

NPA

(INDOOR / FOUR-WALL)

National Paddleball Association
WWW.PADDLEBALL.ORG

NPA, 7642 Kingston, Portage, Mich. 49002

NEWSLETTER / WINTER 2004-2005

These rules are not made to be broken

What we have here is a failure to follow the rules.

Paddleball rules, that is.

As might happen over the years, we forget about some of them. And completely ignore others.

In recent years, there have been many violations during the serve.

Rule 4.2 (Position of server) requires that:

"The server may serve from anywhere in the service zone with no part of either foot extending beyond either line of the service zone (made up of the two red lines in the center of the court.)

"The server must start and remain in the service zone until the served ball has passed the short line (the back line). Stepping on the line is

allowed. Violations are called 'foot faults.'

"During the serve, the server's partner is required to stand within the service box with his back against the wall and both feet on the floor until the ball passes the short line (the line toward the back of the court)."

We often have seen a player, who is serving, finish with his foot over the front line.

And we all have seen this rule violated as the partner attempts to get as quick a move into position as he possibly can and leaves the box too soon.

So let's do the right thing and follow the rules. They are there for a reason.

-- LOU GIAMPETRONI

This paddleballer made news recently when he was involved in a dramatic fire rescue. Details, Page 3.



No cheating, people

By LOU GIAMPETRONI

One of the many E-mail messages that crossed my computer screen during 2003 -- the year of THE PADDLEBALL NATION boom -- was a comment from a California player on the possibility of a magazine article on how to "cheat" in court games. Within the rules.

I guess it was supposed to be a fun thing and it probably would have been obvious that it would be a tongue-in-cheek effort.

There are some court players who do bend, twist, mutilate and break the rules. And you all know who you are. But in my 35-plus years with indoor, four-wall paddleball, there haven't been that many.

Some of the suggestions in the E-mail were:

* Dive even after the ball has bounced three times so that you can ask for a towel to wipe the court.

* Fail to catch the ball when your opponent throws it to you in the service box. This gives you at least another 10-20 seconds to wander around in the front court to retrieve it.

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2004-2005 NPA Schedule

Midwest Singles Championships, Jan. 14-15,

2005, Jackson, Mich., YMCA

Midwest Doubles Championships, Feb. 11-13,

2005, Michigan Athletic Club, E. Lansing, MI

National Singles Championships, March 11-13,

2005, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI

National Doubles Championships, April 22-24,

2005, Riverside, Calif. (Tournament House Sports & Fitness Center)

Midland paddleballer Harris dies

Eugene B. Harris, one of the fixtures in paddleball circles at the Midland, Mich., Community Center for more than 35 years, is dead at 69.



Harris

He died of a heart attack on November 11, 2004, while riding his trail bike, which he loved to do in all parts of Michigan. Harris loved paddleball, riding his bike, camping, sunsets, sitting around a camp fire and his dog, Heidi, said his son, Steven.

In the past, Eugene rode to Niagara Falls, the Florida Keys, rode in the Tour de Michigan from Lansing to the Straits, the Traverse City area, anywhere in Michigan while camping, and the rail trail to Sanford and Coleman.

“It was his continually expressed wish over the years that if a (elderly) man could beat a bunch of 20-somethings (and 30-somethings and 40-somethings) in paddleball that his body should be donated to science, and indeed we followed his wishes,” said his son.

Carlson quits PB



Carlson

Mike Carlson, an outstanding player from Eau Claire, Wis., and a member of the NPA Board of Managers, has announced “with great sadness” his retirement from paddleball.

Carlson said his retirement “comes reluctantly due to the fact that I have had two knee surgeries since the National Doubles Tournament in Chicago.”

Carlson teamed with Andy Mitchell to win the masters title at that tourney.

“The first surgery followed just a few weeks after the tournament and the last on Nov.



Malecki Trio

-- Longtime paddleballer Ron Malecki is flanked by his sons Chris (left) and Dan at the Fall Doubles Tournament at Midland, Mich. It was the first tournament for the youngsters who played in Men's C.



Seven-month-old Justin Schafer rummages through an equipment bag at the Fall Doubles Tournament in early December. Do you think the son of Mike Schafer might have been looking for some paddleballs?

2004 Midwest Fall Doubles Results

OPEN: 1st, Andy Mitchell-Don Kirkconnell; 2nd, Mike Wisniewski-Scott Wittbrodt.

MEN'S B: 1st, Ted Wray-Robert Stone; 2nd, Paul Chritz-Bob McLean; 3rd, John Lowman-Brandon Creamer. Consolation: Ed Pettrica-Keith Thurlow.

MEN'S C: 1st, Rich Rahall-Ted Jevicks; 2nd, Rick Mountain-Skip Freysinger; 3rd, Randy Allar-Dick Brouwer. Consolation: Ed Pettrica-Keith Thurlow.

SENIORS: 1st, Andy Mitchell-Don Kirkconnell; 2nd, Mike Wisniewski-Sandy DeGreif; 3rd, Ron Malecki-Mike Schafer.

