# SPORTS ENGINEERING: RACQUETBALL

**WORKBOOK AND JOURNAL** 

A SPORTS ENGINEERING PROGRAM FOR BUILDING BASIC RACQUETBALL SKILLS

**PSYCHOEDUCATIONAL SERIES VOLUME 2** 

BY

**POLYMATHESE** 

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#### Introduction

Sports Engineering: Racquetball is a simple, comprehensive method of organizing your tournament experience and your training exercises in a systematic way. By systematically analyzing your performance during training and competition, you can make significant improvements in your game in the shortest possible amount of time.

There are six forms that you will use to monitor your progress:

- 1. Racquetball Skills Confidence Survey
- 2. Racquetball Performance Affirmation Worksheet
- 3. Racquetball Visualization Worksheet
- 4. Racquetball Training Log
- 5. Racquetball Competition Log
- 6. Racquetball Mental Toughness Inventory

An example of each of these forms follows this introduction. Each form is self-explanatory, and you will discover that they are very easy to use, and may even remind you of other forms you have seen or created yourself.

Begin with the Confidence Survey. Your responses to this survey will highlight those elements of your game that require immediate attention. Create goals, affirmations, and guided imagery based on your responses to the survey.

Track your progress during practice sessions and games with the Racquetball Training Log.

Track your performance during competition with the Competition Log. The Mental toughness Inventory can be used after each match to isolate areas where you are strong and

should carry over to subsequent play, and areas that you can begin to improve for the next match.

Hypnosis is best understood as a method used to change brain wave patterns from rapid beta rhythms to slower alpha rhythms. In effect, hypnosis slows down the processing speed of the brain and the nervous system, inducing a state of calm, relaxed awareness. Please refer to the Brain Wave State Diagram on the next page for more information.

I hope you enjoy and benefit from the materials presented here.

See You On The Court!

#### Acknowledgements

This workbook is based on my own experiences as a racquetball player, and the training I have enjoyed from my coaches, trainers, and playing partners.

In addition, I owe an enormous debt of gratitude to the pioneers in the field of sports psychology and racquetball who provided a wealth of research material from which I have borrowed, adapted, and sometimes stolen:

Anthony Robbins Jim Loehr, Ph.D. Milton H. Erickson, M.D. Michael Samuels, M.D.

and the great teachers and researches at the United States Racquetball Association (Team USA Racquetball – https://www.teamusa.org/USA-Racquetball)

### **Brain Wave State Diagram**

Brain-Wave Level		Mental Characteristics	Physical Characteristics
	100	Wide Awake State	Extreme Tension, Uptight
	95	Excitement, Frustration	High Metabolic Behavior
	90	Aware of all senses	Hands Moist and Clammy
cond	85	Very Alert	Accelerated Work Ability
l oer se	80	Actively Aware	Hyperactive
Beta cles pe	75	Active Thought Patterns	High Degree of Stamina
<b>Beta</b> (14 – 30 cycles per second)	70	Comfortably Alert	Comfortable, Restful State
(14 –	65	Consciously Aware	Good Observation State
	60	Normal Thought Patterns	Physically At Rest
	55	Easy Thoughts	Beginning to Relax
	50	Less Active Thoughts	Increased Composure
	45	Pre-Drowsiness	Releasing All Body Feelings
8) SS	40	Increased Susceptibility	Passive Awareness
Alpha (8-13 cps)	35	Passive Awareness	Numb, Quiet
(8)	30	Total Sensory Withdrawal	Deep Relaxation
	25	Low Alpha State	Complete Passivity
ල (g	20	Drowsiness	Unaware
Theta (4-7 cps)	15	Beginning Unconsciousness	Unaware
	10	Unconsciousness	Unconscious
ta 3.5	5	Deep Sleep State	Deep Sleep State
Delta (.05-3.5 cps)		Baseline	Baseline

#### **Basic Rules for Setting Goals and Objectives**

- When you construct your goals, word them so they are task or objective-oriented, and not result-oriented. Results are often abstract and indeterminate. Tasks and objectives are concrete and measurable.
- 2. Your goals must be specific and observable. For example, "I will do my best to win at this tournament" is an ineffective wording for your goal. Instead, try wording it this way: "During every game at this tournament, I will get my racquet up!"
- Anthony Robbins says that "Goals are dreams with a deadline." Therefore, set specific target dates for achieving your goals. For example, "I will win first place at a tournament by the end of the season."
- 4. Use your Training and Competition Logs to create an immediate feedback system.
- 5. Create short, intermediate, and long-term goals. Translate these goals into daily tasks and exercises.
- 6. Believe in YOUR goals be sure that you are pursuing those goals and objectives that YOU want, and not those that someone else has set for you.
- Write your goals down in the Visualization Worksheet.
   Also, it sometimes useful to write them on index cards or sheets of paper that you can carry with you or display in your home or office.
- 8. State goals and affirmations in positive terms. Use phrases like "I am a confident and powerful hitter" rather than "Don't skip the ball."
- 9. Be sure that your goals are flexible. You will make many modifications and revisions as you progress.

