



UtahRacquetball.org

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Utah Racquetball Board members are not paid for their service. They do receive USAR memberships and a discount on sanctioned tournaments during their years of service. We are committed to helping grow the game of racquetball in any way we can. We hope to find ways of providing the best tournaments for as little money as possible. If you have any suggestions or questions, we hope you will contact one of us.



Grow the Game Incentive Program

The URA is excited to announce a new program to give our members incentive to reach out and get new players involved in tournaments.

The URA will be distributing handouts to all members of the URA. These handouts will include the tournament schedule, info about the URA, and a place to write in your name. Anytime you see players at your club that have not played in a tournament for at least two years introduce yourself and give them one of these handouts. This handout will give the new player \$10 off their first tournament entry. For each player that signs up for a tournament with your handout you will receive an entry into a drawing for a free USRA membership. If you get a junior player to participate you will receive 2 entries into the drawing!

Utah has great racquetball members! We are grateful for you and excited to see what we can do this year to grow the sport.



How Do We Grow the Game?

by Andrew Gale

This is a question that has been asked for years. So, what can we do to take action? Listed below are a few ideas. Give them a try this season and let's see what we can do!

Sign Up Early

Thanks to technology it is easy for us to log on to a tournament website before registering to see who else has signed up. Unfortunately, many have developed the mentality that if nobody else has signed up they are not going to sign up yet either. This creates a snowball effect which ultimately results in small draws and several people deciding not to play. The solution for this problem is simple, if you want to play a tournament sign up and others will follow. Please help by signing up for tournaments early!

Be Social

One of my favorite things about racquetball is the people. Many of my closest friends are the ones I have met from playing racquetball. There are so many players that show up for their match, they play, and then they leave. These people are missing out on one of the best parts of this game, which is the people and making friends. This has a huge impact on new players as well, making it harder for them to feel comfortable and enjoy participating in competitive play. It is extremely important for the more experienced and tenured players to make new players feel welcome. I challenge each of you to reach out to at least three players you do not know at every tournament and introduce yourself to them. Let's make our tournaments a friendly and inviting place that new players will be excited to play in!

Sportsmanship

One of the most important aspects of growing our game is showing good sportsmanship. Showing bad sportsmanship and offending other players is only going to be detrimental to the growth of our game. Over the years I've seen many players sacrifice their integrity by playing with a 'win at all costs' mentality. This mentality is often offensive and can have a negative impact on how others feel about the game. There is nothing wrong with wanting to win, but remember that this can still be done while being respectful to your opponent. This attitude applies to the treatment of your referee as well. There is nothing wrong with disagreeing or questioning a call, but this can be done in a respectful manner. Your behavior has a much bigger impact than you realize, so please always remember to be respectful to others and behave in a manner that promotes the game.

Introduce others to tournaments and competitive play

There are many recreational players at each of our clubs that love racquetball and play several times a week. Many of these players are not even aware that organized racquetball exists. I challenge each member to step outside of your comfort zone and reach out to the recreational players playing at your clubs. Introduce yourself to them, tell them about the URA and USRA, and invite them to play tournaments.

Fall Opener & Membership Drive

Racquetball season is almost upon us and that means it is time to renew your USAR membership, so you can play in all sanctioned tournaments in the 2015-2016 season! We will be holding two membership drive tournaments where the cost of your renewed membership (\$50) will be included in your tournament entry fee. This makes the cost of the actual tournament the cheapest you will find all year!

The first of these tournaments will be August 26th – 29th at Alta Canyon Rec Center and the second will be September 23rd – 26th at Orem Fitness Center. The entry fee for both tournaments will be \$60 for the first event and \$5 for a second event. If you play at Alta Canyon and want to also play at Orem, you won't find a better priced sanctioned tournament all year long because the Orem tournament entry fee will only be \$10 for the first event and \$5 for the second.

If your membership isn't expired it's okay. Still come participate in this tournament to add a year on to your current expiration date, while getting your tournament entry for next to nothing!

We hope to see you all at one of this year's Fall Openers!

Sincerely, the Board



Support High School Racquetball

We're gearing up for another fun season of High School Racquetball starting up in September! There are many kids from the Summer Junior's program that are transitioning to the high school league and they are all progressing so quickly. The coaches and volunteers involved with this organization are excited to see the athletes improve and excel within all of the divisions.

