



April 2007

# USA Racquetball Newsletter

Even though our racquetball "season" is winding down, the following list of upcoming major and national events illustrates a big event is about to take place in most areas of the United States. This is just a sample listing, so make sure you check out the extended schedule at [www.usaracquetball.com](http://www.usaracquetball.com).

Jim Hiser,  
Executive Director  
USA Racquetball

## Major Event Schedule

**April 13 - 15**

Dennis Rosenberg ProAm  
Allentown, PA

**April 25 - 29**

Motorola IRT Pro Nationals  
Chicago, IL

**May 3 - 6**

WPRO Pro Nationals  
New Orleans, LA

## National Event Schedule

**May 18 - 20**

USA Racquetball Northwest  
Junior Regionals  
Portland, OR

**May 23 - 28**

2007 40th Annual USA  
Racquetball National Singles  
Championships  
Houston, TX

**June 20 - 24**

2007 USA Racquetball Junior  
National Championships  
Tempe, AZ

**July 25 - 28**

National Masters Racquetball  
Association International  
Championships  
Overland Park, KS

**August 2 - 5**

State Games of America  
Colorado Springs, CO

**September 26 - 30**

USA Racquetball National  
Doubles Championships  
Tempe, AZ

## USA Racquetball

1685 W. Uintah St.  
Colorado Springs, CO 80904  
Tel: 719-635-5396  
Fax: 719-635-0685  
[www.usaracquetball.com](http://www.usaracquetball.com)

## University of Alabama Wins Overall Team Title At 2007 Collegiate Nationals

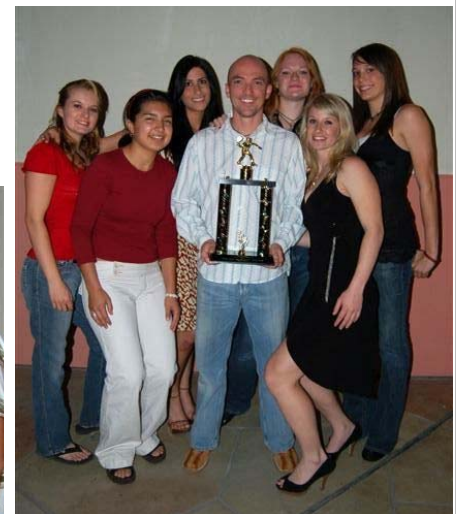
The **University of Alabama** repeated its 2005 performance by winning the overall team championships at the **2007 35th USA Racquetball National Intercollegiate Championships** in Tempe, Arizona. Perhaps the most surprising result was the victory by **Arizona State University** in the women's team championship. Although the #1 player from Arizona lost early in the tournament, the well-balanced team placed in all of the remaining women's divisions.



University of Alabama Overall Team Champs

As expected, **Colorado State University-Pueblo** captured the men's team championship with anchors **Ben Croft** (#1) and **Mitch Williams** (#2).

**Baldwin Wallace College's Coach Tim Miller** once again proved that small Division II schools can do well. His team won the Division II title and placed third in the overall team title.



Arizona State University Women's Champs



Colorado State University-Pueblo Men's Champs

**Ben Croft** maintained his place on the **US Team** by easily winning the men's #1 championship and **Kimberly Irons** survived a tough battle against **Jesi Fuller** to win the women's #1 title. See page 3 for complete 2007 Intercollegiate Standings.

## Team USA Wins Overall Team and Women's Team Titles at 20th PARC Pan American Championships 2007

The USA Women's Team repeated a strong showing at an international event as **Rhonda Rajsich** won a gold medal in the Women's Singles title in Santiago, Chile and in the Women's Doubles competition with **Janel Tisinger**. **Kristen Walsh**, the third member of the Women's Team, lost to hometown favorite **Angela Grisar** in the quarters.



Overall, the men's team finished second behind Canada. **Woody Clouse** lost in a quarter finals tiebreaker to eventual gold medalist **Alvaro Beltran**. **Chris Crowthers**, in his first international event, lost to **Kris Odegard** of Canada, 11-10 in the semi finals. The USA Team successfully defended their overall team title from last year. Coaches for this year's event were **Dave Ellis** and **John Ellis**.

