

RACQUETBALL ASSOCIATION OF IRELAND

RULES AND REGULATIONS 2024

Updated October 2024

1.0 Player Grading

- 1.1 The following are the player grades in Irish racquetball: Open; B; C; D; Novice.
- 1.2 Novice players are defined as players who have not won a singles division or an overage singles division at a sanctioned open tournament. A player who wins a singles division or overage singles division at a sanctioned open tournament is no longer a novice player and is promoted to a “D” grade from that time onwards.

2.0 Seeding Committee

- 2.1 At the beginning of each season, a Seeding committee shall be formed.
- 2.2 The Seeding committee will consist of the Tournament Secretary and two members of the EXCO.
- 2.3 The Seeding committee shall overlook, promotions, transfers and draws for national championships.

3.0 Player Promotions

- 3.1 The promotion process is confined to singles divisions at sanctioned Open Tournaments. All promotions must be approved by the Seeding committee. The normal process is that when a player wins a division he or she is promoted to the next division. Exceptions are listed below.
- 3.2 a Novice player who wins a singles division or an overage singles division at an open tournament is promoted to the D grade and becomes a D player.
- 3.3 a D player who wins a c/d singles division at an open tournament is promoted to the C grade and becomes a C player.
- 3.4 a C player who wins a c/d singles division at an open tournament for the 3rd time is promoted to the B grade and becomes a B player.
- 3.5 a player who wins a B Singles at Open Tournaments which is a division comprised of first round losers from the Open Singles division will not be promoted.
- 3.6 Players winning promotion are promoted immediately after the tournament is completed.
- 3.7 Players cannot be promoted during a tournament, only when the tournament has finished will promotions apply.
- 3.8 A player who wins a division at an Open Tournament which has 6 players or less competing will not be promoted, unless the player requests to be promoted.
 - a. *(note 2 - at Open tournaments players are promoted one grade at a time e.g. a novice player winning a novice singles is promoted to D, a novice player winning a c/d singles at an Open tournament is promoted to D)*
 - b. *(note 3 - a C player who wins a c/d singles will become C1, on winning a second c/d singles will become C2 and on winning a 3rd c/d singles he/she will become a B player)*
 - c. *(note 4 - a player who wins 2 singles divisions at the same Open Tournament will be promoted according to the promotion rules above)*

4.0 Player Promotions at National Championships

- 4.1 A player winning a singles division at National Championships is promoted to the next grade.
 - a. *(note - irrespective of the players current grade, a player winning a singles division at the All Ireland Singles Championships is promoted to the next grade e.g. a D player on winning a C Singles All Ireland title will be promoted to the B grade)*
- 4.2 Players are promoted at All Ireland Championships irrespective of the number of players competing in the division that he or she won.

5.0 Promotion from International Tournaments

- 5.1 A player if he or she so wishes on winning an International event can apply to the Tournament Secretary for promotion to a comparable RAI singles grade. The seeding committee must approve any such application.

6.0 Player Re-Grading & Transfers

- 6.1 Upgraded players will remain in their new grade for at least three years before becoming eligible for re-grading. Applications for re-grading must be made to the Tournament Secretary on the Re-Grading Request form (*available on the website*)
- 6.2 A decision will be made within 10 days of acknowledgement of the application but the re-grade will not become effective until 30 days after approval given.
- 6.3 A fee of €10 must accompany any re-grading request.
- 6.4 All re-gradings must be approved by the Seeding committee.
- 6.5 Players can request a transfer from one club to another. Applications for transfers must be made to the Tournament Secretary on the Transfer Request Form (*available on the website*)
- 6.6 A transfer fee of 10€ applies.
- 6.7 The player requesting a transfer must show that his current club and the club he is transferring to is in agreement with the proposed transfer.
- 6.8 All transfers must be approved by the Seeding committee.

