



## ***Women's Professional Racquetball Organization 2009-10 Player Handbook & Contract***

### ***Governing Body***

The governing body of the WPRO is a Board of Directors consisting of seven members including the year end #1 and #2 ranked players, one elected player representative, five elected non-player representatives and the Commissioner. The Board oversees and operates the WPRO Tour. Elected Board members serve a consecutive three-year term, beginning with the 2009-10 season. Shannon Feaster (Commissioner), Dave Ellis (Deputy Commissioner), Brenda Loube, Bobby Thore, Linda Mojer, Malia Bailey, Charlie Hauser, Paola Longoria (2008-09 #1 Pro), Rhonda Rajsich (2008-09 #2 Pro), and Jo Shattuck (Player Representative) are your Board members for the 2009-10 season.

### ***WPRO Membership***

There are two basic types of WPRO memberships. A full season membership costs \$100.00 and allows you to compete in all WPRO events, giving you full voting rights during player meetings. Single event memberships cost \$10.00 per event for up to four events in one season and may be paid with each entry fee. Upon entering her fifth Tier I event, if a player has not paid the remaining balance to become a full member, she must pay the difference between what has already been paid and the \$100 annual membership fee.

### ***Insurance and Liability***

Each WPRO event is covered by a \$5 million liability insurance policy offered through USA Racquetball. All WPRO participants (including international players) must be current USAR members and are covered under the USAR insurance policy. The annual fee for USAR membership is \$35. A per event USAR fee of \$15 may also be purchased during registration.

### ***WPRO Drug Policy***

The WPRO follows the guidelines and adheres to the sanctions of the World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA). The WPRO may conduct random drug testing of players at sanctioned events throughout the season. For a list of banned substances, visit: [http://www.wada-ama.org/rtecontent/document/2007\\_List\\_En.pdf](http://www.wada-ama.org/rtecontent/document/2007_List_En.pdf).

### ***Event Supervision***

The WPRO Commissioner will make every effort to be present to monitor matches and observe event conduct at all Tier I or higher level events. If she is unavailable to do so, she will appoint a representative to observe matches and make determinations as necessary. The WPRO Commissioner will have final confirmation on all draw and rules questions.

### ***Event Entry***

Entries must be mailed, phoned in or emailed directly to the WPRO Commissioner. No entries or fees will be accepted by a third party.

Shannon Feaster  
WPRO Commissioner  
13202 Autumn Drive  
Silver Spring, MD 20904  
202/365-5504  
[wprocommish@aol.com](mailto:wprocommish@aol.com)

### ***The Draw***

The deadline for entry into the WPRO pro draw is midnight 12:00 a.m. Eastern Time (ET) the Friday before the week of the event. For certain events such as Pro Nationals or Grand Slams, an earlier deadline may be enforced.

### ***Withdrawals (notify commissioner)***

Any player may withdraw before the official deadline outlined above. Any withdrawals after the deadline will not be removed from the draw once it is posted on Wednesday (by 12 noon) and will be required to pay the full entry fee plus a \$25.00 fine. If a top 8 ranked player withdraws prior to the start of an event, the draw will be redone. If a top 8 ranked player withdraws after her first match has begun, the draw will remain as is. Player must provide the WPRO with a doctor's note if an injury occurs and she must withdraw from an event after the entry deadline. If no note can be provided, the player will be subject to the aforementioned penalty.

### ***Forfeits (no notification to commissioner)***

Plan to arrive on Thursday for all WPRO Tier 1 and Grand Slam events. Pro match may begin as early as 11:00am on Friday. Players who enter the draw and forfeit due to lateness (15 min.) or other unexcused reasons will be required to pay the full entry fee and are subject to a \$25.00 fine. Players who enter the draw are expected to check in at least 30 minutes prior to the start of their matches and play all of their matches.

### ***Entry Fees***

Entry fee for Tier I (\$10K) events is \$70 (plus a \$10 membership fee or \$100 for annual dues). Players will be notified by the Commissioner if the entry fee increases for higher level events.

### ***Sponsor Doubles Pro-Am/VIP Reception***

Sponsor Doubles typically takes place Thursday evening with the tour's top players, sponsors and celebrities. If there is a Sponsor Doubles event, the top 8 seeds are required to participate. Tournament and WPRO staff will arrange the format. WPRO will provide supervision of the event. If a Saturday VIP reception or Party with the Pros gathering is preferred, the WPRO will guarantee that the top 8 seeds will be in attendance at Tier 1 events. The Top 16 may be required to attend special functions at Pro Nationals and Grand Slams.

### ***Junior Development Program***

Any junior player (under the age of 18) who enters the Pro division of a WPRO Tier I event, not including Grand Slams (i.e. U.S. Open) or satellite events, will pay a reduced entry fee of \$40 (plus a \$10 membership fee).

