

## newsline no.1 • the players guide

Welcome to "The Finals" – the Ektelon USAR 40th U.S. National Singles Racquetball Championships for 2007, presented by Head/Penn Racquet Sports.

For the 30th consecutive year at the Downtown YMCA in Houston, the local organizing committee would like to welcome you with the hope that all their hard work helps to make your stay here enjoyable and memorable.

With over 500 entrants and nearly 1000 matches, it is important that everyone be informed of the basics – in order to keep things running smoothly. The information in this first daily newsletter is designed to answer some of those questions for you.

Plus you'll want to hold onto this issue so you can schedule your social calendar for the week, see the back page for a preliminary list of activities and make your plans. And remember that tickets (issued at registration) are required for admittance to all functions.

Want to submit news items or announce a meeting? Contact Leo R. Vasquez in person, by email [[leo@themav.com](mailto:leo@themav.com)], or leave a note at registration. Nightly deadline: 5:00 pm.

### REGISTRATION HOURS

TU ..... 6:00 pm – 10:00 pm  
WE ..... 8:00 am – 9:00 pm  
TH ..... 8:00 am – 8:30 pm  
FR ..... 8:00 am – 8:00 pm  
SA ..... 9:00 am – 1:00 pm

For more information visit:

[www.usaracquetball.com](http://www.usaracquetball.com)  
[www.usra.org](http://www.usra.org)



### Howdy and Welcome!

USA Racquetball is pleased to welcome you to the Downtown Houston YMCA, where we hope you'll enjoy spending your Memorial holiday week in spirited competition at the 2007 Ektelon 40th USAR National Singles Racquetball Championships, presented by Penn Racquet Sports. Here in Houston, you'll be able to play, spectate and have lots of party fun thanks to a non-stop schedule of competition and social events! Play hard and you'll compete against the best players in the tournament as you advance in your divisions all the way to the finals, scheduled on Monday. (Memorial Day) Between matches, you'll be able to socialize, attend clinics and entertain yourselves at the YMCA, as well as at your "home away from home" for the week, the Hyatt Regency. Check the back page of this issue for scheduled events confirmed in advance, and then pick up a daily newsletter for breaking news of added events, player meetings and other special functions.

If your visiting family and friends, bring your cheering section and they'll also see plenty of nonstop action. Watch, cheer and celebrate as top athletes compete for spots on the U.S. National Team throughout the week. For even more excitement, the men's and women's U.S. Team qualifying divisions conclude a day early, on Sunday, to allow more players to watch the finals compete for the coveted gold medal. Be sure to cheer loud for your favorite player, male and female.

At night, take in all the evening festivities at the Hyatt that have been planned for players to enjoy. Don't forget about the Park Bar on Wednesday and Thursday night inside the Hyatt where friends unite, socialize and share stories from the past. Then it's the **Head/Penn "Casino Night"** party on Friday, where you'll play blackjack, craps, roulette and end the evening bidding on a selection of grand prizes! Special tables will be available for Texas Hold 'em Poker sponsored by Penn. Then on Saturday, you'll enjoy a **Racquetball Night to Remember Banquet & Dance** – where we will honor our own by recognizing outstanding athletes of the year, contributors and career achievers, then cap the evening with a Hall of Fame induction ceremony.

Throughout the week, you (and your supporters back home) will be able to follow the event online by following the links: [www.usra.org](http://www.usra.org) or [www.usaracquetball.com](http://www.usaracquetball.com) You'll find links to updated event drawsheets, in-depth coverage, photos, and live streaming video of selected men's and women's U.S. Team qualifying matches.

We're glad you're here and hope you enjoy your holiday weekend while here at "The Finals". This should be a Memorial Day weekend that you'll never forget, so if there is anything the staff can do to make it more enjoyable, please let us know. Enjoy, good luck and play hard.

## YMCA Rules

**Lockers & Towels** • Using your own lock, tall lockers are available for day use only. *Locks left on overnight will be cut.* Towel service is provided, with supplies made available in all locker rooms.

**Security** • Please safeguard your valuables, both in the locker rooms and outside courts. Security guards will be patrolling the area, but it is a large facility and the YMCA and USAR will not be responsible for lost or stolen items. **Children** • The YMCA is an adult facility, and children must be under the supervision of an adult at all times.