7.0 Seeding for Tournaments & National Championships

- 7.1 Players will be seeded in Open Tournaments and National Championships in all grades.
- 7.2 In Open singles divisions, seedings will be per the latest official RAI ranking lists.
- 7.3 Seeding lists will be used where they exist for other divisions and where they do not, higher graded players will be seeded above lower graded players.
- 7.4 In the absence of a seeding list, players who have a higher grade will be seeded above players with a lower grade, players from the same club will be kept apart in the draw as much as possible at the discretion of the Tournament Director.
- 7.5 The seeding list will be used as the approved guide for all Open Tournaments sanctioned by the Racquetball Association of Ireland.
- 7.6 The seeding list points will cover the results of all open tournaments sanctioned by the RAI, i.e. open, overage and underage.
- 7.7 The seeding list will backdate to cover the previous twelve months tournaments with no duplication of events within.
- 7.8 Seeding points will be allotted as follows: -
 - 1 point awarded to each player who plays in Open Singles
 - 2 points awarded to a player who wins a match but loses in the round of 16
 - 3 points awarded to a player who loses quarter-final (round of 8)
 - 5 points awarded to a player who loses semi-final (round of 4)
 - 7 points awarded to a player who loses final
 - 9 points awarded to a player who wins final
- 7.9 Seeding points are doubled for National Championships and the Irish Open Championships.
- 7.10 Once a division is played at an Open Tournament, players competing will be awarded points irrespective of the number of players competing in the division.
- 7.11 Up-to-date seeding lists are available on www.racquetball.ie before each Open Tournament.
- 7.12 Seeding for junior competitions is decided by the Junior Development Officer and Seeding Committee.

8.0 Draws at National Championships, Irish Open, Irish Junior Open and Open Tournaments.

- 8.1 Draws at National Championships, Irish Open and Irish Junior Open consist of the following seedings

TOP

1v16, 8v9,
12v5, 4v13
BOTTOM

3v14, 11v6,
7v10, 2v15

- 8.2 At Open Tournaments only the top four ranked players are required to be seeded.
Top half of draw to include Seeds 1 & 4, Bottom half of draw to include Seeds 2 & 3
- 8.3 The Tournament Secretary is responsible for making the draws for the National Championships. The seedings for each division must be approved by the seeding committee before the draws are presented to players and published.
- 8.4 The Junior Development Officer is responsible for making the draws for Junior National Championships. The draws must be approved by the seeding committee before being issued to players.
- 8.5 Irish Junior Open -Team points are awarded to players in each division and the team with the most points are awarded the Aisling Hynes Cup.
Points are awarded as follows:
- winner: 9 points
 - runner-up: 7 points
 - beaten semi-finalists: 5 points
 - beaten quarter-finalist: 3 points
 - beaten last 16: 2 points
 - beaten last 32: 1 point

In the case teams are tied on points the following will decide the winners:

- Team with most gold medals
- If still tied team with most silver medals
- If still tied team with most bronze medals.
- If still tied Cup is shared.

- 8.6 Entry forms must state if Singles are being played and completed on one day and Doubles the next day

9.0 Doubles Rules

- 9.1 Doubles for Open Tournaments shall be
1. Open Doubles,
 2. C/D/Novice Doubles (CDN)
- 9.2 Doubles teams must wear the shirts of similar colour and a different colour from that of their opponents. Every effort should be made to wear the same colour shirt, but it's at the tournament director's discretion if there is an issue.
- 9.3 In a tournament, if either doubles partner cannot continue due to injury or any other reason, he or she cannot be substituted after they have completed a match.

10.0 National Championships

- 10.1 The Association will hold the following National Championships each year for Men and Women and Juniors.
- 10.2 Singles Divisions at National Championships will be:
- i. Open: all Players
 - ii. B: all Players except Open players
 - iii. C: all Players except Open & B players
 - iv. D: all Players except Open B & C players
 - v. Novice: all Players except Open, B, C, D players
 - vi. Novice B: first round losers in Novice Singles - this division at the discretion of the Tournament Secretary and if time permits
- 10.3 Players who have been promoted at Open Tournaments since the previous National Championships may revert back one grade from the current grade. This applies to singles divisions for all grades

except players promoted from novice. Novice players promoted since the previous National Championships may revert back to play Novice Doubles but cannot partner another promoted player.

