

How to Join the Eastern Collegiate Racquetball Conference (ECRC)

You've got your team together, you've set up practices, you've set up your challenge ladder or pyramid and now you want to take it to the next step. Below you will find information on the steps it takes to become part of the Eastern Collegiate Racquetball Conference (ECRC), the most populated and active Intercollegiate Racquetball Conference in the United States.

First off, let me tell you that any College/University is eligible to participate in the ECRC. The requirement that all teams must adhere to is that every student must be recognized as a part-time or full-time degree student (undergraduate or graduate), as deemed by their particular school. You may be required at anytime to present eligibility verification from your registrar.

A full-team in the league consists of eight (8) men and eight (8) women, however, while it's encouraged, you are not required to bring a full team to any of the meets. If you are an individual player and a degree seeking student that would like to participate in the league, you are eligible.

The ECRC will run four (4) meets per year. They are held in September, October, November, and February. The Northeast Collegiate Regional Championships are held at the end of February. The United States Intercollegiate National Championships are held at the end of March. As the exact dates and locations become finalized, they are all posted on our website at www.ecrcracquetball.org. You may also want to follow our Facebook group: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/ECRCRacquetball/>. In addition, we will send out an e-mail with reminders of the events as they come up, so if you would like to be on that distribution, please email me at vanschalkwykr@hotmail.com or call me on my cell phone at (978) 273-3110.

To participate in the meets, the fees are minimal. If you would like to sign up as a full team (again, does not mean you need the full 16 players), the cost for the year is \$500. If you have enough players that represent additional teams for your College/University, they are also eligible and the cost is reduced to \$250 for each additional team. This fee covers entry fees to all four (4) official ECRC meets. The Northeast Regional Intercollegiate Championships, or any additional events hosted by the ECRC will have separate fees associated. If you are not coming as a team, but rather one or two individual players and it doesn't make sense to pay the full league dues, the costs to play up to 2 divisions (singles & doubles) is \$25. These fees supply you with court time, prizes, tons of racquetball, even more food and an incredibly great time. All players are also required to be members of the United States Racquetball Association (USAR), National Governing Body of racquetball in the U.S. The cost to become a member of the USAR is \$25 for ages 24 and younger while it is \$50 for anyone 25 and older. Membership is good for one calendar year from the time you become a member. This fee includes secondary insurance coverage as well as many other advantages.

Once you decide to play (highly recommended!), you will submit your final rosters no later than the Monday before the event, via e-mail. Each team will number their players 1-8 (or however many you have) in the order that they rank on your team (1 being the best, so on and so forth). You will also give me your men's, women's and mixed doubles teams in the order you would like. As a general statement, the 1 & 2 players from each team will play in Division I, numbers 3 & 4 will play in Division II, numbers 5 & 6 will play in Division III and numbers 7 & 8 will play in Division IV. However, I always reserve the right to classify players in other divisions where I see appropriate. For an explanation of the draws you can view the Olympic format diagram at <http://www.ecrcracquetball.org/olympicformat.htm>. I will provide further explanation and answer any questions at the Tournaments. Start times and/or draws will be posted on the ECRC web site prior to each event, on Thursday. This will give you what time you are starting in each division on Friday. Play for each event will begin at 10 A.M. on Friday, unless otherwise noted.

At the meets, I can't guarantee you any victories, but I can guarantee that you will play plenty of racquetball, eat tons of food, and have a great time. You will play individually in the division you are classified in by your rank, however, as you play each match you will be earning points for your particular College/University, based on where you finish. At the end of each event, the winners of each particular event will be announced. In addition to that, points from each meet will be totaled at the end of the year to announce the ECRC champions for that particular season.

There are several different areas of information that I can branch into, and tons of other activities and benefits, but this should give you a general idea of what it takes to join and participate in the ECRC. If you have more questions, or would like to get general ideas of how the league runs, you are always welcome to e-mail me or call me at vanschalkwykr@hotmail.com or (978) 273-3110. I know you are in college, so I must mention that 1 AM until 6 AM is deemed as "no calling hours". You can also join the ECRC forum at the Website or our Facebook group and ask any of the "veterans" that post there for ideas or advice on how to get involved in the league and their thoughts as I'm sure they have plenty to say.

I look forward to working with all of you and seeing everyone during the ECRC season once again.

Best Wishes,
Robert VanSchalkwyk, Director
Eastern Collegiate Racquetball Conference (ECRC)
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