## Getting into the YMCA

You must have a bag tag to get into the racquetball area of the YMCA – all week long! Players will be issued their bag tags in the Booth Hall on the second floor of the YMCA, beginning on Tuesday at 5:00 pm.

One guest per player will be admitted into the competition area at no charge, but all evening social functions will require a ticket for admission. A guest package for the entire week, which includes all special event tickets, official tournament shirt, souvenir, bag tag, and daily hospitality can be purchased at the registration desk for \$85.00.

## The Met (the other club)

Due to the increased number of entries each year, some players may have matches scheduled at "The Met Business and Sport Club", or "The Met". The club is located behind the YMCA at 340 West Dallas in the One Allen Center. The entrance to the club is through the parking garage on the sixth floor. Walk there by going outside the YMCA, go north on Louisiana and then left on Clay St. Walk for about 1/2 mile to W. Dallas. Anyone needing additional info can check with the staff at the registration or the check-in desk.

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## Your First Match

Tournament check-in is a two-part process, starting at the registration desk. Although all entries are prepaid, players must personally check in at the registration desk before reporting for their first match. Failure to do so will delay your first round and could result in forfeiture. After completing registration, players must check in at the tournament control desk thirty minutes before their scheduled match. Make sure to allow plenty of time to complete both steps.

## Reporting for Play

**Warm-Up Time** • Once a match has been called to the court, a total maximum of 10 minutes is allowed for warm-up by both players. **Matches** • A regulation match is played two games to 15 points, with a tiebreaker to 11, if needed. A consolation match is one game to 21 points.

## Questions & Appeals

If you have problems, questions or rules disputes during your match, follow this procedure:

- 1) First appeal to your referee;
- 2) Next, appeal to the tournament director on duty
- 3) A final appeal is made to the Tournament Rules Committee (made up of national rules committee members on-site).

## Consolation Round

Due to the large number of divisions offered, players will be able to participate in only *one* consolation round (your choice). **First-match** losers are eligible for a consolation round, but forfeits and

byes are *not* considered matches played. If you lose the first match you play, you must sign up immediately at the tournament desk to enter consolation. Consolation rounds will begin on Sunday. A consolation match is one game to 21 points and all are self-officiated. Matches are played back-to-back all on Sunday.

## Your Eyewear

Rule 2.5 APPAREL states:

(a) Lensed eyewear designed for racquetball, and which meets or exceeds ASTM F803 or Canadian (CSA) impact standards, is required apparel. This rule applies to all persons, *including those who must wear corrective lenses.*

Protective eyewear must be worn as designed and at all times. A first infraction results in an assessed technical and a timeout to obtain proper eyewear; a second infraction in the same match will result in immediate forfeiture.

The current ASTM rule has been on the books since 1995, so there are no exceptions. If you're unsure, check the tournament desk for a complete list of approved eyeguards. We want to insure everyone plays safely.

## Officiating/Refereeing

Match losers are required to referee the next available match, and assigned referees will now be paid \$10.00 for that service. This method has proven to be the most equitable, since almost everyone will ref over the course of the tournament.

## TOURNEY DESK FAQ ... Frequently asked Questions

**"What court will I be playing on?"** (Courts are not pre-assigned, so when your match comes up you'll be sent to the next open court, make sure you hear your page.) **"How soon will I get on a court?"** (Matches are assigned in the order they are checked in, so early check-in by both players gets you to the top of the heap.) **"What time is my next match and/or who do I play next round?"** (Check the posted draw sheets.) **"Can I change my match time?"** (In an event of this size, draws are designed to give players adequate time to rest between matches. Even IF the schedule allowed, asking to change a time inconveniences your opponent, who may legitimately decline.)

## Free Clinics

Want to become a better referee or coach? Level One Referee Clinics and a Coaching Certification Clinic will be held on site at the YMCA (check back page and daily newsletter for dates/times). All clinics will be held in the Player's Village. The new Level I referee certification test will be available for everyone.

## Hospitality

Early morning players will be offered breakfast each day beginning at 8am. (except for Sunday) We are also proud to announce that lunch will be served from **Carrabba's Italian Grill** everyday beginning at 12pm. (bag tag required for all player meals) Thursday night **Ektelon** will be giving free beer to the first 250 players at the "Party in the Park Bar" at the Hyatt, along with a raffle. Evening functions will require tickets for admission, which will be issued to players (and included with purchased guest packages) at registration.