- 10.4 The seeding committee must approve all players who revert back.
- 10.5 The revert back rule is only available to players promoted in the current season and since the previous National Championships.
- 10.6 Doubles Divisions at National Championships will be:
 - i. Open (all players)
 - ii. Intermediate (all players except Open & B)
 - iii. Novice (all novice players – see rule 10.3)
 - iv. Mixed Divisions
- 10.7 Overage Singles Divisions
 - i. Over 30, 35, 40, 45, 50, 55, 60 (Open to all players over the required age)
 - ii. Over 30B, 35B, 40B, 45B, 50B, 55B, 60B (Open to all players over the required age except players graded Open & B)
- 10.8 Overage Doubles Divisions at National Championships will be:
Over 30, Over 40, Over 50
- 10.9 Junior Singles Divisions at National Championships will be:
Under 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18 and 21
- 10.10 Junior Doubles Divisions at National Championships will be:
Under 13 and Under 16
- 10.11 Junior “B” Singles at National Championships will be:
Under 10, 12, 14, 16 and 18
- 10.12 Players who have Gold or Silver medals in the Junior A National Championships or represented Ireland on a National team may not compete in the Junior B Championships.

11.0 Eligibility

- 11.1 Players taking part in National Championships must be citizens of the Republic of Ireland or Northern Ireland. Players who are citizens of another country but who have an Irish parent are also eligible if they provide evidence.
- 11.2 Players taking part in National Championships or Open Tournaments must be members of clubs affiliated to the Association or have individual membership of the Association.
- 11.3 Players competing in Open Tournaments, Provincial Championships or National Championships must be paid up registered with the Association.
- 11.4 Players playing in National Championships (which are being played over a weekend) will be allowed to take part in two divisions, up to a maximum of three divisions if time allows, at the discretion of the Tournament Secretary.
- 11.5 Players given permission to compete in three divisions must compete in one doubles division - competing in three singles divisions is not permitted at National Championships.
- 11.6 The awards for National Championships are: 1st Golden Medal (s), 2nd Silver Medal (s) and 3rd/4th Bronze Medal (Novice & Junior Divisions only).
- 11.7 Bronze medals will be awarded to losing semi-finalists at Junior National Championships where there is 6 players or more in a division. Where there is 5 players or less in a division a play off will decide the bronze medal position.

12.0 Women competing in Men's Divisions

- 12.1 Women may compete in Men’s singles and doubles divisions (except in the National Championships). They may play two divisions below their current Women’s grades.(promotion procedures apply if winning a division).

13.0 Tournament Rules(General)

- 13.1 Player should present themselves well on court.
- 13.2 Shoes/runners that mark the floor of the court are forbidden.
- 13.3 In doubles both players must wear the same colour shirts and must be a different colour than that of their opponents.
- 13.4 Players may not wear apparel that could offend other players on the grounds of race, religion or gender.

- 13.5 For all tournaments open or otherwise sanctioned by the Association, the IRF rules of racquetball apply.
- 13.6 Where an unregistered player(s) is permitted to compete in Open or Provincial Tournament or a tournament sanctioned by the Association, the Association may at its discretion impose penalties on the club running the tournament. The penalty can range from a warning to the withholding of entry fees for each unregistered player or a fine of 35€ or the equivalent entry fee for each unregistered player. In serious breaches of the above, sanction to run the tournament can be withdrawn

14.0 Sanctioned Tournaments

- 14.1 Seeding points are only available at tournaments where permission has been applied for and sanction granted by the Racquetball Association of Ireland.
- 14.2 Clubs wishing to host an Open Tournament and requesting permission from the RAI should apply in writing to the Tournament Secretary stating the Dates, Events and Facilities.
- 14.3 Sanctioned tournaments must offer the following divisions for men and women
 - i. Singles - Open, C/D, Novice, 40+, 50+, Junior
 - ii. Doubles - Open, CDNovice
- 14.4 All Sanctioned Tournaments will be included in the Calendar of Events.

15.0 Hosting National Championships

- 15.1 The Tournament Secretary will notify Clubs that the Association is open to applications to host National Championships at least 3 months before the venues are decided.
- 15.2 Clubs wishing to host National Championships should apply in writing to the Tournament Secretary stating the facilities available and court rental rates.