# 10 Ideas for Proper Protocol for Recreational Racquetball

1. **Chronic Lateness** - Be on time - or better yet, be early. When you are late you take away from your opponent's playing time. All players should warm up. When you are late you sacrifice a proper warm-up, normally resulting in a sub-par performance.
2. **Equipment** - Make sure you place your bag in a location outside the court that is easily accessible and also does not take up other members' seating. Chairs and couches are made for humans, not bags. Place your bag on the floor.
3. **Turn Your Cell Phone Off** - In some clubs, ringing cell phones can be heard while playing. Don't waste your valuable racquetball court time by leaving the court and answering your phone every time it rings. Be respectful of your opponent's time. Either leave the phone in your car or turn it off. A constantly ringing cell phone is annoying to your opponent and to other players in the club.
4. **Uncontrolled Warm-Ups** - Attempt to keep your warm-ups under control and keep the ball on your side of the court. Do not take longer than five minutes on either side. (2-1/2 minutes per side is normal tournament time). Allow your opponent to practice on both sides.
5. **Calling the Score** - When you serve, call out the score loud and clear so there are no questions. If you are receiving and believe the score is wrong, immediately discuss the situation with the server.
6. **Close Calls** - Remember, recreational play is not the same as playing for a national championship. Many players use club matches to practice and improve their games. If players disagree on calls, simply replay the rally. On serves, allow the receiver to make the call. If you as the server disagree, simply agree to replay the serve. Call hinders on yourself, and if agreed upon by both players, call avoidable hinders. Don't expect your opponent to say anything. Take the lead and play the game with fairness and integrity.
7. **Challenge Courts** - Sign up and be ready to play when your name comes up. While the match before yours is taking place, start warming up. If you leave to play on another court, remove your name from the list. If only two players arrive and sign up, be sure to allow new players into the rotation. Don't restart your game or play a longer game than the challenge court rules allow. Allow the new player the same courtesy as if there were a full list of challengers.
8. **Leagues** - If you sign up for a league, take your involvement seriously and show up for your matches on time. If you know ahead of time that you will miss a scheduled match, have the courtesy to notify your opponent. Try to make up your match before your next scheduled match. This way you will maintain the league schedule and won't force your opponent to squeeze in makeup matches later in the schedule when time may be limited.
9. **Know The Rules** - Get a rule book and read it! Ask your club pro for a copy or send your questions to USA Racquetball. Be patient with others who may not know the rules and provide them with information to clarify questions.
10. **Complaining, Criticizing and Whining** - Verbal moaning is a turn-off for others who have to listen. Complaining about missed shots, your opponent's "lucky" shots, your partner's weaknesses, etc. only aggravate others on the court. Appreciate the big picture. You have the good fortune to be playing racquetball!

## USA Racquetball Board of Directors Election

Time is running out to vote in the USA Racquetball election. The ballot was published in the March/April issue of **RACQUETBALL** magazine and only active members are eligible to vote in the election.

Included on the 2007 ballot are the following candidates for members of the USA Racquetball Board of Directors:



**Tom Curran** - Newly-appointed President of the NMRA and current member of USA Racquetball's Board of Directors.



**Geoff Peters** - Current Vice-President of the USA Racquetball Board of Directors and actively involved in fundraising for the association.



**Ed Remen** - Former club owner and long-time player. Currently teaching racquetball and physical education at North Carolina State University.



**Frank Taddonio** - Former President of the USA Racquetball Board of Directors. Returned from Iraq in March 2007.

**All votes must be received by April 16, 2007.**

## 2007 Racquetball Regional Qualifiers



Approximately 600 players will compete in over 70 divisions in the **2007 40th Annual USA Racquetball National Singles Championships, May 23 - 28, 2007**, in Houston, Texas. All players are required to qualify *before* they may enter the national singles championship at either a recognized regional championship event *or* at a sanctioned state singles championship. Entrants must not only enter, but *compete* in one national qualifying event

Active Duty Military personnel serving overseas are exempt. Full-time residents of Alaska and Hawaii are also exempt.

Any player who resides more than 300 miles from the closest regional or state singles qualifier may apply for a mileage distance waiver to compete at nationals. The waiver fee is \$100.00.

