



USA Racquetball Instructors Program

For Instructors-Coaches-Programmers-Clinicians

USA Racquetball is in the final stages of creating a certification program targeted toward developing and certifying potential instructors for health clubs, fitness centers, schools and universities. The course will also provide essential information for conducting successful group teaching clinics. We have gathered together four of the premier instructors and coaches in the United States to plan, prepare and execute this elite program. Fran Davis, Connie Martin, Tom Travers and Jim Winterton possess over 120 years' collective experience in teaching, training, and coaching racquetball as well as in programming instructional clinics and events. The coaching element of the program follows continuing education guidelines of the United States Olympic Committee Coaching Program, and all elements of this new, innovative and exciting approach will prepare potential instructors to provide top quality professional instruction. The goal is to complete development of the program in January and begin providing instruction to candidates in February.

Course objectives include: conveying precise knowledge, skills and abilities required to teach racquetball efficiently; developing a clear comprehension and proficiency of the 10 Benchmarks of Instruction necessary to teach and train students; delivering an avenue for continuing education and advancement to assist qualified instructors in maintaining current informational skills; providing an evaluation process that facilitates consistency and quality control for instructional problems across the nation; and developing a high level of competence and confidence relative to primary instructional techniques.

The curriculum begins with a preview CD that illustrates the 10 Benchmarks of Instruction. The three-day session features a two-day review and application of these core principles and also a review of doubles play. Day Three incorporates a skills verification of the five modules including a test on the 10 Benchmarks. (The modules are strategy, stroke mechanics, beginner and advanced theories, physiology/nutrition and on-court instruction.) Once certified, instructors will receive continuing education via online classes and other support materials. Upon certification, each student will be assigned a mentor who will be available for monthly conference calls to address updated instructional techniques and provide advice and input.

The course will enable students to achieve one of four levels of development: Apprentice, Instructor, Professional Instructor and Master Instructor. In addition to this core offering, there will be additional courses available to focus on Coaching, Clinics and Programming.

This new program is being designed to maximize the use of modern technology to provide instructional and analytical tools and support continuing education.

We have been notified that Gary Mazaroff has chosen to administrate AmPRO as a separate and distinct program from this newly developed USA Racquetball program. As they desire, current AmPRO instructors will be provided a significant period of time to re-certify, upgrade and subsequently maintain their certification with the USA Racquetball program. During this transition phase, current instructors will maintain their insurance coverage. Instructors who decide to pursue certification in the USA Racquetball Instructors Program will be provided access to online continuing classes as well the other benefits of the new program.

As this new and exciting program reaches its final stage of development, look for additional information on the USA Racquetball home page, in eNewsletters and in *Racquetball* magazine.

Frequently Asked Questions

Q: Why is USA Racquetball not improving AmPro and instead creating a new program?

A: Those who administrate and govern a sport must continually re-evaluate and re-invent as needs dictate. USA Racquetball, as the National Governing Body under the USOC, takes its responsibility very seriously to make modern instructional methods available and utilize technology, with the desired end result being supremely qualified instructors who will take the sport into the next generation.

Q. If I am a lifetime AmPRO member, will I be granted a lifetime USAR Instructor membership?

A: Yes. Lifetime membership in AmPRO will be honored by the USA Racquetball Instructors Program, as will all existing memberships (3-year, etc.). Via a phased-in approach, continuing education and subsequent certification will be required.

Q. Will USA Racquetball recognize my AmPRO certification during the period prior to getting certified in the new program?

A. AmPRO certification will be honored for 18 months if an individual re-registers for the new organization (will be available online). Up-to-date information is required for insurance purposes.

Q. As an AmPRO instructor, I am covered for insurance liability while I am conducting lessons/clinics. Will the new USAR program include insurance coverage?

A. Yes, it will. AmPRO insurance actually was provided and financed by USAR. The new program will continue all benefits and coverage instructors enjoyed under the AmPRO program.

Q. When will the details of the new instructor certification program be made available, and how much will it cost to get certified?

A. Information will be posted online in December at <http://www.usaracquetball.com/USARInstructorsProgram.aspx>.

Q. If I remain AmPRO certified and choose not to participate in the USAR program, will this affect my ability to give lessons at clubs/fitness centers?

A. If you choose not to become a member of the USAR Instructors Program after your current AmPRO membership expires, you will not have insurance through USAR nor will your current certification be recognized by USAR after 18 months.

Q. Can I maintain membership in both organizations?

A. Yes, of course.

Q. Will AmPRO clinics continue to be offered at the beginning of USAR-sanctioned events?

A. While we cannot speak to future AmPRO plans, AmPRO clinics will not be directly partnered with USAR-sanctioned events. The USAR Instructors Program may offer clinics associated with USAR events.