16.0 National Team

- 16.1 To represent Ireland in International Competitions, a player must prove Irish nationality by producing an Irish Passport or Birth Cert.
- 16.2 Players who are citizens of other countries that have Irish parents may also apply for selection on the Irish National team.
- 16.3 Where there is joint nationality, such players may only represent one country and thereafter be subject to the E.R.F and I.R.F Rules on such matters including having to wait 2 years since his/her last international representation if changing countries.
- 16.4 Players resident in Ireland must be a member of an affiliated club or have individual membership of the RAI, have played in the Open Singles Division in 3 Open Tournaments in the past 12 months (prior to trials).
- 16.5 Players who have emigrated and players of dual nationality living abroad, are permitted to submit themselves for inclusion and/or selection on national teams provided that:
 - a. are members of an affiliated club or have individual membership of the RAI.
 - b. have taken part in the Open Singles Division in one Open Tournament in Ireland in the previous 12 months prior to the trials.
 - c. have not represented any other country in the previous two years.
- 16.6 When trials for places on the National team are arranged, all players must compete at the trials in order to secure selection on the team.
- 16.7 A code of conduct will apply for National team members and officials taking part in International events.
- 16.8 The code of conduct must be signed by team members and officials upon selection.
- 16.9 Failure to sign the code of conduct will lead to automatic forfeiture of team position.

17.0 National Senior Team Trials & Selection

- 17.1 The EXCO shall choose managers/coaches for National Teams.
- 17.2 When it is necessary, trials for the Irish Team will take place on a selected date.
- 17.3 The date of the trials will be listed on the Tournament Calendar.
- 17.4 The criteria for players to get on the panel will be decided by the EXCO, the criteria to be sent to clubs and displayed on the website.
- 17.5 Format & rules for the trials will be presented to players on the panel at least one week ahead of the trials.
- 17.6 In the event of a player withdrawing from the trials and such a withdrawal making a substantial difference to the format of the trials, a new format will be decided by the team manager.

18.0 Registration/Insurance

- 18.1 All players who are members of affiliated clubs can register with Association. Registration is inclusive of player accident/injury insurance scheme provided by the Racquetball Association of Ireland through its insurance brokers is compulsory for all players both adult and junior who wish to compete in RAI sanctioned tournaments i.e Open Tournaments, Provincial Championships & Tournaments, National Championships, National Team Trials or any other tournament which is sanctioned by the Association. Individual registration for players who are not members of affiliated clubs is also available.

19.0 Disqualification

- 19.1 A player who wins a division that he or she was not entitled to enter will result in the player being disqualified immediately. The player who was runner up shall be awarded first place. All other players will be upgraded one place. Players disqualified at National Championships or afterwards will have their name removed from the record. It is the responsibility of players entering competitions that they enter the correct division.

20.0 Disciplinary Rules

- 20.1 For Code of Conduct Rules and Disciplinary issues please refer to Appendix 1 and Appendix 2 of this document.
- 20.2 For Anti Doping regulations the Association have adopted the Sport Ireland Anti Doping Rules <https://www.sportireland.ie/anti-doping>

21.0 Representation

Officers are not permitted to provide any form of character reference for an individual as part of legal or Court Proceedings, in his or her capacity as an Officer of the RAI. For the avoidance of doubt, RAI participants may not use RAI-related letterhead nor sign any such character reference in their capacity as an Officer of the RAI. Any character reference, whether provided by an Officer or a Member should specify that it is being provided in a personal capacity and not in any way on behalf of or as an Officer or a Member of the RAI.

22.0 Referee Courses

All players graded Open, B, C & D must complete the course as outlined by the EXCO.

23.0 Rule Modifications

Clubs can propose changes and submit the proposed changes to the General Secretary as a motion to the AGM as per the rules in the Constitution.

