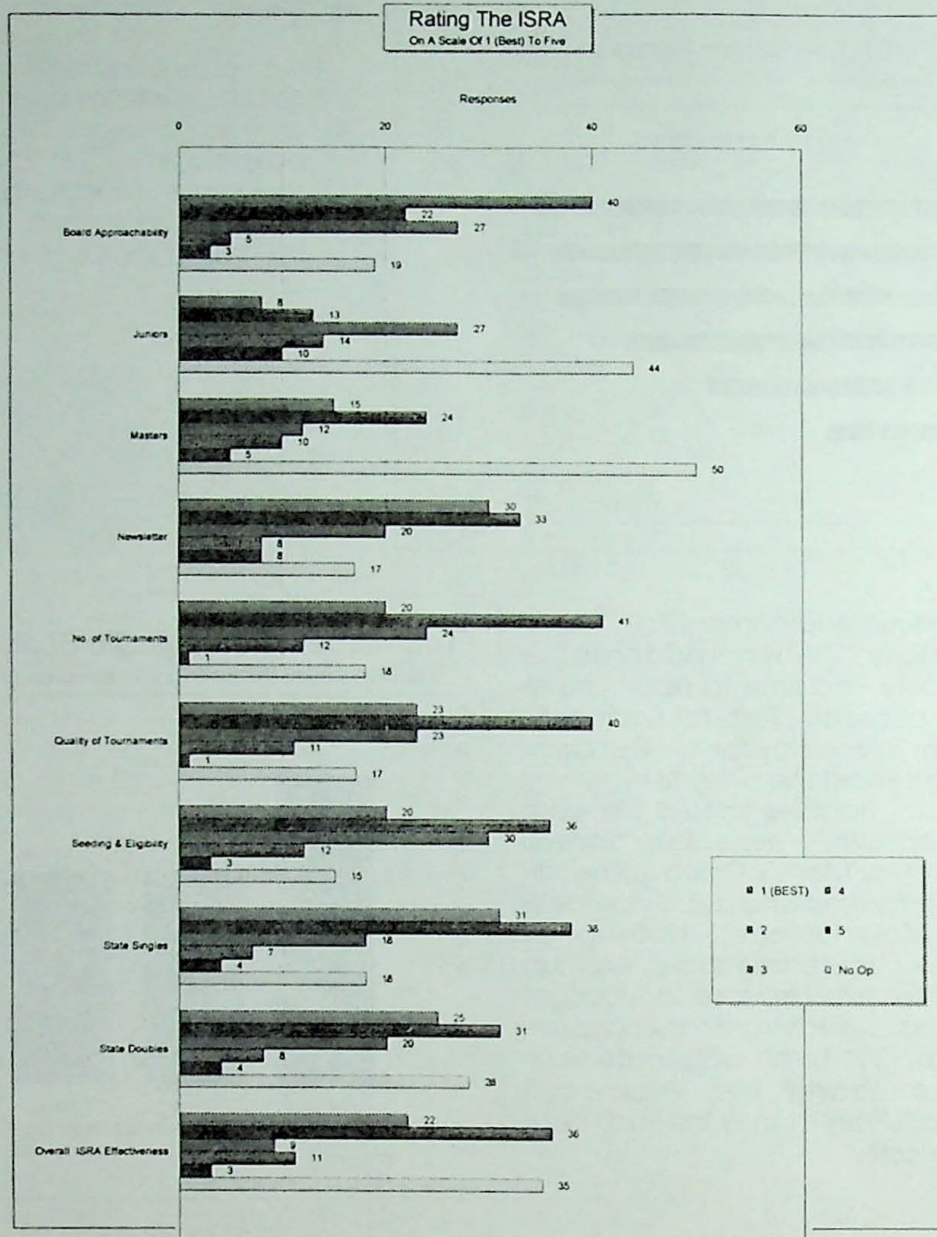
### ➤ General Comments:

Set up meeting with clubs and brainstorm for good use of ISRA and clubs. ...Clubs and ISRA are too political. Send scouts and check out other states. "Get rid of one serve rule!" "We should be able to play two age brackets. Double A great idea. Suggestions for newsletter - training tips, drill techniques, pro tips, health articles.

"I'll pay for a well-run tournament." "I love hospitality." "Publicity." "Why not add on to the price?" "Hospitality - no time to eat if you're winning." "Don't cut refs! Refs for finals only. Trophies - you want it, you pay for it. Cut back on nothing. I don't mind the entry fees. I'm tired of shirts. Trophies should be cash awards only. Hospitality - especially dinners. Keep (prize money) for Mens's Open..(other divisions) play for satisfaction and good competition, not money. Make losers ref. Nothing - all this fun for \$35. Offer minor prizes - shoes, warmup suits, etc. Would like less expense for younger and first-time players. Need strate rankings published (more often). Nothing - add features at same cost; health screenings, etc. People can buy their own food. Prize money instead. Trophies are a total waste



continued from  
previous page



## COMPETITIVE LICENSE APPLICATION

Send to: NAME \_\_\_\_\_

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Tournament \_\_\_\_\_ Representative \_\_\_\_\_

All memberships are for one year, and include a subscription to RACQUETBALL Magazine. Receipt can be presented as proof of membership at tournaments until card is received.

