

What Took Place During the 1940's?

We covered the 1930's in past *PREVIEWS* and now let us take a look at what happened to the sport of shuffleboard in the 1940's.

Rules are always being changed to better the great sport of shuffleboard. Some that were made in the 1930's and 1940's are still in use. We find that the rule on players leaving the court without permission, with a 10-Off penalty, was approved in 1940. Also approved that year was the rule pertaining to a referee touching a live disc or discs: the Half-Round will be played over.

Up to the 1940's, tournaments were being held by different shuffleboard clubs, and they did not have to be a member of the Florida Shuffleboard Association. At the start of the 1941 season, all tournaments that were held had to be sanctioned by the F.S.A., and all clubs holding tournaments had to be members of the F.S.A. At this time they approved the use of a certificate worded: "Affiliated with the Florida Shuffleboard Association." These certificates are still being used. Today, when a new club joins the F.S.A., it receives that same certificate when they pay their annual dues.

Standardizing the shuffleboard court surface was a much talked about thing in the '40s and each club seemed to have their own idea about how the court should be treated. We still have the same problem today! So, even back some fifty years, players didn't like the way the courts ran. The consensus of the F.S.A. Board at that time was: "When in Rome, do as the Romans do — and play the courts as they are."

In 1941, the standardization of the scoreboard was brought to the attention of the Board. Up to that time there had been no official way for the scoreboard to be built, or on how the score was to be kept. We have improved on this, but we still don't have an official way to keep score!

In the '40s, trophy manufacturers were making molds on shuffleboard, and it was hoped that they would make a mold of a figure of a shuffleboard player to be placed on a small trophy. Up to that time, medals and cups had been given as prizes.

Starting with the 1942 season, the F.S.A. started to rotate the State-sponsored Tournament from District to District. At that time, they had Ladies' and Men's Singles, Ladies' and Men's Doubles, and Mixed Doubles — all held at the same time and same place. Each District had to have a play-off to qualify the players to enter these events. We still use the rotation method for the tournaments, but each event is held at different times and at different places; and the Mixed Doubles event has now been dropped as a State-sponsored event.

In 1942, the F.S.A. had 39 Member-Clubs. The dues for each club was \$5.00 for each member — \$3.00 of it going to the District and \$2.00 to the State. It was the hope that these dues could be changed so that the State would get the \$3.00 and the District the \$2.00. Up to that time no entry fee was charged to enter the State-sponsored Tournament; they wanted each player to pay fifty cents, but no action was taken on the motion. Money was raised by each club by holding parties, dances, suppers — or some other way of raising a few dollars to give to the State.

No tournaments were held for the years 1943-1944-1945 because of World War II.

In 1946, the F.S.A. Board tried to discourage the use of wax, sand and meal on all courts. They figured that the courts would be more uniform if these were not applied. Mirror Lake in St. Petersburg used neither sand, wax nor meal to make their courts run faster. The following year, in 1947, the Board approved the rule that any club holding a sanctioned tournament would not use wax, meal, or any other foreign substance on their courts for a period of four weeks before a tournament.

In 1948, the Board approved Open and Closed Divisions in the State-sponsored Tournaments. Age limit on the Closed Division was set at 50 years. This was changed to 60 years the following year, in 1949.

Up to this time the F.S.A. was sanctioning only seven tournaments each year. Other tournaments were being held, but not sanctioned by the F.S.A. After much discussion on how tournaments should be governed, the following motion was approved: *Resolved: That Shuffleboard Clubs affiliated with the F.S.A. which conduct any tournament not approved by the Association, be automatically barred from the Association for one year from date of said tournament. Any players who participate in an unsanctioned tournament automatically suspend themselves as further participants in any tournament of the F.S.A. for a period of one year from date of said tournament.*

Tournament play started about the second week in January and ended in the middle of March. This took in the winter season here in Florida in the '40s.

When we look back some fifty years, we see that the F.S.A. rules on the game of shuffleboard has helped in making courts better, scoreboards more uniform, more tournaments, and longer seasons. It takes dedicated people to move the game of shuffleboard along. Do we have a plan? A goal? What will the future bring? Let us set our sights high to make shuffleboard not only a sport for the elderly but for ALL AGES! *Support your shuffleboard club, do your share of the work, and we can all achieve a goal higher than we might expect!*

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