Continue reading Appendix 1, Appendix 2

RACQUETBALL ASSOCIATION OF IRELAND RULES AND REGULATIONS

APPENDIX ONE

CODE OF CONDUCT

1. GENERAL

The Racquetball Association of Ireland Code of Conduct is issued pursuant Rule 3.17 Technical Fouls and Warnings of the International Racquetball Federation Rule Book (See Appendix Two) and covers the conduct of events run and organised under the auspices of Racquetball Association of Ireland and is designed to secure the future well-being of racquetball.

Different aspects of the Code may have relevance to players, officials, spectators and administrators involved in a racquetball tournament or competition.

The Code, therefore, applies to all these categories and should be understood by all concerned with competitive racquetball. Racquetball Association of Ireland supports the Rules of Racquetball as published by the International Racquetball Federation.

All tournaments and competitions organised in Ireland under the auspices of or in conjunction with Racquetball Association of Ireland shall be played according to these rules and the Rules and Regulations of the Racquetball Association of Ireland.

2. EVENTS ADMINISTRATION

Organisers of racquetball tournaments and competitions must ensure that clear and comprehensive regulations are prepared and available to all competitors in time to permit compliance with such regulations.

Administrative instructions, which require particular actions by players and / or officials, must be clearly stated and communicated to those concerned.

Adequate arrangements must be made to permit the proper conduct of a tournament or competition.

3. PLAYERS

The Code of Conduct for players (and their managers and coaching staff where applicable) applies to individuals and teams. Any player who enters tournaments or competitions thereby accepts all regulations associated with the event, and shall subsequently comply with them.

No player shall withdraw from an event after submitting an application to enter without the consent of the event organiser. Such consent will normally only be given in the following circumstances:

- When the player has incurred accidental injury or ill-health after submitting an entry application.
- When family or other circumstances warrants a player to withdraw.

Players must be familiar with the IRF Rules of Racquetball and must make every effort to comply with them. Players must conduct themselves at all times in a way which brings credit to the image of racquetball in the eyes of spectators, the media and sponsors. They must conduct themselves with dignity on court and recognise the need for continuity of play.

They must recognise the legitimate interests of the racquetball media, and make themselves available to meet reasonable requests for interviews, photo calls and press briefings.

They must also recognise their responsibilities to sponsors and event organisers, and meet reasonable requests to attend formal and informal functions associated with the event. Some specific aspects of behavior on court, or in public, which are considered contrary to creditable conduct, are included in the following list, which is not intended to be comprehensive.

- Swearing or obscene language
- Making offensive gestures
- Disputing decisions made by a referee
- Arguing/conversations with line judges
- Deliberate contact between players or between players and playing equipment.

- Making offensive comments, or comments which might be regarded as offensive to or about an opponent, match officials, coaches or spectators on the basis of race, sex, sexual orientation, gender or disability.
- wearing of clothing which contains images or writing which might be regarded as offensive on the basis of race, sex, sexual orientation, gender or disability.

4. SPECTATORS AND COACHES

Spectators must remain silent during rallies, and should not encourage extended and undignified delays between rallies by attempting to provoke discussion between players and officials, or between the players themselves.

In the event of disruptive or threatening behavior on the part of any spectator, relative, parent, guardian, or coach at any RAI sanctioned event, the referee is empowered to address a first offense by enforcing sanction #1 detailed below. For additional infractions, the tournament director, or RAI official in attendance, either of their own accord or at the request of the referee, is empowered to enforce sanctions #2 and #3 as warranted.

- #1. For the first offense: violator may watch, but not speak, while the athlete's match is being played.
- #2. For the second offense: violator may not watch the athlete's match, but may remain within the building.
- #3. For the third offense: violator will be removed from the club for the duration of the tournament, and pertinent authorities advised of the restriction. If a given situation so warrants, the tournament director or RAI official may invoke this sanction immediately and without previous offenses, in the interest of safety.

Coaches are bound by the same rules as players, in as far as technical violations are concerned. Full listing and appropriate disciplinary measures are detailed in **Rule 3.17.(See Appendix Two)**

5. DISCIPLINARY MATTERS

The Racquetball Association of Ireland supports the Rules of Racquetball as published by the International Racquetball Federation. All tournaments and competitions organised in Ireland under the auspices of or in conjunction with Racquetball Association of Ireland shall be played according to the rules of racquetball.