The remaining 2007 qualifying events are as follows:

### April 20 - 22, 2007

Severna Park Racquet and Fitness  
**Millersville, MD**  
Contact: Steve Graham at  
443-850-2648

Downtown Houston YMCA  
**Houston, TX**  
Contact: Mike Fitzsimmons at  
832-260-2781

Solon Athletic Club  
**Cleveland, OH**  
Contact: Doug Ganim at  
614-890-6073

Executive Health & Sports Center  
**Manchester, NH**  
Contact: Kelley Beane at  
603-668-4753

### April 25 - 29, 2007

Schaumburg Tennis Plus  
**Chicago, IL**  
(Held in conjunction with  
**Motorola IRT Pro Nationals**)  
Contact: Dave Negrete at  
630-430-1478

Contact **USA Racquetball** at  
719-635-5396 for more  
information.

# 2007 USAR National High School Championship Standings

TEAM (a)		BOYS		GIRLS				
High School	Points (b)	High School	Points	High School	Points			
1	Beaverton HS	3,231	1	Beaverton HS	1,542	1	Cor Jesu Academy	1,328
2	LaSalle HS	2,051	2	LaSalle HS	1,249	2	Beaverton HS	1,194
3	Parkway West HS	1,850	3	St. Louis University HS	1,224	3	St. Joseph's Academy	1,009 (c)
4	Kirkwood HS	1,630	4	Christian Bros College HS	823	4	Parkway West HS	1,009
5	Southridge HS	1,607	5	Copper Hills HS	708	5	Southridge HS	912
6	Sprague HS	1,448	6	Kirkwood HS	588	6	Kirkwood HS	729
7	St. Louis University HS	1,224	7	Sprague HS	565	7	Central Catholic HS	696
8	Copper Hills HS	1,095	8	Parkway West HS	551	8	Nerinx Hall HS	647
9	Cibola HS	433	9	North Valley HS	517	9	Sprague HS	647
10	Franklin HS	351	10	Indian Hill HS	385	10	LaSalle HS	368
11	Brighton HS	146	11	St. John Vianney HS	381	11	Notre Dame HS	352
12	Catlin Gabel HS	140	12	Chaminade College Prep	334 (d)	12	Visitation Academy	251
13	El Dorado HS	131	13	Southridge HS	320	13	Waldron HS	228
14	Hope Christian	56	14	DeSmet Jesuit HS	319 (d)	14	Aaron Academy	222
			15	Woodridge HS	228	15	Lincoln	180
(a)	Schools must have boy and girl entries to compete in the Team championship.		16	Park City HS	222	16	Martensdale St. Mary's HS	180
			17	Cibola HS	208	17	Copper Hills HS	160
(b)	Includes results of mixed doubles matches.		18	Downers Grove North HS	180	18	Franklin HS	141
			18	Marquette HS	180	19	Brighton HS	90
(c)	SJA awarded third place based upon winning head-to-head tie-breaker with PWHS		18	Oak Mountain	180	19	Catlin Gabel HS	90
			18	Rolla	180	21	Hope Christian	56
(d)	Includes 100 point penalty for failure to provide a Referee.		22	Riverton HS	152	22	Cibola HS	45
			23	La Cueva HS	120	23	El Dorado HS	29
			24	Marlborough HS	114	24	St. Louis University HS	-
			25	Elliston Baptist Academy	90			
			25	Lane Tech HS	90			
			25	Sarasota	90			
			28	Xavier HS	60			
			29	Catlin Gabel HS	50			
			30	Bingham HS	45			
			30	El Dorado HS	45			
			32	Cascade HS	30			
			32	Franklin HS	30			
			32	Hillcrest HS	30			
			32	Middleton HS	30			
			36	Jordan HS	29			
			37	Las Vegas	22			
			38	Brighton HS	-			
			38	Hope Christian	-			

