

Looking Back To The 1930's

The 1930's was really the beginning of the great game of Shuffleboard we now enjoy. Many of the rules made then are still in use to-day. Some of those that were deleted of interest or changed.

(1932 RULES)

Choice of colors is determined by toss of a coin. The Referee tosses coin and a member of visiting team calls the toss. (Here I wondered what they did when both teams came from a Club other than the Club they were playing at?)

All points or good discs must be scored. (I always tried to get a few close discs called good to get to 75 points.)

NO COACHING: A. Read the same as we have to-day. B. There shall be no coaching from the side lines. Officials should warn offenders for first offense. PENALTY: 10-OFF of side so coached. For repeated offense, expulsion of party from vicinity of court.

UNSPORTSMANLIKE CONDUCT: There shall be no Unsportsmanlike conduct during match. NOTE: Making unnecessary noises or deliberately talking to distract attention may be construed to be a violation. PENALTY: Official shall warn offender of his first violation, for each violation thereafter, 20-OFF offenders score.

PLAYERS MUST REMAIN SEATED: A. Reads the same as we have to-day with a different ruling for penalty. PENALTY: 1. For player violating rule but not touching discs or playing area, 5-OFF for each offense. 2. For player who touches discs or playing area, add 20 to opponents score. Discs played not to be counted in half round in which violation occurred.

The first sanctioned tournament by the Florida Shuffleboard Association was the "Orange Blossom Any Doubles" at Winter Haven in March of 1931.

Ladies got a break in 1933 by having their own division in the State Championship Tournament. Prior to this all tournaments were ran as "Any Doubles".

Trying to do away with wooden discs and find a composition disc was in the minds of players as well as the officials of the Association. Wooden discs would break or crack when hard shooting took place. Mr. Guenther of St. Petersburg was to head a committee and makeup a set of eight discs for the approval of the Association.

Players could use their own discs with the approval of Tournament director.

The State had 25 member Clubs at the beginning of the 1933 season. Dues at that time were \$5.00 per Club. No entry fee was charged to enter State Championship Tournament. Prizes were 1st - Gold Medal, 2nd - Silver Medal, 3rd - Bronze Medal. Consolation was also played and first place winner received a Bronze Medal.

Tampa started the "Gasparilla Singles" in 1933. This being the second sanctioned tournament by the State. St. Petersburg Independent had a singles tournament, but this was just for Clubs in Pinellas County which had 3 Clubs in St. Petersburg and Clearwater.

At the Annual Meeting in 1934 the Association joined the National Association which had started in 1931. Believe that Florida was first State to join the National's. No dues were mentioned for joining so presume no dues were charged.

In the fall of 1935 the State was divided into four Districts. Northern, Southeast Coast, West Coast, Ridge or Central District as it is now called. Each elected a President and a Delegate to serve on the State Board. Before this time all things brought before a State meeting was sent to all member Clubs and their vote was counted and their votes made the rules for the State Association.

Singles for both men and ladies was approved for the 1936 State Championship tournament.

Composition Discs had been made and were working well. Although the State did not approve them for Club holding State Championship Tournament if they were still using wooden discs. Sand was used on courts to make the discs slide easier and some felt that wooden discs slide a lot easier than the composition ones did, so when Tournaments were held at the different Clubs they used which ever discs the Club used.

A change in the diagram of the 10-OFF was made by the National Assoc. Now there was just a straight line running through the 10-OFF area and down the sides. New diagram had a vee dividing the red and black discs and sides were brought in to form a smaller 10-Off area. Clubs were asked to vote on this issue and was passed by the State in 1937. This vee and change in side of 10-Off area was causing players and officials a lot of trouble. Hook shot was put into rules in 1938 and reads the same as it does in present rules.

Cards were sent out in 1938 to inform players on dates of tournaments held around the State. This to give players a chance to attend these tournaments if they wished.

"Bakelite Composition Discs" No wooden discs would now be used in State Championship Tournaments was approved in 1939.

We still are making rule changes, our discs are still not what we wish they would be, we've gone from sand to glass beads and waxed discs. Will more rule changes help the game? Will discs be better made? Will courts be all made the same? WHAT DO YOU THINK????

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