## Ladies Night Out

Thursday will be an evening for the "Women of Racquetball" here at the Finals. Ladies Night Out will begin at 6:30pm at the Ducks & Company. (inside Hyatt) All the female participants are invited to a special reception that will include USA Racquetball Board members, and WPRO Commissioner, Shannon Feaster.

## VIP/IRT Reception

On Friday evening the USRA will host an invitation-only VIP and IRT Reception for 2006 national champions, lifetime members and event sponsors. **Bring your invitation/ticket to the Hyatt**, at 6:00 pm, and enjoy some time away from the club.

## Awards Banquet

The USAR's 40th annual Awards Banquet will be held Saturday evening in the Hyatt Regency Ballroom -- A Racquetball Night To Remember Awards Ceremony and Banquet, featuring a first class menu and live entertainment for everyone.

Arrive for no-host cocktails at 6:30, and plan to be seated for dinner by 7:00. Following the award program, dance with a live DJ! You must bring your ticket to be admitted and served (issued to you at check-in) and the cost to guests will be \$35.00.

*Don't forget the dress code ...* this is the association's most prestigious banquet of the year; cocktail dress is appropriate, no racquetball or athletic attire will be permitted.

## Bring Cash For...

Smoothie King and other local shops around the YMCA sell food and other items. For more info around the Houston area visit this site:

[www.houstonracquetball.org](http://www.houstonracquetball.org)

## Parking

This downtown location offers no public parking adjacent to the club. The nearest lot is two blocks away, and prices vary. Plan your transportation accordingly! There are pay lots all around the vicinity of the club.

## Massage Therapist

If you are in need of massage therapy, Brian Horner will be on-site everyday from 10am to 5pm.

## U.S. Team Qualifier

Semi-finalists in the Mens' and Women's National Team Qualifier division will earn one year appointments to the U.S. National Team.

Doubles champions from last fall have already been fielded [Rocky Carson & Jack Huczek; Laura Fenton & Aimee Ruiz], and the pro tour designates will be confirmed at a later date from the WPRO and IRT. National Team Qualifier winners named in Houston will take the No.2 singles positions on the U.S. Team roster.

## YMCA Construction

The Men's Locker room, specifically the shower area will only have two showers available during the event. We apologize for this inconvenience and suggest that showers be taken at your hotel.

## Important Numbers

**Start Times Hotline**  
**(713) 758-9281**

**YMCA (1600 Louisiana St)**  
**(713) 659-8501**  
[www.ymcahouston.org](http://www.ymcahouston.org)

**Hyatt Hotel (1200 Louisiana St)**  
**(713) 654-1234**  
[www.houstonregencyhyatt.com](http://www.houstonregencyhyatt.com)

**The Met (340 W. Dallas St.)**  
**(713) 652-0700**  
[www.thedowntownclubhouston.com](http://www.thedowntownclubhouston.com)

**On-Line Drawsheets (R2 Sports)**  
[www.r2sports.com](http://www.r2sports.com)

## USRA National Office Staff on Site

Jim Hiser .... Executive Director  
Heather Fender .... Event Coordinator and Executive Assistant  
Teri Morse .... Registration

## "The Finals" Tournament Desk & Event Staff

Desk Team 1 .... Annie Muniz, Carl Fuess  
Desk Team 2 .... Otto Dietrich, Monica Williams, Eddie Vann  
Desk Team 3 .... Jack Hughes, Norman Hanks (@The Met Club)  
Event Logistics .... Eddie Meredith  
Registration .... Mary Meredith  
Officiating .... Lynn Stephens/Debbie Bryant  
Media Manager .... Leo R Vasquez



**WEDNESDAY – May 23**

YMCA Player's Village: Registration ..... 8:00 am – 9:00 pm  
 Breakfast ..... 8:00 am – 10:00 am  
 Lunch (sponsored by Carrabba's Italian Grill) ..... 12:00 pm – 2:00 pm  
 Party in the Park Bar, Hyatt ..... 8:30 pm – 11:30 pm