6. RULES OF RACQUETBALL – CODE OF CONDUCT AND RESULTING PENALTIES

6.1 The Code of conduct and resulting penalties are contained within the Rules of Racquetball and they outline the powers available to any referee for dealing with on court offences by players.

6.1.1 In addition, the Tournament Director or RAI Tournament Secretary/Team Manager must submit a report to the Racquetball Association of Ireland within 10 days or as soon as reasonably practical of breach of a the Code of Contact to include Grade 1, Grade 11 or Grade 111 offence.

The Tournament Director or RAI Tournament Secretary/Team Manager must also include details of any breaches of the Code of Conduct that have not been dealt with by the referee during the match. This report will have details of the offence/s, players involved and the names of referee/line judges. Where a Grade II or Grade III offence is deemed to have occurred then the procedures in paragraph 6.1.1 should be implemented. Witness names should be taken if applicable, and also a brief statement taken if possible. The result of the match as called by the referee will not be affected by breaches noted independently by the Tournament Director or RAI Tournament Secretary/Team Manager.

6.1.2 The following offences, Graded 1 to 3 in order of seriousness, if committed by an individual may be subject to penalties under Rule 3.17 (see Appendix 2) of the International Racquetball Federation Rules and will result in fines and/or disciplinary action being taken against the player/individual responsible. These grades also to apply to breaches of the Code of conduct for National Team members (Junior or Senior)

Grade I

The Player or individual:

- i. commits any Rule 3.17 (See Appendix 2) offence not falling within Grades 2 and Grades 3 below.
- ii. defaults from a Championship or Tournament (the RAI may require evidence of bona fide injury, illness or other emergency situation).

Grade II

The Player or individual:

- i. fails to complete a match for a reason other than injury, illness or emergency situation;
- ii. is disqualified by the referee

Grade III

The player or individual:

- i. physically abuses his opponent, referee, officials, spectators or sponsors;
- ii. participates when suspended, ineligible or unqualified;
- iii. influences the result of a match by arrangement;
- iv. is guilty of any other unreasonable conduct which brings the game into disrepute, including behaviour as a result of intoxication, by any means including use of recreational substances such as alcohol, marijuana and hallucinogens.
- v. brings the sport of racquetball, the Association into disrepute by word or deeds which are offensive.
- vi. Failure to pay fines or abide by suspensions imposed from a previous incident.

This list is not exhaustive and all cases of Code of Conduct violations, including those by spectators and coaches will be dealt with the RAI Disciplinary Committee.

Fines and suspensions shall be enforced as follows:

Grade I - Upon 3 incidents of Grade I violations in 12 months – a written warning to the player or individual.

Grade II - Fine of up to €100. (Note: Two Grade offences within 12 months shall constitute a Grade 3 offence).

Grade III - Six month ban from all RAI Tournaments, teams or events plus a fine of up to €200.

A disciplinary panel may reduce the penalties at its discretion.

7. DISCIPLINARY MATTERS AT CLUB LEVEL

7.1 If not already covered in paragraph 6, will be dealt with by the club concerned or other delegated appropriate authority.

8. DISCIPLINARY MATTERS AT EVENTS AT PROVINCIAL LEVEL

8.1 If not already covered in paragraph 6 will be dealt with by the Provincial Council concerned.

8.2 Any appeals will be dealt with by a Provincial Council Appeals Panel, so convened or by the Racquetball Association of Ireland itself, if so referred (9.3). The Provincial Council Appeals Panel should meet within 28 days of appeal notification.

9. DISCIPLINARY MATTERS AT EVENTS

9.1 The Racquetball Association of Ireland's Disciplinary Panel will deal with disciplinary Matters.

9.2 The Racquetball Association of Ireland's Appeals Panel will deal with any appeals.

10. GUIDANCE DEALING WITH DISCIPLINARY OFFENCES, DISCIPLINARY HEARINGS AND APPEALS

10.1 The alleged offender must be informed as soon as possible after the alleged breach of the Code of Conduct, that a report is to be submitted to the appropriate Disciplinary Panel and that he/she may be the subject of a disciplinary hearing.