We are looking for equipment donations to help kids who may not have their own equipment yet. We also need prizes for the Junior's tournament Aug. 12-15. We are hoping to provide HS coaches with racquets and eyewear that they can lend out when needed. We hope that this will encourage more youth to get involved with the game. Please help get the word out so we can get more youth playing racquetball.

With nationals the end-goal for these students, the board has decided to help put on a High School Fundraiser tournament in the middle of December. Majority of the entry fees and all additional donations will go towards the kids traveling to the high school nationals in the spring of 2016. As more information is posted as it gets closer, please keep this tournament in mind to support our youth involved with racquetball.

If you know of any 9-12th graders that are interested in joining the high school league or have any questions, please contact:

Tim Dolbin

(801)230-6463

tim.dolbin@waterfordschool.org

Racquetball Sportsmanship Guidelines for coaches, players, and spectators

- *Know and follow the rules. Often players will have to ref each other.*
- *Server should call score when there is no ref.*
- *Be safe! Do not swing racquet when players are too close to another player. Hold and re-play the point.*
- *Be fair. Give opponent the benefit of the doubt. No one likes a cheater.*
- *Do not argue. When you disagree with your opponent, simply replay the point.*
- *Respect the referees, coaches, and other volunteers. If you disagree, do so respectfully.*
- *Introduce yourself to your opponent and shake hands before and after the match.*
- *Congratulate your opponent for good shots. Do not cheer opponents' mistakes.*
- *Do your best and keep trying. Do not quit in the middle of a match unless you are injured. It is unfair to your opponent.*
- *Do not be arrogant. It's okay to play lower level players when asked. Everyone was a beginner sometime.*
- *Do not talk negatively about other players or coaches in public (including social media, this is bullying!)*

The Utah Racquetball Association will not tolerate intimidating, harassing, fighting or bullying other players, coaches, referees, or tournament directors. Such abuse may result in point penalties, forfeit of game or match, or suspension in membership or privileges.



*Sportsmanship is the key to enjoying this game...
And keeping it fun for everyone!*

Thank you for making this a great sport!

2015 - 2016 Utah Racquetball Tournament Schedule



August	12 - 15	Juniors State Tournament	Redwood Rec Center rmcgovern@slco.org	Ruth McGovern 385-468-1870
	26 - 29	Fall Opener Membership Drive	Alta Canyon inkmanvan@gmail.com	Mike Van Valkenburg 801-928-4713
September	23 - 26	Orem Membership Drive	Orem Fitness Center P2cpeterson@gmail.com	Loretta Peterson 801-201-5057
October	7 - 10	Huntsman Senior Games	St. George rbjohn175@gmail.com	John Haynes 801-541-3425
	21 - 24	Provo Open	Provo Recreation Center byuracquetball@gmail.com	Paul Snyder 801-429-9730
November	4 - 7	State Doubles	Marv Jensen randy@utahracquetball.org	Randy Martin /Megan Zollinger 801-699-6266 / 385-468-1626
	18 - 21	November Contenders	Orem Fitness Center kbuhler@orem.org	Kaye Buhler 801-229-7118
December	2 - 5	Aggie Open	Utah State University josephnielson11@gmail.com	Joseph Nielson 801-691-8304
January	20 - 23	Orem Open	Orem Fitness Center kbuhler@orem.org	Kaye Buhler 801-229-7118
	27 - 30	State High School	Marv Jensen inkmanvan@gmail.com	Mike Van Valkenburg 801-928-4713
February	3 - 6	Sports Mall Open	Sports Mall jeramye@sportsmallgroup.com	Jeremy Evans 801-673-0640
	17 - 20	Valentine's Day Massacre	Redwood Rec Center rmcgovern@slco.org	Ruth McGovern 385-468-1870
March	2 - 5	Shamrock Scramble	Alta Canyon lstillion@sandy.utah.gov	Lois Stillion 801-568-4600
	16 - 19	Luck of the Heights	Cottonwood Heights rmcgovern@slco.org	Ruth McGovern 385-468-1870
April	13 - 16	State Singles	Sports Mall jeramye@sportsmallgroup.com	Jeremy Evans 801-673-0640
May	4-7	Spring Smash	Marv Jensen randy@utahracquetball.org	Randy Martin /Megan Zollinger 801-699-6221 / 385-468-1626