**THURSDAY – May 24**

YMCA Player's Village: Registration ..... 8:00 am – 8:30 pm  
 Breakfast ..... 8:00 am – 10:00 am  
 Referee Clinic - Rules (Lynn Stephens, Debbie Bryant) ..... 11:00 am  
 Lunch (sponsored by Carrabba's Italian Grill) ..... 12:00 pm – 2:00 pm  
 General Membership Meeting, YMCA, Booth Hall ..... 6:00 pm  
 State President's Meeting, YMCA, Booth Hall ..... 7:00 pm  
 Party in the Park Bar, Hyatt, Free beer first 250 players, Ektelon Sponsored ..... 8:30 pm – 11:30 pm  
 LADIES NIGHT OUT SOCIAL, Hyatt, Ducks and Company ..... 6:30 pm – 8:30 pm  
 (Reception for all female participants) Munchies, Beverages, Prizes!

**FRIDAY – May 25**

YMCA Player's Village: Registration ..... 8:00 am – 8:00 pm  
 Breakfast ..... 8:00 am – 10:00 am  
 Ektelon Women's Clinic, YMCA, Court #5 ..... 10:00 am - 11:00 am  
 (Cheryl Kirk, John Ellis, Hank Marcus, Rhonda Rajsich, Kerri Wachtel, Brenda Kyzer)  
 Wilson Team Player Meeting, Crowne Plaza, (behind YMCA) ..... 10:30 am - 12:30 pm  
 Lunch (sponsored by Carrabba's Italian Grill) ..... 12:00 pm – 2:00 pm  
 Ektelon "Skills Challenge", YMCA, Court #5 (John Ellis, Shawn Royster) ..... 1:00 pm - 2:00 pm  
 Referee Clinic - Case Study, (Lynn Stephens, Debbie Bryant) ..... 1:00 pm  
 E-Force Team Player Meeting, Hyatt, Cottonwood Room, 3rd floor ..... 2:00 pm  
 Head/Penn Team Player Meeting, Hyatt, Grand Suite Room #2922 ..... 5:00 pm  
 VIP, IRT, & Sponsors Reception, Hyatt, Window Box (invitation only) ..... 6:00 – 8:00 pm  
 HEAD/PENN CASINO NIGHT AND TEXAS HOLD 'EM POKER PARTY, Hyatt, Grand Ballroom ..... 8:30 pm – Midnight  
 (ticketed social event) "Gamble" all night, then bid your winnings on Great Prizes!

**SATURDAY – May 26**

YMCA Player's Village: Registration ..... 9:00 am – 1:00 pm  
 Breakfast ..... 8:00 am – 10:00 am  
 E-Force Team Player Meeting, Hyatt, Imperial Suite Room, 30th floor ..... 10:00 am  
 Ektelon Team Player Meeting, Hyatt, Regency Room ..... 10:00 am - 11:30 am  
 Racquetball Specific Exercises Clinic, YMCA, (Eugene Coyle) ..... 12:00 pm  
 Lunch (sponsored by Carrabba's Italian Grill) ..... 12:00 pm – 2:00 pm  
 Ektelon "Hard Hitting Contest", YMCA, Court #5 (John Ellis, Shawn Royster) ..... 1:00 pm - 2:00 pm  
 President's Advisory Council, Hyatt, Presidential Suite (invitation only) ..... 5:30 pm - 7:00 pm  
 RACQUETBALL NIGHT TO REMEMBER AWARDS BANQUET, Hyatt, GrandBallroom ..... 7:00 pm – Midnight  
 (ticketed social event) Dinner, Entertainment, Awards, Dancing

**SUNDAY – May 27**

YMCA Player's Village: Bagels & Juice ..... 8:00 am – 10:00 am  
 Women's Open Final ..... 11:30 am  
 Men's Open Final ..... 1:00 pm  
 Women's US Team Qualifier Final ..... 2:30 pm  
 Men's US Team Qualifier Final ..... 4:00 pm  
 Party in the Park Bar, Hyatt ..... 8:30pm – 11:00 pm

**MONDAY – Memorial Day, May 28**

YMCA Player's Village: Age & Skill Division finals ..... 8:00 am – 2:00 pm  
 All division finals, medal presentations ..... 8:00 am – 3:00 pm