

MINNESOTA RACQUETBALL ASSOCIATION SPECIAL ELECTION

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT THE MRA IS SEEKING APPLICATIONS FROM THOSE MEMBERS THAT MAY BE INTERESTED IN SERVING ONE, TWO, OR THREE YEAR TERMS ON THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS



The MRA Election Committee is accepting applications for candidates who will be actively involved in the Mission of the Minnesota Racquetball Association by serving as a Board Director. This volunteer job is your opportunity to use your leadership skills and racquetball experience to make a long lasting positive impact on the opportunities and challenges our sport has to offer.

Serving on the MRA board of directors is rewarding in many ways including setting the direction and policy for racquetball in Minnesota, creating opportunities for juniors and adults to learn and become passionate about this sport, and to play a significant role to ensure racquetball's future successes and growth. It's imperative that as racquetball evolves in Minnesota that the board of directors evolves as well. New directors that bring new ideas and diverse perspectives to the board is important to this corporation to keep it fresh and exciting for the entire racquetball community; whether a beginner or advanced player, a tournament player or recreational player. Everyone that picks up a racquetball racquet in Minnesota needs to be represented on this board and you can make a difference in that.

A great time to get involved

If you have never served on a board or nervous about getting involved, don't let that stop you. There will be six to nine new directors joining the MRA board at the same time following this election. Because of this, several directors will be learning how boards work, how non-profits function, and the processes used within a board. It will be a great learning opportunity and rewarding experience for everyone.

Application Process

The Director Application form has been placed on the MRA website at www.mnracquetball.org. You can fill this form out digitally, save it for your records, and email the saved PDF file to the two email addresses listed on the application. For those without email or that prefers using US Mail, you can print the form from the website and mail it to the address listed on the application.

Application submissions end Monday December 4th 2017 at midnight. On or before December 8th the MRA board will review and approve the list of applicants and make notifications to all applicants of their acceptance to be on the ballot. The election will be administered using R2sports, so all active USAR/MRA members residing in Minnesota will receive an email ballot on December 11th. The election voting will take place from December 11th until December 27th, 2017 at midnight. Following the election certification by the MRA board of directors, notification of the election results will be posted on the MRA website on or before January 2nd, 2018.

Mn Racquetball Association Board of Director Criteria

As you prepare your application please keep the criteria noted below in mind so that the Election Committee can best assess all candidates. This is similar to a racquetball resume with examples of your experience matching up to the criteria we are seeking.

The Board is looking for members who will support the Mission of our association and strengthen our organization's governance. The time commitment to participate as a State Board of Director can vary depending on the responsibilities, but generally you may expect to spend 1 – 10 hours per month on the following board related duties.

- Leadership skills in program development to promote growth in the recreational player, junior, High School & Collegiate areas are highly desirable.
- Committee participation is a substantial portion of this Board's activities pertaining to Membership development, Communications, Media Utilization, Fundraising, Achievements & Acknowledgments, Finance, and Event Collaborations & Board Governance.
- Participation in monthly phone conference call meetings, one annual in-person meeting at the state singles event in March, and special meetings as needed is expected.
- Directors must be willing to be highly visible advocates for racquetball in word and deed and be prepared to identify potential conflicts of interest.
- Directors are required to work in the best interest of the MRA and its community.
- Directors must possess past and present demonstration of good character.
- Directors must maintain a current USAR membership and be a resident of Minnesota.
- Elected directors must comply with Safe Sport training and pass a basic background check.

Town Hall Conference Calls

Since the MRA election is new to most MRA members the MRA has decided to hold two town hall style conference calls during the application phase to allow interested parties to call in, ask questions, and gather more information about the MRA board and becoming a director. These conference calls will be held on Tuesday November 28th at 7pm and Wednesday November 29th at 8pm. The call in number is 641-715-3580 with access code 782-115.

FAQs

Q: What is the legal standing of the MRA?

A: The MRA is recognized by the state of Minnesota as a non-profit 501-c-3 corporation and is authorized to issue tax exemption certificates to donors as well as administer fundraising campaigns.

Q: Is there personal liability in serving on the MRA board of directors?

A: There are state laws that protect volunteers of non-profit corporations. In addition, the MRA bylaws state that an additional Director & Officer Insurance policy be maintained to provide additional liability protection for all directors, officers, employees, contractors, and volunteers.

Q: If I have a child that plays racquetball can I still receive reimbursement for junior activities such as junior nationals or junior worlds?

A: Yes, your child can still benefit from junior reimbursements. There is a simple process that the board will follow in these cases to ensure every junior can receive equal benefits.

Q: Is there bylaws and other supporting documents for the MRA?

A: Yes. There are very good Articles of Incorporation and a thorough bylaws document which can be found on the MRA website. Shortly after the new directors join the MRA board the organization will begin working on a policy and procedures manual that will ultimately be available online as well.

Q: How many directors can serve on the MRA board?

A: We currently have six board members and can grow to as many as fifteen. The MRA's goal with this election is to grow to at least twelve members.

Q: What is a director "seat"?

A: Since there are fifteen director positions in total, each director position is referred to as a "seat". Each seat is referenced by a letter to differentiate between the positions and terms. Example: Seat A, Seat B, Seat C, and so on.

Q: When are the elections held for each seat?

A: Since each seat has a three year term and 1/3 of the board seats are up for election each year, seats A, D, G, J, and M will be up for election in 2019, seats B, E, H, K and N in 2020, and seats C, F, I, L and O in 2021. Because of this special election no seats will be up for election in 2018.

Q: How many years is a term and is that what I'm running for?

A: There are two different "terms". The director term is typically for three years. Since this special election is filling several seats that are part way through their terms, some new directors may fill seats with only one or two years remaining on their term. If you choose to fill a shorter term there is a place on the application to express your desire.

Q: What's the other "term"?

A: The second "term" is for the executive board. This executive board reports to the board of directors and is made up by the president, vice president, treasurer, and secretary. These terms are two year terms and voted on by the board of directors.

Q: How many meetings am I going to be required to attend?

A: There is only one scheduled face-to-face annual meeting each year, and for the convenience of both the board of directors and the community this meeting will take place at the MN State Singles event in March. All other scheduled meetings are monthly conference calls. During the summer months the board can meet every other month if desired.

Q: Am I required to serve on committees?

A: Currently there is no requirement to serve on a committee, but it is highly encouraged. As leaders of the organization your leadership in setting the direction of committees is important. This will be further discussed in early 2018 by the directors.

Q: Am I required to help with tournaments?

A: No. There is a "tournament committee" that will have a primary focus on planning and executing events for the MRA. The MRA currently has a super impressive tournament staff and it's always great to see other join that committee, but not required.

Q: What committees will the MRA have?

A: Tournament and sanctioning committee, junior committee, communication/membership/social media committee, fundraising committee, and election committee. The board can add or change committees as needed.