Bylaws Of

Montana Racquetball Association

A Montana Nonprofit Public Benefit Corporation

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ARTICLE I
NAME

The name of the Corporation shall be MONTANA RACQUETBALL ASSOCIATION, INC., hereafter referred to as MRA.

ARTICLE II
PURPOSE

This corporation shall be a public benefit corporation.

a. To develop and promote the benefits of the sport of racquetball
b. To supervise and administer a continuing racquetball program for all players;
c. To unify and coordinate the efforts of all agencies interested in promoting racquetball and to provide an entity to have a voice regarding the development of the sport in Montana;
d. To raise funds to continually offer improvement in the sport of racquetball;
e. To resolve disputes that may arise at all levels; and
f. To ensure consistency in racquetball programs and tournaments.

ARTICLE III
PERIOD OF DURATION

The period of duration of the Corporation shall be perpetual.

ARTICLE IV
NON-PROFIT NATURE

Non-profit Nature

Montana Racquetball Association is organized exclusively for charitable, religious, educational, and scientific purposes, including, for such purposes, the making of distributions to organizations that qualify as exempt organizations under section 501 (c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code, or corresponding section of any future federal tax code. No part of the net earnings of the organization shall inure to the benefit of, or be distributable to its members, trustees, officers, or other private persons, except that the organization shall be authorized and empowered to pay reasonable compensation for services rendered and to make payments and distributions in furtherance of the purposes set forth in the purpose clause hereof. No substantial part of the activities of the organization shall be the carrying on of propaganda, or otherwise attempting to influence legislation, and the organization shall not participate in, or intervene in (including the publishing or distribution of statements) any political campaign on behalf of any candidate for public office. Notwithstanding any other provision of this document, the organization shall not carry on any other activities not permitted to be carried on (a) by any organization exempt from federal income tax under section 501 (c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code, corresponding section of any future federal tax code, or (b) by an organization, contributions to which are deductible under section 170 (c) (2) of the Internal Revenue Code, or corresponding section of any future federal tax code.

Dissolution

Upon the dissolution of the organization, assets shall be distributed for one or more exempt purposes within the meaning of section 501 (c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code, or corresponding section of any future federal tax code, or shall be distributed to the federal government, or to a state or local government, for the public purpose. Any such assets not disposed of shall be disposed of by the Court of Common Pleas of the county in which the principle office of the organization is then located, exclusively for the purposes of such organization or organizations, as said court shall determine, which are organized and operated exclusively for such purposes.

Personal liability

No officer or director of this corporation shall be personally liable for the debts or obligations of Montana Racquetball Association of any nature whatsoever, nor shall any of the property or assets of the officers or directors be subject to the payment of the debts or obligations of this corporation.

ARTICLE V
BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Montana Racquetball Association shall be governed by its board of directors defined as all officers, current and prospective tournament directors, as well as three at large elected members.

At least one meeting of the board of directors shall occur annually. A quorum greater than 1/3 of the Board members must exist for any official business to be conducted. Resolutions may be passed by a simple majority of the quorum, so long as the quorum exists. Each Director has only one vote and may not carry a proxy vote for another Board member. Votes may be tallied over the phone or other conveyance, but only if the Board gives approval. An agenda will be established prior to each meeting and player concerns may be directed to the president for placement on the agenda. No other items shall be discussed besides the agenda items.

Officer terms shall be 2 years with elections to be held at the annual meeting in the spring. At-large members will be voted on every 2 years.

The Directors shall choose a President, Vice-President, Treasurer, Secretary, Public relations director, and any other appropriate positions during the annual meeting in the spring. Each officer assumes his/her duties upon election. At that time the outgoing officer shall have his/her records in good order and will relinquish them to his/her successor. The outgoing officer shall remain in an advisory capacity to his/her successor if desired or needed until the full duties of the office are assumed by the incoming officer at the next regular meeting.

