Iowa Racquetball Association

Executive Board Meeting Sept. 1, 2014 8:00 – 9:00

*Josh, Denny, Rob, Susan, Don,*

* Financial Update
  + *Josh reported that there were no new deposits since last week. The current balance in the IRA account is $7,297.46.*
  + *Don reported that the IRA can expect between $1,500 and $2,000 that he will dedicate from Wellmark in Q3.*
  + *Rob suggested that we start keeping a list of IRA assets. Don reported that the speed gun purchased for lessons and tournaments did not work well in racquetball courts and that he had returned it to the seller.*
* Update on QC Open
  + *Josh asked whether we should underwrite the entry fee for all juniors, regardless of the division. That is, whether the junior plays in an 18 and under division or whether he/she plays in an adult division, should the IRA charge the same discounted amount? Josh’s research showed that in IL and MO, all events for juniors are $15, regardless of division. The board voted to set a discounted fee for juniors for all events at the QC Open and all future tournaments. Because the R2 system will not allow age alone to determine cost, however, the discount will have to be paid out in a rebate at check in. The board agreed that underwriting junior fees in this way would not apply to divisions with a cash payout.*
  + *Josh reported that Jean Harbeck asked if she and the juniors could sell concessions during the event for fundraising. Josh told Jean that we’ll probably supply water for people, but he can ask the rec center about selling any other items.*
* Review results of juniors survey
  + *Comments included that it was good information, that nothing really stood out, and that it was a good idea to have done the survey. Don reported that it was very helpful to him as a coach. The board approved with sharing this with other coaches.*
* Junior Scholarship Program
  + *The board discussed three types of scholarships proposed by Don. They were:*
    - *a tier 1 scholarship at 1/3 cost share to parents to study with Jim Winterton for 9 months (max investment = $4,500 for five students)*
    - *a tier 2 program that featured up to $20 per month per student to study with a private instructor (max investment = $900 for five students, and*
    - *a second tier 2 program to underwrite the cost of punch cards used at the Thursday Oakmoor clinics at 50% (max investment = $375)*
    - *All scholarships also included entry fees to junior nationals for two events and two half-day camps presented by Jim Winterton (max investment = $975)*
  + *The discussion that followed the presentation of these proposals include the following:*
    - *There is a certain amount of administrative work that goes into the program in addition to coaching.*
    - *The success of last year’s program was holistic in that it included video analyses, site visits by Coach Winterton, conference calls, and online resources.*
    - *Whether and how to increase the number of kids who benefit but by making adjustments in terms of scale.*
    - *Ideally, the board agreed, we should not have to turn down any applications for a scholarship.*
    - *The junior jamboree following the Iowa Open was a success and we should consider doing it again.*
    - *Whether and how to get high schools involved. The board agreed to consider this for future years but recognized that we would have to find an adult willing to champion the idea. The Altoona experience was discussed and sustainability was cited as crucial to success.*
    - *There was general agreement that the purpose of our investment was to ensure that kids are comfortable with the game, compete and have fun. We may produce some national champions, but this should not be the primary goal.*
    - *The value of an annual budget planning document. E.g., here’s the amount of revenue we hope to get, and here’s how we think we’d like to spend it and achieve our goal of being budget neutral.*
    - *Whether a six-month program would be effective in preparing players for junior nationals.*
  + *The idea of forgiving the cost share of any scholarship programs for parents who were responsible for a certain level of fundraising was not passed.*
  + *The board passed a motion to fund 100% of cost for punch cards at the Thursday Oakmoor clinics, regardless of whether the participants are associated with a tier 1 or tier 2 scholarship.*
  + *The board postponed votes on the other scholarship options and asked Don to develop an abbreviated structure for the tier 1 scholarships and to get Jim Winterton’s thoughts on a possible 6-month program.*
  + *Once a vote is taken on the 14-15 scholarship program and the applications are received, the board agreed that a subcommittee should be established to review the applications.*
* Review 2014-15 Calendar
  + *The board asked Don to arrange the events chronologically but indicate which events were sanctioned.*
  + *Susan offered to find out from Johnny Reimers what it would take to sanction his tournament in Cedar Rapids.*
  + *The board discussed additional IRA events*
    - *The board agreed to hold a second Wrecking Ball event in 2014 to raise funds for the construction of the Des Moines YMCA’s courts. Ideas included keeping it simple, such as round robin doubles only with junior singles. Last year, the event was held Nov 15-16. Also last year, all divisions included a cash payout instead of trophies. The board asked Denny to do some research into dates that would work for the YMCA. Rob and Don agreed to lead the effort again this year.*
    - *The board agreed to consider an event at the Des Moines YMCA in 2015. Don reported that the YMCA preferred that this happen earlier than March.*
* Discuss all-member survey
  + *Brian was not present to ask for ideas.*
* Discuss adult ambassador program idea
  + *There was no time to discuss this.*
* Set Time for Next Meeting:
  + *A date was not set. Rather, the board agreed to vote on possible scholarship programs via email.*