The ISRA Newsletter is published in January, March, May, July, September and November, and is the official publication of the Illinois State Racquetball Association. Letters to the editor and editorial contributions are welcome, and should be sent to:

Bill Piggott - Editor  
ISRA Newsletter  
P.O. Box 282  
Olympia Fields IL 60461

*Please send change of address to A.A.R.A., 1685 West Uintah, Colorado Springs CO 80904.*

#### ISRA NEWSLETTER ADVERTISING

The ISRA Newsletter is widely circulated and offers broad exposure to sports - minded readers. Current advertising rates are:

##### Rates

- 1/4 Page \$75
- 1/2 Page \$150
- Full Page \$300
- 8 1/2 X 11 Insert \$150
- Odd Sizes Quoted On Request

Buy five ads, and receive the six issue free. Ads should be camera-ready, but our printer will provide custom services as required at additional cost. Please contact the Newsletter Editor at (708) 597-0770 (day), (708) 748-4810 (eve.) for detailed advertising information and deadlines.

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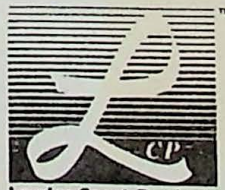
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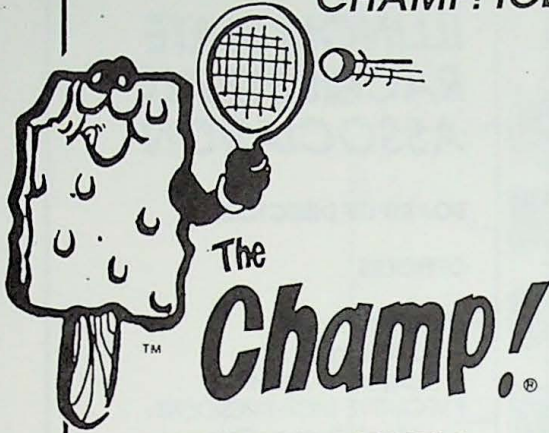
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# CHAMP! ICE CREAM TOURNAMENT CALENDAR



SEPTEMBER 30 - OCTOBER 2  
**FALL WARMUP**  
 LANDMARK CLUB - PEORIA  
 SUE MALONE (309) 685-8200

SEPTEMBER 20 - OCTOBER 2  
**OAK PARK OPEN**  
 OAK PARK ATHLETIC CLUB  
 JOANNE PECK (708) 848-5200  
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OCTOBER 7 - 9  
**FALL OPEN**  
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OCTOBER 7 - 9  
**INDIAN SUMMER OPEN**  
 DECATUR YMCA  
 DICK DECHERT (217) 428-6606

OCTOBER 14-16  
**ILLINOIS MASTERS TOURNAMENT**  
 EDENS ATHLETIC CLUB  
 RICH CLAY (708) 286-6700  
**ISRA-AARA SANCTIONED**

OCTOBER 21 - 23  
**TAKE TIME FOR FUN**  
 SCHAUMBURG PARK DISTRICT  
 NORM RUBENZER (708) 490-7020

OCTOBER 27 - 30  
**8TH ANNUAL HALLOWEEN CLASSIC**  
 WOODFIELD RACQUET CLUB  
 DAVE NEGRETE (708) 884-0678  
**ISRA-AARA SANCTIONED**

NOVEMBER 4 - 6  
**FALL OPEN**  
 HILLSIDE RACQUET HOUSE  
 CAROL ARMSTRONG (708) 449-2255  
**ISRA-AARA SANCTIONED**

NOVEMBER 11 - 13  
**OAK PARK OPEN**  
 OAK PARK ATHLETIC CLUB  
 JOANNE PECK (708) 848-5200  
**ISRA-AARA SANCTIONED**

NOVEMBER 11 - 13  
**SALUKI OPEN**  
 S.I.U. HEALTH CENTER - CARBONDALE  
 CAROL BASTIEN (618) 684-3337  
**ISRA-AARA SANCTIONED**

NOVEMBER 11 - 12  
**CHAMPAIGN COUNTY CLASSIC**  
 CHAMPAIGN FITNESS CENTER

NOVEMBER 18 - 20  
**TURKEY SHOOT**  
 GLASS COURT - LOMBARD  
 DIANE DEARMAS (708) 629-3390  
**ISRA-AARA SANCTIONED**

NOVEMBER 18 - 20  
**FALL OPEN**  
 KANKAKEE YMCA  
 DIANA LAST (815) 933-1741

DECEMBER 2 - 4  
**ILLINOIS STATE DOUBLES**  
 GLASS COURT - LOMBARD  
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DECEMBER 2 - 4  
**PEORIA CITY CHAMPIONSHIPS**  
 LANDMARK CLUB - PEORIA  
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DECEMBER 9 - 11  
**HOLIDAY OPEN**  
 OAK PARK ATHLETIC CLUB  
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DECEMBER 16 - 18  
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