MASTERS: 1st, Jim Owens-Paul Chritz; 2nd, Jim Richter-Jack Barenfanger; 3rd, Randy Allar-Dick Brouwer. Consolation: John Tomczak-Joe Rizk.

GOLDEN MASTERS: 1st, Mike Marcum-Larry Quick; 2nd, Jerry Davis-Randy Wyse; 3rd, Chuck Gladding-Rick Mahoney. Consolation: Brad Douglas-Bill Lott.

4,” Carlson said. “These are surgeries 5 and 6 on the same knee.

“I would like to thank the NPA for running great tournaments that keep us all playing and to the players from around the country that I have played against for giving me such wonderful memories of a sport that I will find hard to let go.”

Carlson, who for years was a top-level open player, said: “I wish you all the best, and hope you all continue to travel and support a sport that we all love so much.”

Paddleballer in dramatic rescue of man from burning building

A paddleballer who is a sheriff's deputy was involved with two comrades in an heroic rescue of a man from a burning apartment building in November.

The PBaller, H. Eugene Rush, 41, who lives in Ypsilanti, Mich., is a deputy with the Washtenaw County Sheriff's Department.

On Nov. 17, he and two other deputies -- Doug Ballou and Derek Wiese -- went into the basement apartment of a 68-year-old man whose place was enveloped in heavy smoke and fire.

"I could hear him but I just couldn't get to him," Rush told the Ann Arbor News.

Rush had crawled beneath the choking smoke and felt his way to the apartment's back wall.

The frustrated deputies left for more air and then headed back into the burning structure, using their uniform shirts to cover their mouths.

After three more unsuccessful attempts and with the flames and heat intensifying, the trio made a final charge deep into the apartment and Rush felt the man's feet. He said the resident was standing and didn't want to leave, but "once I got ahold of him, he was coming out," Rush said.

Ballou, who was behind his colleagues and ran out gasping for air, could not see figures approaching the stairway and went back in.

He told Rush and Wiese to put the man on his back and hold



H. Eugene Rush

him up while he led them all outside.

Soot-covered and exhausted, they emerged from the doorway followed by a bright orange gust of fire, said one awestruck witness who compared the dramatic scene to a Hollywood movie.

All three deputies were treated for smoke inhalation and returned to their jobs the next day. The man they rescued was hospitalized.

Cause of the blaze was undetermined and damage was estimated at \$500,000.

A former racquetballer, Rush began playing paddleball in 1992 and has played in tournaments, including the 2004 Fall Doubles at Midland, Mich.

Better late than never for thanks for contributions

A belated "thank you" is in order to the "Otto Paddleball League" of Kalamazoo, Mich., for its contribution of \$200 to the NPA.

The money was given to the NPA during its operation last season. The news was overlooked by the crack staff of the NPA newsletter.

Otherwise, the "thank you" would have been published in a timely fashion.

In addition, thanks go to John and Linda Remsberg, of Ann Arbor, Mich., who sent along a contribution of \$75 to the NPA.

A note said: "Thanks for keeping Linda and I on the mailing list. You do good work!

"Here's a check to help cover some of the expenses. Joshua and Nathan (UM / MSU) are both about to graduate. Then perhaps we can help more.

"We miss the camaraderie!"

The Remsberg family has been involved in paddleball for a number of years.

A trophy, which goes to an outstanding young player who displays good sportsmanship, is named for their son Dmitri, who was killed in an auto accident on Dec. 20, 1984.

He was an outstanding junior player.

LUCAS

Continued from Page 1

*Ask what the score is, question the score, point to several persons up in the gallery and ask them what they think the score is, ask your opponents, discuss the last three rallies and try to retrace the advancement of the score.

The reason I brought all this up is that in the early 1980s, I did something similar.

Barry Lucas, my longtime partner in Seniors and Masters competition, was tough to play against. He usually was around the

ball -- whether it was our shot or theirs -- and he "hovered" near opponents.

As a gag, I produced a four-page booklet -- presumably written by Lucas but I wrote it -- with the title: "BLOCKING THE SHOT -- Paddleball's most effective tool. By Barry Lucas."

Most players thought it was clever. Only one, a veteran, thought it was "straight" and that players would start doing things Lucas suggested.

But most thought it was funny.

Paddleballs

... can be ordered through Spectrum Sports, 2618 South St. Anthony, Jackson, Mich., 49203 or by calling Gordy Hatt at (517) 784-1861.



Wittbrodt

Paddleball Profile

Bill Wittbrodt has been playing paddleball for a number of years.

As a matter of fact, it's been a family affair for Wittbrodt, of Essexville, Mich.

His wife played for several years and their son, Scott, now plays regularly in tournaments.

Bill Wittbrodt, who is retired, said he started playing in 1980 for exercise.

He said he enjoys the competition of tourneys and has won a Men's C title in National Doubles and a Men's B crown in State Doubles.

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