

SSIPA Position Statement to USAPA

Date: March 29, 2018

To: Jack Thomas, USAPA President

Christine Barksdale, USAPA Nationals X Tournament Committee Chair

From: SSIPA Board

Re: Nationals Tournament Competition Format

At the regularly scheduled March 28th SSIPA board meeting, the SSIPA board voted unanimously to send the following position statement regarding the competitive format to be used at Nationals X in Indian Wells, California.

We, the SSIPA board, as a strategic ally of the USAPA, believe it to be in the best interest of SSIPA and USAPA members to continue to use the five year groups for players 60+ and skill levels as appropriate at Nationals X.

Just this year, USAPA recommended the format of five year increments for players 60+ in age for the 2018 Regional Tournaments. To change to any other model/format from what the USAPA membership has experienced this year in regional and thirty other SSIPA tournaments does not seem to be in the best interest of SSIPA or USAPA members. If the age format is changed for 2018 USAPA Nationals, this would be the third format change in as many years.

During the past 15 months, SSIPA membership has grown at a very rapid rate as players 60+ in age have supported this competitive format. The SSIPA guidelines have been used in 10 tournaments during the first quarter of 2018, including two USAPA regional tournaments, with player evaluation reports being highly favorable. All SSIPA circuit events are sanctioned by the USAPA, and therefore; all SSIPA members are also members of the USAPA.

Changing the competitive format from five year increments would be a competitive disadvantage and disservice for both SSIPA and USAPA membership.

Please consider these comments as continued support of the USAPA by the SSIPA board and membership.

SSIPA Board of Directors