**Iowa Racquetball Association Meeting**

Oakmoor Racquet and Fitness Center, Des Moines

September 22, 2012

In attendance: Susan Acoymo, Denny Baysinger, Bryan Crosser, Don McCormick

Guests: Joe Williams (USAR)

* Roles within the organization were discussed.
  + All agreed that the president should not be the one to manage finances.
  + Josh Paul, not in attendance, was approved to join the IRA executive board. His skill set includes experience managing the finances of a softball team.
  + The board should make it a point to include at least one representative from IRA on all USAR state conference calls.
  + A question was posed as to whether USAR will cover us personally or just the event. Joe offered that event directors are liable if the event isn’t sanctioned. That status can be jeopardized if players do not comply with the rules of the tourney. For example, even if only one player competes without eyewear, the sanctioned status of the tourney is null and void, and thus not covered by insurance. This would also be the case if a player were allowed on the court prior to paying his/her membership and signing a waiver. To be safe, Joe recommended that IRA have waivers signed both online and at the check in desk.
* Titles were discussed and decided.
  + Events Director, Susan Acoymo
  + President, Bryan Crosser
  + Secretary, Don McCormick
  + Treasurer, Josh Paul
  + Vice President, Denny Baysinger
* Finances were discussed.
  + The treasurer will be responsible for paying bills. Some states use a dedicated credit card and account. Accounting software such as QuickBooks was recommended.
  + Joe reminded the group that there is a certain amount of freedom in deciding how to use IRA funds. In addition to running events, IRA should consider activities that might enhance the capacity of the executive board to perform its duties, such as travel expenses to key meetings. Scholarships may also be included.
  + For every $50 USAR membership, IRA will get $10. IRA needs to get registered ASAP as a state organization to reap the benefits of any new or renewed memberships. Don offered to get the ball rolling with Terri Lewis at USAR.
  + For the Junior Nationals, IRA gets 20% of any sponsorships; e.g., a $5,000 sponsorship would result in $1,000 for IRA. Don has asked Jim Hiser at USAR for a sample description of “Gold/Silver/Bronze” sponsorship benefits. This “menu” will help us approach organizations.
  + All members of the executive board are responsible for securing donations. Don officially requested that Bryan consider asking Edward D. Jones if they would be interested.
  + Joe mentioned that Melanie at USAR will guide us through the process of setting ourselves up as a non-profit.
* Events were discussed.
  + The board decided on 2/1 -2/3 for the IRA State Tournament.
  + Susan offered to create a flyer for the IRA State Tournament. Sponsors must be identified first, however. Bryan said he would send Susan the electronic file he has used for Oakmoor events.
  + Joe demonstrated how the USAR system will allow the IRA to send announcements regarding events and other information to members in strategically chosen states (up to five at once).
  + The value of one-day shootout tournaments was discussed. There seems to be some good potential for fund raising. They can be held in locations across the state. They require only one day. Mathematically, IRA can determine return on investment based on the number of courts and the number of games that can be worked into one event.
  + The board agreed that Iowa Games should not be made into a sanctioned event.
  + USAR is making a toolkit for event directors, including checklists, insurance information, etc. This will be ready by Jan 1, 2013.
  + Bryan will connect with Mike White about using the R2 system in place of his software for sanctioned events.
* Preparations for Junior Nationals were discussed
  + From late October to June, IRA should consider holding regular clinics to get juniors ready for this national event.
  + The board agreed that this should be made to be very affordable and not be contingent on existing memberships; all are welcome.
  + Payment options were discussed, including a one-time $25 fee for the entire course, or smaller fees paid at each session.
  + In addition to his Saturday morning classes, Don is already committed to one weeknight at the Waukee YMCA. He mentioned that he could very easily move this to Oakmoor.
  + The website [www.iplayracquetball.com](http://www.iplayracquetball.com) was mentioned as a tool for organizing leagues.
  + All agreed that this effort must be sustainable, at least until the national event in June.
  + All agreed that Thursdays would work best. A start date of October 25 was proposed.
  + Don offered to put together a schedule.
  + Susan offered to draft a flyer.