Official Final - March 6, 2007

## 2007 US Intercollegiate National Championships Top Ten Team Standings - Division I

<u>Men's Team Standings</u>	<u>Points</u>	<u>Women's Team Standings</u>	<u>Points</u>	<u>Combined Team Standings</u>	<u>Points</u>
Colorado State University-Pueblo	2066.0	Arizona State University	1007.0	University of Alabama	2763.0
University of Alabama	1810.0	University of Alabama	953.0	Arizona State University	1877.5
University of New Mexico	925.0	Brigham Young University	726.0	Brigham Young University	1410.5
University of Missouri Columbia	887.0	Penn State University	715.0	Penn State University	1306.0
Arizona State University	870.5	University of New Mexico	379.0	University of New Mexico	1304.0
University of Florida	810.0	University of Oregon	379.0	University of Missouri Columbia	1075.5
Brigham Young University	684.5	Ohio University	350.0	University of Oregon	984.0
University of Oregon	605.0	Utah State University	303.5	Texas A&M University	705.0
Penn State University	591.0	Texas A&M University	197.0	Utah State University	590.0
Iowa State University	546.0	University of Missouri Columbia	188.5	Missouri State University	575.5

## 2007 US Intercollegiate National Championships Team Standings - Division II

<u>Men's Team Standings</u>	<u>Points</u>	<u>Women's Team Standings</u>	<u>Points</u>	<u>Combined Team Standings</u>	<u>Points</u>
Baldwin Wallace College	1083.0	Baldwin Wallace College	767.0	Baldwin Wallace College	1850.0
Rensselaer Polytechnical Institute	437.5	Bryant College	364.5	Rensselaer Polytechnical Institute	577.5
Bryant College	211.0	Clarkson University	203.5	Bryant College	575.5
Clarkson University	200.0	Rensselaer Polytechnical Institute	140.0	Clarkson University	403.5
Scottsdale Community College	140.0	Nichols College	0.0	Nichols College	5.0
Salt Lake Community College	17.0				
Goldenwest College	12.0				
Nichols College	5.0				
Mesa College	0.0				

## Women's Racquetball

The **USA Racquetball Women's Committee**, in conjunction with Tournament Director Jim Hiser, have been collaborating to determine the best format(s) for women's divisions at National Singles in Houston. The Olympic format, tested in Houston and Tempe last year, gained mixed feedback. After gathering input from participants (via email and at the Women's Meeting in Tempe), we've determined that "one size does *not* fit all!" The following approach will be tested in Houston:

- The skill divisions (Open, Elite, A, B, C, D, Novice) will be played in a straight draw format, or set up in round robins, as appropriate.
- The age and age/skill divisions will be played much like Open/AA dropdowns on the state level. For example: Women's 45 and 45A would be combined, with a dropdown for those eliminated in the first round, who will then be re-seeded to compete for the 45A division title. The same combination format would be used for 45B and 45C entrants. By splitting the divisions in this way, the extreme range of playing ability (common to the Olympic format) will be reduced and players will reach their true competitive level more quickly.
- Smaller draw age divisions (usually the more mature players) will be formatted as round robins, by popular demand.

We look forward to feedback from those who come to compete!

On a related note, for those traveling to National Singles in Houston in May, please mark your calendars to attend the **Second Annual Women's Reception**, hosted by the USA Racquetball Board Women's Committee, on Thursday evening, **May 24**, at the Hyatt Downtown Houston. More details to follow...y'all come!

### USAR Women's Committee

Lorraine Galloway (Chair), Malia Bailey, Cheryl Kirk and Linda Mojer

## State Games of America



Coming August 2 - 5, ten thousand athletes will meet in Colorado Springs to compete in 29 sports in the **2007 State Games of America**.

Racquetball players may qualify to compete in the State Games of America by placing first, second or third in the State Games in their

home state. If your home state does *not* host a State Games, you may participate in a neighboring State Games to qualify for this event.

Twenty of the thirty-nine states currently holding State Games include racquetball competition. The State Games of America racquetball venue will be Lynmar Racquet & Health Club. Most sports will compete on the grounds of the US Air Force Academy.

The State Games of America are hosted by the **Colorado Springs Sports Corporation**. Complete information about the State Games of America is available at [www.thesportscorp.org](http://www.thesportscorp.org). More information about State Games in your area is available from the **National Congress of State Games** at [www.stategames.org](http://www.stategames.org). For racquetball-specific information, contact State Games of America Racquetball Commissioner Eddie Meredith at 719-491-4703 or at [eddiemeredith@earthlink.net](mailto:eddiemeredith@earthlink.net).

