

FIRST ANNUAL Race4theState

A 4 Wall Regular Season Championship-

\$500 in prize money - Sponsored by Long Term Care Resources

Inspired by the World Professional Handball Association's Race4eight Pro Tour, the Michigan Handball Association is pleased to announce the first annual 4 Wall Indoor Regular Season Championship.

The 2013/2014 challenge works as follows:

- **The top players in the state of Michigan have been ranked from 1 to 14.**
 - These rankings are based on MHA Board input, player input and participation in MHA and local tournaments over the past few years.
 - Two qualifying spots have been made available to determine the 15th and 16th ranked players.
 - There is only one division – Open. In future years we may be able to add more.
- **Those interested in qualifying will play matches between now and early January.**
 - These qualifier matches will be coordinated through Event Coordinator – Rick Leonard.
 - Additional qualifying spots may open up based on injuries and/or player availability.
- **Once the qualifiers have been determined, an event will be set up where the first round of (up to 8 matches) will be played.**
 - These matches will be designed as feature matches for handball players and fans to watch.
 - Preceding the feature matches, we will have either open play or a tournament event so that we all get to play the game we love.
- **The basic format is come play some handball and then have some food/beverages and watch the top players square off.**
 - We plan to have one event per month from January through April at various locations throughout the state.
- **In addition to the Open matches, we may be able to use these events to feature some additional matches.**
 - Possible feature matches include an older age group, a great doubles match or a rookie match up.

- Lower seeds knocked out in the first round will play ladder matches against other lower seeds in subsequent events to determine a final year ranking and provide the opportunity to improve their rankings for the next year.
- In other words, the 16 seed does not get stuck playing the number 1 every year unless they can't beat the 15th ranked player.
- **One of the benefits of this new contest is that we get to see fresh players battle.**
 - Tournaments are great but the finals are often disappointing as worn down players are not playing their best handball

Anyone interested in qualifying for the last two spots should email Rick Leonard at rleonard@lucr.com or call him at 586-292-8918. Qualifying entries must be received by Wednesday 12/11.

As this is the first year of this event, we expect to have a few bumps in the process. Therefore we have adopted Rule no. 1.01 – also known as the Bob Kozak rule – **NO WHINING!**

Preliminary State Rankings - December 2013

1. Pat Oliver
2. Pete Hanover
3. Pete Dembeck
4. Pete Brown
5. Jim Karner
6. Pat Myers
7. Mike Fagan
8. Al Thomas
9. Bobby Straetmans
10. Rick Leonard
11. Paul Licari
12. Alex Bieri
13. Craig Sickmiller
14. Bret Williams
15. Qualifier 1
16. Qualifier 2