10.2 The tournament director must submit a written report and written statements to the

Tournament Secretary within **seven days or as soon as reasonably practical** of the alleged breach of the Code of Conduct.

10.3 The Disciplinary Panel will consider the Tournament Director or Tournament Secretary's Report and issue a finding on the report and apply sanctions as outlined in 6.1.2. The Disciplinary Panel must notify the alleged offender in writing that a formal complaint against him/her has been received. He/she shall be invited to provide written response about the incident or incidents, which gave rise to the allegation, and indicate whether he/she accepts the accuracy of the charges and the sanction(s) imposed on him/her. In all cases, he/she should be informed of his/her right to have the matter dealt with at a disciplinary hearing under 10.4 below. If he/she requests a disciplinary hearing, the Disciplinary Panel shall supply to him/her with all copies of the written reports and statements referred to in paragraph 6.1.1. A fee of 100€ is payable on the request for a hearing which will be refunded if the offender is found innocent of the charge.

10.4 A Disciplinary Panel shall consist of not less than three persons appointed to consider the written reports and other relevant documentation and, if necessary, shall convene a disciplinary hearing to be held at the Disciplinary Panel's discretion. The Disciplinary Panel should be given clear guidance as to its powers to impose disciplinary sanctions should it find the allegations to be substantiated by the evidence. The Disciplinary Panel may be standing or convened to consider a particular incident, and may not contain any person who has any connection with the parties involved.

10.5 If a hearing is called, it is essential that the alleged offender be given reasonable opportunity to attend (minimum 14 days) and/or be represented, and statements taken from witnesses must have been served on him/her fourteen days prior to the hearing.

10.6 Consideration of the alleged breaches of the Code of Conduct, whether involving a disciplinary hearing or not, should be dealt with as a clear priority. (It is impossible to set an arbitrary timescale to cover all levels of racquetball but, at the very least, the aim should be to complete the initial disciplinary process (excluding appeal) within one month of the alleged breach.

10.7 The alleged offender should have the right to appeal to the Appeals Panel as set out in paragraph 10.9 against the findings of the relevant Disciplinary Panel and/or any penalty imposed. He/she should also have the right to convene an appeal hearing.

10.8 Ranges of sanctions are available as outlined in Paragraph 6.1.2 above for application by a Disciplinary Panel, which considers that the Racquetball Association of Ireland's Code of Conduct has been breached.

10.9 Any person wishing to appeal against a decision by a Disciplinary Panel must register an intention to appeal to the relevant Appeal Panel in writing, with the Disciplinary Panel which issued the sanction within seven days of being notified of the Disciplinary Panel's decision. Persons appealing against a decision by the Racquetball Association of Ireland's Disciplinary Panel must provide a deposit of €100.00 in the form of a cheque to the Racquetball Association of Ireland. The deposit will be returned in full if the appeal is upheld. If the appeal is not upheld, the costs of the appeal will be taken from the deposit. Any penalty imposed by a Disciplinary Panel shall be suspended pending the outcome of the appeal. An Appeal Panel will consider the matter afresh by way of a re-consideration of all relevant reports and statements and should consider the reports and findings of the Disciplinary Panel who first handled the case. The Appeal Panel may call a further hearing and may consider fresh evidence. Those appointed to hear an appeal may confirm, set aside, reduce or increase any penalties already imposed.

10.10 Any expenses of the Disciplinary Panel, the informant and witnesses involved in the first disciplinary hearing will be borne by the Disciplinary Panel dealing with the alleged breach of the Code. The alleged offender must bear his/her own expenses unless the Disciplinary Panel otherwise decides. However, the Disciplinary Panel may, if it so decides, pass on costs reasonably incurred by the offender.

10.11 All expenses incurred or connected with any Appeal (including costs associated with any hearing) will be borne by the person making the appeal, unless the findings of the Disciplinary Panel (or any part thereof if there is more than one allegation), are set aside. These costs or such

proportion as is considered reasonable by the relevant Appeal Panel hearing the appeal, will then become the responsibility of the Disciplinary Panel whose decision has been appealed against.

