

2023 APTA BOARD MEETING MASTERS COMMITTEE

MISSION STATEMENT

To grow the game within the Masters platform tennis community, including men and women ages 45 and over. To create an avenue of communication and build camaraderie among master-age players, as well as to herald achievements unique to players in their late 40s, 50s, 60s, 70s and beyond, who enjoy, support, and grow our sport.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS + GOALS

Participation and location seem to be the major challenges facing the National Masters Tournaments. Attempts were made to reschedule some canceled events as well as try some new venues. As in the past seasons, disappointing participation caused some events not to be held.

On a positive note, the 2022 Men's 60+ Masters Nationals was rescheduled and held in Delaware on October 30, 2022. The Men's 65+, Mixed 50+, and the Husband/Wife 50+ Masters Nationals were also held in Delaware on the weekend of December 9-11, 2022. Thanks to Tournament Director Simon Peppiatt for his perseverance and dedication to making these tournaments possible.

The Men's 50+, 60+, 70+, and the Women's 50+ Masters Nationals were held at the New York Athletic Club in Pelham, NY. Tournament Director Glen Schwitter and his team put together a fabulous tournament on the coldest weekend of the winter.

And finally, the Men's 145+ Masters Nationals was resurrected and put back on the tournament calendar thanks to Jill Feher, tournament director, and Morris County Golf Club in Morristown, NJ, which hosted the event.

For the 2023-2024 season, we hope to secure popular event locations and ensure robust participation.

In addition to our Masters Committee Report for 2023, I wanted to forward some of the members' comments.

Peter Lauer: A long-standing and increasingly strong thought I have is that we have too many events/categories of Nationals, and that this could in part be why the participation levels for individual events are lower. With PTI, age, and cumulative age-based events, plus the new PTI team events, it's a lot and hard to keep track of. A high-quality problem, I know, but my hunch is it's real.

Connie Jones: I talk to so many at 60 years and older asking if they are still getting out on the platform tennis court. Their reply, expressed in sadness, is their bodies find it too difficult to do. Given the much lower numbers of folks getting out to play platform tennis, why not, like our sister sport tennis does at their National tournaments, only require four players or teams for doubles? In the many years I played the National Grass Court Championships at Westside Forest Hills, where they have added an 80s age division, they will hold it if only four sign up. Everyone plays everyone else, top two play for silver and gold, next two for the bronze ball. Four match totals are guaranteed. Gals travel all the way from California, Paris, and Rome to play at this historic beautiful venue, why cancel? We want to encourage these platform tennis Senior Nationals to be held, not cancel them. Why can we not do this like tennis does?

Doug Barrow: The powers that be must understand that the consistency of the events must be. Even if only two appear the event **MUST** be held so we can plan for next time!
Submitted by Chair Scott Estes, Sr.