- The duties of the president include presiding at all meetings of the board, preparing an agenda for each regularly scheduled meeting, and notifying each board member in a timely fashion of the date, time, and place of all meetings. The president shall act as principal spokesperson for the MRA. The president shall be a voting ex-officio member of all committees. The president will be empowered to sign and access all financial instruments on behalf of the MRA if the Treasurer is unavailable to do so.
- The duties of the Vice-President are to assist the President and to act as President in his/her absence.
- The Treasurer shall maintain and monitor all monies of the MRA. A budget shall be presented annually, while a Treasurer's report shall be read and approved as the second order of business at each board meeting. The Treasurer and President shall, individually have check-signing authority. The Board may arrange for a professional audit at any time.
- Secretary duties shall include:
    - record minutes and attendees of all meetings
    - maintaining all records of each meeting
    - publishing notices of scheduled meetings
    - tracking board member terms
    - keeping an accurate and up to date list of board member contact information
    - acquiring and posting results of all tournaments including bracket and winner information.
    - Record minutes of all meetings and posted for public viewing after board approval.
    - List and/or publish the names of all Board members at least once a year.
- Public Relations duties shall include:
    - set image of MRA with positive statements and relevant information
    - keeping the organization informed and up to date on upcoming activities
    - write press releases to inform media of upcoming events and happenings

- help develop policies and procedures of the MRA
- update and improve MRA site with approval of the board

In case of vacancy in the office of the President, the Vice-President shall become President. All other vacancies on the Board shall be filled temporarily by another MRA member through appointment by the officers until the next meeting of the Board of Directors, at which time the temporary officer or board member shall be approved or replaced.

Should an elected or appointed officer for reasons of ill health, incompetence, malfeasance, or any other circumstance fail to fully discharge the duties of the office, the Board may vote to issue a request for resignation. Should the officer not comply with such a request in a reasonable period of time, the Board may remove the officer by a majority vote of the remaining directors. A replacement shall be appointed by a majority vote of the Board of Directors.

Should an elected Board member voluntarily leave the Board, the Board shall have the authority to identify and confirm a candidate to complete the term of the member leaving the Board. Therefore, it will no longer be necessary to wait until the normal election cycle to fill a vacated position.

All board members and members at large pledge to abide by the following Code of Conduct:
• Abide by all MRA rules, selection procedures, and safety guidelines.
• As an ambassador, exhibit the highest standards of fairness, discipline, ethical behavior, and sportsmanship by mutually respecting and bringing honor to MRA.
• Respect teammates, opponents, officials, spectators, volunteers, and tournament directors.
• Will not disrespect, intimidate, or embarrass other members, teammates, opponents, officials, spectators, volunteers, tournament directors, electronically, and/or through social networking venues (i.e., Facebook, Twitter, texting, blogs or websites, etc.).
• Will not use offensive language, gestures, or aggressive behavior as a response to the decisions made by the referee or tournament director as an expression of frustration and/or self-admonishment.
• Will not engage in any form of discriminatory, verbal, physical or sexual harassment/abuse, fraud, stealing, deception, or dishonesty related to MRA events or activities.
• Will respect and not cause damage to private or public property of others while at an event sanctioned by the MRA.
• Will strive to help the tournament director as needed throughout the tournament (i.e., refing, finding players, cleanup, teardown, ect).

ARTICLE VI
NOMINATIONS & ELECTIONS

At the State meeting in the spring, the President oversees the nomination procedures. When there is a vacancy on the Board, parties interested in serving on the Board shall abide by the following procedures:

- The individual interested in serving on the Board shall self-nominate.
- The individual self-nominating shall attend a Board meeting and be given documentation from the Board explaining the expectations and commitment required to become a Board member.
- The Board will meet and an open discussion will take place before the individual's name is accepted in nomination.
- The Board will accept the nomination, and if properly seconded, a vote will take place.
- A simple majority of votes of a quorum (for purposes of these By-laws, a quorum is a simple majority of Board members) of the members shall constitute the election of a new Board member.

