

Rationale and Explanation of Membership – Racquetball Canada (RC)

Why Membership is Important

1. The number of participants we have forms a significant part of our eligibility for funding from Sport Canada. We are at a serious risk in this area because our participation is low, therefore it is very important that we capture everyone who is playing and participating in the sport.
2. In order to count a participant, we (RC) need to collect a fee and provide them with a service. Some of the services provided by RC include rankings, the website, social media feeds, insurance, programming support, policy and screening templates and grants.
3. For liability reasons everyone playing in a sanctioned tournament must be a member and must be insured. This is for the protection of everyone involved, players, tournament directors, provinces and RC. Membership and the sanction process are outlined below.

Insurance

1. In the past there has been a misunderstanding about insurance. The use of R2 and/or paying the provincial membership fee to RC did not result in players and events being insured. This meant that tournaments were being held and some were not covered by insurance. This places the tournament director, players and both provincial and national organizations at risk because there is no protection for anyone if an accident occurs.

Moving to the new insurance model, members/clubs that register with RC for insurance will obtain insurance coverage for all sanctioned events with RC and with their club. Please note that any type of event that will include alcohol or non racquetball activities, will need to be approved by our insurer to be covered under the insurance. Tournament directors will be required to be members for insurance purposes (this is outlined on the following page and has a fee of \$3.00 linked to it).

A brochure and explanation of insurance are included with this note as separate attachments/documents on the website.

2. Working with our insurance provider, RC has secured low insurance fees that will provide everyone with an RC membership (the structure is outlined below) with insurance if they need it as long as they are member and playing in a sanctioned tournament. Please note, if your province does not have member insurance in place, then this will cover you. If you already have insurance, then you won't be covered by RC insurance as you are already covered by insurance from your province (AB, MB, SK, QC, NB). Each month RC will run a membership report and have all new members added under our policy. At that time RC will be invoiced for their insurance as well.
 - \$2.50 per individual (this provides \$5M in liability coverage and Sport Accident insurance). This would be covered by the RC membership fees outlined below
 - There is also Director and Officers liability available to provincial board of directors and clubs for a flat rate of \$150.00. This will be invoiced separately if your province or club requires it. This provides coverage of \$1M. This is options and available to the provinces that need it. If your province requires this insurance, please let Racquetball Canada know via email (execdirector@racquetballcanaad.ca)
3. In the future there will need to be a process to sanction league play and club practices/lessons so everyone participating is insured. In 2019-2020 our focus is bringing the competitive players on board in the membership system and in 2020-2021 we will work on integrated leagues and lessons into this process.

How RC Membership is Structured

1. When someone signs up to purchase a new membership or renew an existing membership, they are renewing two memberships at one time. The renewal will be done through a link that is specific to their province, but they will pay an RC membership fee at the same time. The RC membership provides the individual with sport accident and liability insurance to provinces without insurance in place. This also allows RC to count someone as a member for Sport Canada reporting purposes.
2. The collection of data in this way creates an automatic dual database. The province will have an accurate measure of their members and so will RC. RC can see national data; the province can only see their provincial data.
3. Provinces can set their own membership fees and categories. The RC fee will be added on top of those costs. If a province does not have a membership, that is fine.
4. Below is the breakdown of RC fees and the definition of each category. Players will pick only one. If they initially choose a Competitive Membership – Local and then decide later to play at national events, their membership will be upgraded when they go to register for the national event. Players will select the membership options from a menu and the system will calculate their fees. Players will be asked to identify all the roles they have (i.e., coach and official) as well as pick an RC membership category and Provincial membership category (if applicable) but they will only pay for the primary role. Trackie will automatically check to ensure that each person registering for a tournament or event is a member. If they are not, they will be prompted to purchase the appropriate membership for the event. To see a demo of how this works click here: <https://vimeo.com/359756179/43b09f7930>.

RC Competitive Membership – National: This is for players who are playing at national events (juniors, seniors and selection events). The fee is \$30 (it used to be \$25)

RC Competitive Membership – Local: This is for players who are playing in tournaments in their province or in other provinces, but who do not participate in national events. The fee is \$3.00. Please note that in Quebec the term for this category is different.

RC Associate Membership: This is for people who are only officials, coaches, board members or tournament directors and are not playing in tournaments. It is important that we capture these people as well. This fee is \$3.00. Tournament directors must be members of RC for insurance purposes.

