

TEXAS RACQUETBALL ASSOCIATION SANCTIONING GUIDELINES

The following guidelines are presented to assist the tournament facilities and directors in planning, scheduling and successfully executing a USAR/TXRA sanctioned racquetball tournament. The items listed below and on the following pages were researched by the TXRA board via a member survey, and reflect a standard of quality that Texas players expect from sanctioned tournaments. TXRA serves as the sanctioning body for all events held in their state, including regional and master's events. As the governing body of the sport, TXRA requires that these guidelines be followed in order to provide maximum benefit to both tournament hosts and players alike. In planning your event, you must be aware of the following:

- (1) On the weekend of sanctioned state level (or higher) tournament, no other sanctioned tournaments shall be held within the state.
- (2) On any other weekend, no tournament should be sanctioned within 200 miles of a previously sanctioned event. Requests for dates will be processed on a first come, first served basis by the Director of Scheduling.
- (3) Only TXRA approved balls may be used for a sanctioned tournament. These must be provided in adequate numbers to insure consistency throughout the final rounds of play.
- (4) A reduced entry fee for junior divisions must be offered. At a minimum, this reduction must represent a 25% discount of the adult fee.
- (5) In determining a referee policy, four options are available: refereeing by losers, refereeing by winners, paid refereeing or self refereeing. A minimum of \$3 is the current standard fee for non-certified paid referees. A minimum of \$5 is the current standard fee for certified paid referees. An option for the player to provide a suitable replacement should be made known to the players.
- (6) The most recent available USAR rankings should be used to determine the seeding within the draws. Rankings must be available to the players for inspection throughout the tournament.
- (7) All racquetball courts to be used for tournament play must conform to USAR specification in regard to size and marking.
- (8) All players must hold a current USAR License at time of play proven by either a membership card, appearing on the approved list to participate or by showing a

valid receipt as proof of membership. USAR License applications must be made available at the tournament entry for non-members.

- (9) A completed Sanctioning Event Application, along with any required fee, must be submitted to the Sanctioning/Scheduling Director a minimum of thirty (30) days prior to the start of the event. Much earlier submission is preferred in order for the event to be listed on the USAR upcoming event calendar.
- (10) All players should be guaranteed the opportunity of playing in a minimum of two matches, either through single elimination with a consolation event or a round robin event.
- (11) The tournament entry form shall advertise to the player exactly and correctly what will be provided by the facility as well as specify required details concerning the tournament. The minimum information that must be included in the tournament entry form is as follows:

DATE: The full date of the event must be listed with emphasis on any unusual or early play. (Thursday for example)

SITE: The club or facility name, full address and telephone number must be listed. A map with major highways and directional details should be included.

ENTRY FEE: All fees must be listed. All exceptional fees, discounted fees, increased fees, late fees, telephone fees should be emphasized.

ELIGIBILITY: You must note that players are required to hold a USAR License for participation and that such membership must be held upon check-in.

PLAY: If there is a limit of the number of events per player then it should be noted and a statement must be included stating a player entered in two or more events may be scheduled to play back-to-back matches without a rest period.

RULES: Must note that current USAR rules will apply. Must note if consolation matches are being waived or provided. If the format of third place playoff matches is changed in any way, you must note.

REFEREES: The referee policy must be clearly stated.

STARTING TIMES: Should be available a minimum of 48 hours before the start of scheduled play. Every attempt must be made to have times available when advertised.

ENTRY DEADLINE: The deadline must be set at least 48 hours prior to the published availability of the published start times.

ACCOMODATIONS: The nearest available hotel or sponsoring facility must be listed. Address, Phone number, map and any mention of group discount rate.

HOSPITALITY: The TXRA recommends a minimum of the following be provided:

- Fruit such as oranges, bananas for fresh hydration and nutrients.
- Some type of electrolyte replacement drink should be offered throughout the tournament. Gatorade or Powerade are examples.
- Continental breakfast and lunch or dinner should be offered.
- If t-shirts, collared shirts or other articles of clothing are offered, they must be of adequate quality and screened or embroidered as a souvenir of a “racquetball” event.
- The logo of any TXRA sponsors (ball or equipment) must appear on the entry form and the shirt at no cost to the association or sponsor.

BALLS: TXRA provides racquetballs for the tournament at no charge, therefore the logo of the ball providing company should appear on the entry form and the tournament shirt, if possible, at no cost to TXRA or the sponsor.

TOURNAMENT DIRECTORS: The name listed on the entry form should be an on-site Tournament Director. This allows the player to speak directly to someone knowledgeable about the tournament. The Tournament Director should appoint a tournament rules committee consisting of an odd number of qualified persons to resolve any disputes that the referee or Tournament Director cannot resolve.

FORMAT: The format of the event should be stated as either single elimination format in which divisions of less than six players may be played as a round robin or as a round robin format. In either case the scoring format should be stated as two games to 15 points with an 11 point tie-breaker or the mini-match format of two games to 11 points, with a 7 point tie-breaker. Any non-conventional scoring format should be clearly stated on the tournament entry form.

AWARDS: The type of recognition to be presented should be clearly stated. Cash awards should be specific as either guaranteed or prorated. If prorated, state the minimum number of players required for presentation of the full amount. The level of presentation, that is, first, second, third and consolation or first and second only should also be stated.

- (12) Tournament Directors are responsible for forwarding all USAR License applications and membership fees (checks should be made to TXRA) to the Membership Director within three (3) days after the event.

Tournament Directors are responsible for reporting the results of the tournament to the USAR, including a complete participant roster, using the reporting features of the National Tournament Management Software within twenty (20) days after the event.

Tournament Directors are responsible for insuring that all players hold a current USAR License at time of play. If a player, for whatever reason, is found to have played without a license then the Tournament Directors are responsible for contacting that player and obtaining a completed application and the appropriate fee.

These actions are necessary and must be performed in a timely manner in order to insure that ranking points are awarded to the deserving players and that TXRA remains in compliance with USAR reporting requirements to be eligible for funds available through membership rebate. Failure of Tournament Directors to meet these responsibilities may result in suspension of sanctioning privileges.