10.12 An alleged offender may be assisted by a legal adviser or supporter at a hearing if he/she so wishes

11. CIVIL OR CRIMINAL ACTION

If civil or criminal proceedings are pending, all reports and statements should be collated as normal, but the disciplinary proceedings postponed until a decision by the civil or criminal authorities has been reached.

12. PENALTIES

12.1 In order to ensure that punishments are as consistent as possible, all results of the disciplinary hearings should be given to the Racquetball Association of Ireland immediately the appeal time limit has expired. Relevant information will then be circulated periodically to Clubs and published on the Racquetball Association of Ireland website.

12.2 Fines imposed on individuals must be paid within specific time limits, which should be outlined in the communication with the individual involved. Generally fines must be paid within three weeks of being imposed unless an appeal is sought. Individuals may not take part in RAI sanctioned events until all fines are paid.

12.3 Should an individual fail to pay a fine or abide by a suspension, the Racquetball Association of Ireland may take action to expel the individual as outlined in the Constitution of the Racquetball Association of Ireland

13. DRUG REGULATIONS

The Racquetball Association of Ireland have adopted the Sport Ireland Anti-Doping Rules as amended from time to time by Sport Ireland. Sport Ireland Anti-doping rules supersedes the Rules & Regulations and Codes of Conduct of the RAI where conflicts occur.

RACQUETBALL ASSOCIATION OF IRELAND

APPENDIX TWO

CODE OF CONDUCT -

IRF rules • Official International Racquetball Federation Rules

Rule 3.17 TECHNICAL FOULS AND WARNINGS

(a) The referee is empowered to deduct one point from a player's or team's score when, in the referee's sole judgment, the player is being overly and deliberately abusive. The actual invoking of this penalty is called a "referee's technical." If the player or team against whom the technical was assessed does not resume play immediately, the referee is empowered to forfeit the match in favor of the opponent. Some examples of actions which may result in technicals are:

1. Profanity.
2. Excessive arguing.
3. Threat of any nature to opponent or referee.

4. Excessive or hard striking of the ball between rallies.
5. Slamming of the racquet against walls or floor, slamming the door, or any action, which might result in damage to the court and/or injury to of other players.
6. Delay of game. Examples include
 - taking too much time to dry the court,
 - excessive questioning of the referee about the rules,
 - exceeding the time allotted for timeouts or between games,
 - calling a timeout after the service motion begins,
 - calling a timeout when none are remaining will result in a technical warning. If this occurs again in the same game it will result in a technical foul.
 - a technical foul will be assessed if the warm-up period is violated. The allowed warm-up time in singles is 5 minutes maximum for both players at the same time. In doubles each team will be allowed 4 minutes maximum for the warm-up.
7. Intentional front line foot faults to negate a bad lob serve.
8. Anything considered unsportsmanlike behavior.
9. Wearing improper clothing/uniform, as specified in Rule 2.5 (b).
10. Failure to wear proper eyewear, as specified in Rule 2.5 d).

(b) **Coaching.** Where coaches are involved, coaches or team representatives are bound by the same rules as far as technicals are concerned and any infractions are charged against the player. No coaches or representatives are allowed in the courts at anytime during a match unless granted permission by the referee. Failure to observe this rule is a technical and will be charged against the player. Any coach or player conducting themselves in a negative manner towards the referee or linesperson of a match shall receive the following penalties:

First Offence: technical warning (minimum) -

Subsequent Offences: technical on the coach/person's player or team.

c) **Technical Warning.** If a player's behavior is not so severe as to warrant a referee's technical, a technical warning may be issued without the deduction of a point.

d) **Effect of Technical or Warning.** If a referee issues a technical foul, one point shall be removed from the offender's score. No point will be deducted if a referee issues a technical warning. In either case, a technical foul or warning should be accompanied by a brief explanation. Issuing a technical foul or warning has no effect on who will be serving when play resumes. If a technical foul occurs when the offender has no points or between games, the result will be that the offender's score becomes minus one (-1). Three player technicals will result in a player/team disqualification from match.