NOTE:

Players will only pay highest fee if multiple membership types

If a player selects the RC Competitive Membership – Local and then decides later they want to play in national events, their membership will be upgraded when they register for their first national event.

EXAMPLE 1 – RC Competitive Membership – National in a province with a \$10 membership fee + coach and official registration

RC Competitive Membership – National: \$30.00

Provincial Membership fee - \$10

Coach – no fee

Official – no fee

Total: \$40.00 plus online processing fees

EXAMPLE 2 – RC Competitive Membership – National in a province with no membership fee and not a coach or official

RC Competitive Membership – National: \$30.00

Provincial Membership fee - \$0

Total: \$30.00 plus online processing fees

EXAMPLE 3 – RC Competitive Membership – Local in a province with a province with a \$10 membership fee + coach and official registration

RC Competitive Membership – Local: \$3.00

Provincial Membership fee - \$10.00

Coach – no fee

Official – no fee

Total: \$13.00 plus online processing fees

EXAMPLE 4– RC Competitive Membership – Local in a province with a province with no membership fee and not a coach or official

RC Competitive Membership – Local: \$3.00

Provincial Membership fee - \$0.00

Total: \$3.00 plus online processing fees

EXAMPLE 5– RC Associate Membership – not a player, only a coach, official, tournament director or board member, no provincial fee

RC Associate Membership – Local: \$3.00

Provincial Membership fee - \$0.00

Total: \$3.00 plus online processing fees

EXAMPLE 6– RC Associate Membership – not a player, only a coach, official, tournament director or board member, plus provincial fee

RC Associate Membership – Local: \$3.00

Provincial Membership fee - \$5.00

Total: \$8.00 plus online processing fees

Sanctioning and Rankings

1. Rankings are developed from the results of sanctioned events. Sanctioned events are those that been approved by a province or Racquetball Canada and whose participants are all members. A sanction is awarded when a tournament director is a member of Racquetball Canada and after they provide a province or Racquetball Canada with proof of insurance and a copy of an emergency action plan. The sanction process will be built into the new event registration system. There is no fee for sanctioning. To view a demo of this, click this link: <https://vimeo.com/352745633/cdb26424ed>

The proof of insurance will be provided by uploading a certificate of insurance or by indicating that insurance is provided by a PSO or RC. The PSO or RC will verify that the event has insurance and the tournament director is a member before the sanction will be approved. Embedded in the process is an explanation of and the template for the Emergency Action Plan.

For AB, SK, MB, QC and NB sanctions will be approved by the PSO for all other provinces, sanctions will be approved by RC. There will be a how to guide and online tutorial created for tournament directors.

2. Anyone who is a member of Racquetball Canada and playing in a sanctioned tournament will be covered by insurance (liability and sport accident). In order to register to play in a sanctioned tournament a player will have to be a member. The registration system will automatically check membership, if someone is not a member, then they will be prompted to pay their membership fee in order to finalize their registration for the tournament. As long as the tournament director is a member, everyone playing in the tournament is a member and the tournament is sanctioned by RC, the tournament is covered by insurance (liability and sport accident).
3. Because our numbers have been low, it is very important that all tournaments be sanctioned, and we capture everyone who is playing the game
4. The tournaments we are referring to in this case would be all the tournaments that would have previously been registered with R2 as well as any tournament that is being run. There was a misunderstanding that registering with R2 in the past also provided event insurance, but that was not accurate, so the sport was at a serious risk, running events without the protection of insurance. However, if tournaments are sanctioned and all participants are members, the issue around insurance is removed.

Additional Information

1. The focus of the membership transition this year is memberships for players playing in tournaments. Next year (2020-2021) we will look at how we can capture recreational players, that is those who only play in leagues, but not tournaments. There will be similar sanction process for leagues and a need to capture those individuals, but we will need to time to determine who this set up could work. This will require coordination with clubs and additional consultation with the community. Sport Canada is aware that there 2019-2020 and 2020-2021 are membership transition years for us. Please continue to track or be aware of the people in your province who are playing in leagues only (i.e. recreationally). If you have a recreational category in your province already, that is fine it can be added to the membership set up, there is just not an RC fee associated with it at this time