



THE RED BARON SPEAKS

Summer 2013 – Larry Creakbaum

As I stated in my last issue I might write a special occasionally and this is the first. I will continue where I started in 2009 with rating system. Quit griping to the tender of the water cooler or to any one else within ear shot who will not listen and do something. We are starving for input on events for the performance based system. You may not like the system but it is an improvement on what we have.

The requirements are the event must have a minimum \$20 entry and a sponsor sale. There are exceptions to the rules so check them out.



Any facility owner, event director, promoter, player, or disinterested person may provide the information. Someone has to keep track of who buys who for how much in the sponsor sale. Ask the person to get the first and last name of the player and have a rating book handy to check spelling. If they will not cooperate, get a sheet of paper and make your own. You probably will know most of the players and it should not be too difficult. Assign a number to each player or team. Obtain a bracket of the event by buying a book at a sporting goods store or draw your own. As the event proceeds, complete the bracket using the numbers instead of the names. It's quicker and easier. When the event is over you should have two sheets of paper, one with all the names and one of the bracket board using numbers. If there are a number of players it may take two sheets for the brackets. Put the losers' bracket on one and the winners' bracket on a second sheet.

Why numbers? With my medical condition I cannot write legible letters. Develop your own system according to your abilities. I then take the sheets home and in the quiet, clean air, soda pop free environment of my computer room I fill out a bracket using excel. Submit the sheets to Travis or me and we will do the rest.

The next subject is the rules. I think we have made considerable progress over the past four years. All the major events have printed rules available. Now we need to adopt a complete set that all events can do like Houston and through



a series of bold facing, italics and minor additions make them compatible with their desires. This allows a player to review the rules to see what is different.

There is one rule that needs more discussion. The time to release a weight or puck rule is not economically enforceable or practical. I have not obtained a copy of the official rule book of any of these sports and these are only my observations. In baseball a pitcher must pitch and a batter must be in the box. If either delays he is subject to ejection by the umpire. In football a team has to put the ball in play before the 25 second play clock expires. No argument, five yard penalty. In basketball a team has to shoot before the shot clock expires, 35 seconds for college men, 30 seconds for girls, and 24 second for the NBA. No argument, loss of possession. In golf, each event establishes a time that a twosome or threesome has to make certain progress. If they fall behind they are warned and subject to penalties.

The exiting time rule is not economically or practical to enforce. In shuffleboard, I propose we take the golf approach and establish a time for the game to reach a certain number of points by set elapsed time, such as the leader should have 3, 6, 9, 12 points by 10, 20, 30, 40, minutes. The event director could flag games which historically are slow and record their starting time. The slow games are normally in the later rounds of an event. If a game is not on target the event director could establish the slow player and issue a warning to speed up. If he continues to be slow points could deducted from his score. This could reduce the monitoring time to acceptable limits.

On the first subject, I would hope participants from all areas of the country would help. The more we get, the better the system will be. On the second subject I would hope someone will take the thought and refine it into a rule.

Hope to see you all in Del City.