Anyone with good standing in the MRA has the ability to nominate or self-nominate for an available Board position. The availability of the board seat should be well publicized. Every effort should be made by the current Board to seek representation from all geographic areas, ages, playing levels, and interests in Montana. The committee shall communicate with the candidates to determine his/her willingness to serve and provide a written description of his/her perspective duties if requested to do so. No member's name shall be proposed without his/her consent. The Board by a simple majority vote may declare the individuals elected.

The Board of Directors may appoint additional individuals either on or off the board to perform specific duties for the MRA. The Secretary must duly record the duties of such persons and the execution of these duties. These appointed persons should be encouraged to attend board meetings when convenient, as should any other interested members in good standing. Board members can also serve as committee chairperson.

ARTICLE VII
INCOME & EXPENSES

All expenditures under $100 must be approved by both the President and Treasurer. Expenditures over $200 must be approved by three-fifths of the Board of Directors.

The income of MRA will be derived from gifts, donations, grants, or other sources which may be available from time to time. All monies go into the general account of the association, with the exception of monies which might be earmarked for special programs by the Board of Directors or contributions that are restricted by the donors.

No loans or financial commitments shall be contracted on behalf of the MRA nor shall evidence of indebtedness be issued in its name unless authorized by resolutions of the Board of Directors.

ARTICLE VIII
MEMBERSHIP

Montana Racquetball Association shall have no members meaning no dues are required. The management of the affairs of the corporation shall be vested in a board of directors, as defined in the corporation's bylaws.

ARTICLE IX
TOURNAMENTS

Individuals eligible to participate in the State Doubles and State Singles Tournaments must either be a

- Resident of the state of Montana
- Participated in a minimum of one MRA tournament in the current season

*NOTE: The Board may waive these restrictions by a simple majority vote based on a player's prior participation and/or support of the MRA and its tournaments.

The State Doubles and State Singles Tournament brackets should be broken down into:

- Men's & Women's skill divisions consisting of: Open, Elite, A, B and C
- Men's & Women's age divisions consisting of: 55+, 45+, 35+ and 34 & Under
- Junior's age divisions consisting of: 17 & under and 12 & Under

*NOTE: The tournament director may combine, modify or cancel divisions in order to fill brackets.

During the annual Board meeting in the spring, the Board of Directors shall vote and decide the location and dates for the upcoming tournament season. Tournament directors shall be prepared to discuss their respective club's availability.

Tournaments shall be conducted following the current USA Racquetball rules.

Directors shall provide tournament results including bracket information and winners to the secretary within one week following the tournament.

ARTICLE X
AWARDS

All awards, as determined by the Board of Directors, shall be presented at the State Singles Racquetball Tournament reception. Each award's prior year recipient shall present the award to the individual so chosen. Nominations for each such award shall be chosen by secret ballot at each MRA tournament by all players entered. These ballots will be sent to the secretary upon completion of each tournament. Upon completion of each tournament season and before the state tournament, the board shall meet and compile all said nominations. They will then decide on the winners of each award and convey the winner to the presiding award giver who will present the award at the state singles banquet. Engraving costs of all awards will be the responsibility of the MRA.

This individual must have been eligible to play in the State Singles Tournament as described in Article IX in these Bylaws.

ARTICLE XI
INDEMNIFICATION

The corporation shall indemnify and hold harmless its Directors, officers, and employees (if any) from any suit, charge, or similar event ensuing from any action taken in good faith within the scope of their authority as provided by law, resolution, regulation or ratification by the Board of Directors.

ARTICLE XII
AMENDMENTS

The Board and/or ad hoc By-law committee, if any, shall review the By-laws annually, and may recommend amendments if deemed necessary. Once the Board deems action necessary, each Board member shall be given a written proposal of recommended amendments at least seven (7) days prior to the next scheduled meeting. Amendments to the By-laws or new adoptions must pass with a two-thirds vote of a quorum present at any regular or special meeting. Directors may vote by mail/email if they are unable to attend. The adoption of these changes shall become effective immediately unless otherwise specified in the minutes by the Board.

Bylaws will be made available to the public upon request.

CERTIFICATION

The Board of Directors hereby certifies that the above and foregoing Bylaws were unanimously adopted and approved on the 18th day of December 2023.