## Ask Otto

USA Racquetball National Rules Commissioner, **Otto Dietrich** answers the following question:

*"The referee said he wasn't going to replay the rally because he wasn't really sure that my shot, which hit my opponent, would have reached the front wall. Is that the right call?"*

### Otto's Ruling:

No! That rally should have been replayed due to the referee's expressed uncertainty about the ball's flight. Rule 3.14(a)2 says that only if the ball **obviously does not** have the velocity or direction to reach the front wall is it NOT a hinder. Any expressed doubt means the rally should be replayed.

**RACQUETBALL** magazine features more "Ask Otto" questions and answers. Subscribe today for all the news in **RACQUETBALL**.

## USA Racquetball Membership Options

**Limited Event Memberships** are valid for one weekend event or a one-day shootout. The cost is **\$15** and may be upgraded within 90 days from the date of signup for an additional payment of **\$20** (membership becomes retroactive). This special limited event membership includes one issue of **RACQUETBALL** magazine, ranking, and secondary accident insurance coverage. This new membership option was created for many reasons, but mainly to invite the recreational club player on the cusp of "competitive" play to join a weekend tournament.

**Standard Memberships** include a subscription to **RACQUETBALL** magazine (six issues per year). A portion of all dues remain with each state affiliate organization for local programs.

**Standard International Memberships** include all USAR benefits plus first-class shipping of **RACQUETBALL** magazine outside the United States. Please email [tmorse@usra.org](mailto:tmorse@usra.org) or call 719-635-5396 for international membership rates.

Adult 1 Year Membership - **\$35**

Adult 3 Year Membership - **\$100**

Junior Membership (18 & Under) - **\$20**

Lifetime Membership - **\$1,000**

Sign up today at [www.usaracquetball.com](http://www.usaracquetball.com)

## Men's Professional Racquetball Tour



Jason Mannino

The **USA Challenges the World Tour** consists of **Jason Mannino**, currently ranked #2 in the world, playing a variety of players from around the world, including top IRT players. The venerable **Ruben Gonzalez**, representing Puerto Rico and currently ranked #17 in the world, accepted Mannino's latest



Ruben Gonzalez

challenge and will battle in the **USA vs. Puerto Rico** event on **May 16, 2007**.

Please contact Russ Mannino at [russmannino@yahoo.com](mailto:russmannino@yahoo.com) or at 858-663-2934 for more information.

In other IRT Tour news, the Tour traveled to Boston in March for the **2007 Red Swain Memorial ProAm**. **Jack Huczek** preserved his #1 status by defeating #3 **Rocky Carson** in the finals, 6, 7, 3.

For more news about the Men's Tour, go to [www.irt-tour.com](http://www.irt-tour.com).

# USA Racquetball Membership Sponsor Form

**Any Current Member** who sponsors a **NEW** member will have his or her name listed in **RACQUETBALL** magazine and will qualify for a drawing to be held **May 1, 2007**, for a free entry and airfare to the **2007 National Singles Racquetball Championships**. To qualify, send your completed form to **USA Racquetball**. Every sponsorship qualifies as a separate entry into the drawing. *New members signed up at or for events do not qualify.*

## Step 1: Please Print Legibly

First Name	M.I.	Last Name
Address		
Apt. / Address 2		
City	State	
Zip/ Postal Code	Country	
Email		
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Birth Date (mm/dd/yy)		
/ /	O Male O Female	

## Step 2: Check One

- Renewal (magazine included)  
 New Member (magazine included)  
 Address Change **Only**  
 Magazine Subscription **Only**

## Step 3: Check One

- Adult 1 year.....\$35  
 Collegiate 1 year .....\$35  
 Adult 3 year.....\$100  
 Lifetime.....\$1,000  
 Junior (18 & Under).....\$20  
 Magazine Subscription.....\$20  
**TOTAL..... \$**

## Step 4: Payment Method

Checks payable to: **USA Racquetball**

- Cash  
 Check/MO # \_\_\_\_\_  
 Visa or MasterCard  
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Name on Card \_\_\_\_\_

Authorized Signature \_\_\_\_\_

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Please Submit to:

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