### ***Payment of Entries***

All entries must be paid in full prior to the player reporting to the court. Any player who fails to do so prior to her first match is subject to a \$25 fine, which will be collected with the entry fee by the Commissioner. All entry fees and fines must be paid to the Commissioner prior to player competing in any additional WPRO matches. Entry fees will not be taken out of prize money checks.

### ***Seeding***

The draws are seeded according to current rankings. For players who are tied in points, the player who has the most current season points will be seeded higher. Players with no WPRO points are randomly placed in the lowest seeded positions. Consideration may be given to qualifying players from the same local areas so they do not play each other in early rounds.

### ***Playing in USAR Divisions at WPRO events***

Any player who has played in a semifinal round of a WPRO Tier I or higher level event within 12 months is not eligible to compete in the Open singles or doubles portions of any event, WPRO or USAR. However, these players may compete in singles or doubles divisions classified as Pro/Open at tournaments that are sanctioned by the WPRO as Tier I or satellite events.

### ***Withdrawal from USAR Divisions***

WPRO players who enter any other division of an event other than Pro, including the Open divisions (singles or doubles), are expected to play and present themselves in the same professional manner as in their Tour appearances. Failure to play a match after entering a division is subject to a \$100.00 fine.

### ***Officiating***

All losers are expected to referee either the next match or the first WPRO match the following day. Failure to officiate will result in a \$75.00 fine unless player finds a suitable replacement with prior Commissioner approval. Semifinals and final matches will also have line judges appointed.

### ***Public Image***

All WPRO players are expected to present themselves in a professional manner both on and off the court as you represent the Tour at each event. Reprimands may be issued and further action taken by the Commissioner for unprofessional conduct, insubordination or unsportsmanlike behavior. The Commissioner and/or Board of Directors will have the final decision on all assessed fines and sanctions.

### ***Attire***

Pros may only wear sponsor shirts, sleeveless tops or other attire that looks professional. No cotton t-shirts are allowed.

### ***Conduct & Fines***

- Profanity or other language considered inappropriate for a WPRO professional: Fine \$50
- Throwing racquet or other equipment out of anger or frustration: Fine \$50
- Slamming court door out of anger: Fine \$30. Fine is \$100 if damage occurs plus cost of damage.
- Banging racquet against window or door in excess: Fine \$25
- Excessive verbal abuse toward official or opponent: Fine \$50
- Any physical abuse toward spectator, official or opponent: Fine \$100

- Any abuse of club facility (locker room, hallways, parking lot, etc.): Fine \$100 plus cost of damage.
- Any excessive or especially offensive conduct that may be deemed unsportsmanlike or detrimental to the reputation of the WPRO: Fine \$50-250
- Wearing unapproved clothing during WPRO matches (see “Attire”): Fine \$50
- Missing a scheduled appearance: Fine \$100.00, 2nd offense \$300.00, 3rd offense \$500
- Missing a mandatory player meeting: Fine \$100.00

\* Commissioner and/or Board discretion will be used to assess additional fines or sanctions.

### ***Fines***

All monies collected from fines will go towards defraying WPRO tour operating expenses. All fines must be paid in full prior to the player’s next event. When the tour runs at a profit, the fines will be collected and distributed to an official WPRO charity. FINES MAY BE TAKEN OUT OF PRIZE MONEY CHECK. If no check is issued, the fine must be paid before entering the next WPRO event.

### ***Appeals of Fines***

Fines regarding sportsmanship and conduct may only be appealed to the Board of Directors. If a player on the Board is fined and submits an appeal, the next highest ranked player will vote in her stead. All appeals must be submitted to the Commissioner in writing within one week of the issued notice of the fine.

### ***Prize Money***

Within two weeks of each event, the Commissioner or Board Treasurer will pay out all prize money by check or money order either in person or via mail. Every effort will be made to pay out all prize money in person at the conclusion of each WPRO event. All prize money will be paid in full. Players may immediately cash prize money checks.

Prize money breakdown for Tier I (\$10,000) events:

- \$2,815- 1<sup>st</sup>
- \$1410 - 2<sup>nd</sup>
- \$760 - Semifinals
- \$365 - Quarterfinals
- \$225 - 16's

\*Prize money breakdown will be determined by Commissioner and/or tournament directors for other events, including satellites, based on total prize money purse.

### ***Ranking System***

For WPRO ranking system for the 2009-10 season, see attached spreadsheet. Satellite ranking points will be prorated. WPRO membership will be notified prior to any new ranking system taking effect.

### ***Federal Filing Requirement***

All WPRO players who earn more than \$600 in a single calendar year will receive an IRS Form 1099 from the Commissioner’s office. All WPRO Pros earning more than \$600 in WPRO prize money MUST reflect their earnings in a U.S. tax filing the following year. Thirty percent will be withheld from the prize money checks of ALL INTERNATIONAL PLAYERS. A W-9 form,

which will be supplied by the WPRO, must be filled out and returned to the Commissioner before the start of the first event of the season.

### ***Media Rights***

The WPRO maintains all rights to players' photographs, video productions, posters, calendars and media releases produced in association with the WPRO or a tour event.

### ***Tour Schedule***

The WPRO tour for the upcoming season will be announced at the National Singles event in Houston. All efforts will be made to maintain all events throughout the season but the WPRO cannot be held responsible for individual promoters that may have to cancel events for unforeseen reasons.

### ***Pro Match/Appearance Schedule***

Thursday Sponsor Doubles (Mandatory for Top 10): 7:00pm  
Friday Round of 32: 11:00am, 12:00pm, 1:00pm, 2:00pm (4 per hour)  
Friday Round of 16: 4:00pm, 5:00pm, 6:00pm, 7:00pm (2 per hour)  
Saturday Quarterfinals: 11:00am, 12:00pm (2 per hour)  
Saturday Semifinals: 4:00pm, 5:00pm (back to back)  
Sunday Finals: 12:00pm

### ***Player Meetings***

The WPRO Commissioner will hold player meetings at select events. The time, day and location of each meeting will be available at the registration of the event. The meetings are open to all WPRO dues paying members but only full paying members (\$100) have voting rights during player meetings. Issues that are raised and voted upon during player meetings do not necessarily dictate policy but may serve as a guide for future decisions. Top 16 WPRO players **MUST ATTEND** the mandatory player meetings or be subject to sanctioning by the Commissioner.

### ***National Tour Sponsors:***

OFFICIAL BALL: Ektelon Fireball  
OFFICIAL GRIP: Python  
OFFICIAL HOTEL PARTNER: Choice Hotels International  
OFFICIAL JEWELER: Transflection Designs  
OFFICIAL CHARITY: Racquetball for Life/American Breast Cancer Foundation

Please support the companies and organizations that sponsor our tour. The complete list of official sponsors and partners is listed on our website at [www.wpro-tour.com](http://www.wpro-tour.com).

### ***Official/Host Hotel***

The WPRO has secured a partnership with **Choice Hotels International** as our Official Hotel Partner for the next two seasons. Please make a Choice property (Comfort Inn, Comfort Suites, Clarion, MainStay, Quality Inn, Sleep Inn, Suburban, Rodeway Inn, EconoLodge) your host hotel for your event and ask tournament participants to mention the WPRO Special Rate ID **00213440**. To reserve hotel rooms and get the special 15% discounted rate, you must call **877.240.AWAY (2929)** or visit [www.choicesportstravel.com](http://www.choicesportstravel.com). Don't forget to mention or enter the Special Rate ID code.

Booking with our code will allow the WPRO to receive a rebate from each reservation which will help us cover tour expenses throughout the season. Remember, our discount applies anytime to our extended racquetball family including players, players' families/friends, and supporters/sponsors/partners of the WPRO. As a tour supporter, you may use this discount code for

other events throughout the season.

### WPRO Membership Application/Waiver

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Home phone \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_

Work phone \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_

Cell phone \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address \_\_\_\_\_

Circle One:

- WPRO Full Year - \$100.00
- WPRO Single Event - \$10 (Up to four events)
- USAR Annual Membership - \$50

\*All WPRO pros MUST also become a member of the USAR to play in a WPRO event.

#### Liability Waiver

In considerations of being allowed to participate in all WPRO athletic/sports programs, tournaments and related events and activities for the 2009-10 season, the undersigned:

- Agrees that prior to participating, they will inspect the facilities and equipment to be used, and if they believe anything is unsafe, they will immediately advise their coach, supervisor, or WPRO personnel of such condition(s) and refuse to participate.
- Acknowledges and fully understands that each participant will be engaging in activities that involve risk of serious injury, including permanent disability and death, and severe social and economic losses which might result from their own actions, inactions of negligence by others, the rules of play, condition of the premises or of any equipment used. Further, that there may be other risks not known to us or not reasonably foreseeable at the time of the event.
- Assume all the foregoing risks and accept personal responsibility for the damages following such injury, including permanent disability or death. Release, waive, discharge and covenant not to sue the WPRO its affiliated clubs, regional sports organizations, their respective administrators, directors, agents, coaches, and other employees of the organization, other participants, sponsoring agencies, sponsors advertisers, and, if applicable, owners and lessees of premises used to conduct the event, all of which are hereinafter referred to as "releases" from any and all liability to the signatory of this form, player, her heirs and next of kin for any and all claims, demands, losses or damages.
- The undersigned has read the preceding waiver and release, with the understanding that they have given up substantial rights by signing, and do so voluntarily.

Member Name (Print clearly) \_\_\_\_\_

Member Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Check # \_\_\_\_\_ Cash \_\_\_\_\_ Amount Paid \$ \_\_\_\_\_