# Examples of How the Forms, Worksheets, and Inventories Are To Be Filled Out

## Racquetball Skills Confidence Survey

#	I feel confident in my ability to	No	Yes	Over- Confident
1.	Make critical decisions during a game.		Х	
2.	Concentrate throughout the duration of a match.	Х		
3.	Perform under pressure.	Х		
4.	Return serve offensively.	Х		
5.	Return serve defensively.		Х	
6.	Control my emotions during a game.		Х	
7.	Come from behind and win.	Х		
8.	Improve my game.		Χ	
9.	Accept constructive criticism.		Х	
10	Hit forehand kill shots.		Х	
11	Hit backhand kill shots.	Х		
12	Consistently serve well.		Χ	
13	Put forth the effort required to succeed.		Х	
14	Execute a successful strategy.		Х	
15	Adapt to changes in my opponent's strategy.	Х		
16	Anticipate my opponent's shots.	Х		
17	Analyze my opponent(s) and develop a pre-game strategy.	Х		
18	Be positive and optimistic.		Х	

Practice   X   Tournament   Date.   0/1/2019	Practice	Х	Tournament		Date:	6/1/2019
--	----------	---	------------	--	-------	----------

Affirmation #1:	I am a dynamic, consistent, and power hitter.
Affirmation #2:	I love to play racquetball.
Affirmation #3:	
Affirmation #4:	
Affirmation #5:	
Affirmation #6:	
Affirmation #7:	
Affirmation #8:	
Affirmation #9:	

Practice		Tournament	X	Date:	6/1/2019
----------	--	------------	---	-------	----------

Affirmation #1:	I am a winner!
Affirmation #2:	I have the skills and determination to come from behind and win!
Affirmation #3:	I am calm and confident.
Affirmation #4:	
Affirmation #5:	
Affirmation #6:	
Affirmation #7:	
Affirmation #8:	
Affirmation #9:	

#### **Racquetball Visualization Worksheet**

Date:	6/1/2019	Time:	15:00	
Goal/Objective				

My backhand is a little weak from the back wall when I am returning a slow lob serve. My objective is to improve my performance by:

- Watching the ball
- Getting in perfect relative position
- Being patient
- Following through

#### **Guided Imagery/Visualization**

I will create an alpha state by using rhythmic breathing, then I will imagine that I am in the court and returning that really good slow lob serve to my backhand side. I will use Subjective Mental Theater first, viewing myself from a distance and from different perspectives. I will slow the action down at first, and watch myself execute a perfect backhand return. When I am comfortable with this visualization, I will use Objective Mental Theater and view the action from my own eyes as I execute several perfect backhand returns.

Both Subjective and Objective views will incorporate the 4 elements listed above.

I will use slow-motion, stop-motion, rewind, and fast-forward as I view myself executing these perfect returns.

I will end with a few minutes of deep relaxation.

Total Estimated Time: 15 - 20 minutes

# Racquetball Visualization Worksheet

Date:	6/1/2019	Time:	18:00
		bjective	
	I want to improve my ability to watch the ball, especially as it		
	ts the racquet. I will use	a picture i	to help me visualize
this act	ion.		
	Guided Image	v/Vieual	ization
Insert a	a photograph or picture h		
IIISCIT	a priotograph of picture in	Sie to illu	Strate watering the ball.

# **Racquetball Training Log**

	1 4!	V 01-1- 1
Suc	Location:	Your Club, Inc.
Practice Sessions and Games	Date:	June 1, 2019
ctice and G	Time:	18:00 (Youth League Night)
Pra	Duration:	2 hours
ine	Light Weights:	Upper body only (shoulders, lats, arms)
Warm-Up Routine	Cardio- Vascular:	5 minutes – stationary bike
ırm-U	Stretching:	Complete routine
Ma	Suryanamaskar:	1st 4 movements only
	Drive Serves:	OK – a little too high off the back wall
<u>s</u>	Lob Serves:	Good – slow and difficult to return
Techniques and Skills	Ceiling Shots:	Forehand (FH) OK – Backhand (BH) always going to right side of court
ues ar	Pinches:	Good – low and effective
chniq	Kill Shots:	FH very good – BH a bit too high
Te	Footwork:	Good balance
	Relative Position:	Improving – still overshooting ball sometimes
Overall	Great workout – g good during all ga	ood improvement in pinches – felt mes

	Shoulders:	150 lbs – 35 seconds
	Lats:	170 lbs – 20 seconds
ining	Chest:	200 lbs – 45 seconds
Weight Training	Arms:	N/A
Weig	Legs:	N/A
	Abs:	N/A
	Traps:	N/A
βι	Diet:	Standard diet
Physical Training	Water:	12 glasses
/sical	Sleep:	8 hours
Ą	Work/Rest Ratio:	2:1
	Focus & Concentration	Very good – kept eye on ball 90% of time
5	Visualization:	Good – saw shot while setting up
Mental Training	Attitude:	Very good – happy
ntal T	Motivation:	Very good
Me	Confidence:	High – preparing for tournament
	Rituals:	Focused on strings between serves; mentally said 'Hit' during swings

## **Racquetball Competition Log**

	Tournament Name:	State Doubles
Tournament Information	Location:	Your Club, Inc.
t Infor	Date:	June 1, 2019
amen	Time:	17:00
Tourn	Division/Round:	Men's A Doubles Round 1
	Partner:	Evan Ektelon
	Name(s):	Warren Wilson & Harry Head
	Strengths:	Forehand Kills, Lob Serves
t(s)	Weaknesses:	Backhand returns, lobs
Opponent(s)	My Effective Strategies:	Defensive lobs for return of serve, pinches to opposite side of court
0	My Ineffective Strategies:	Down-the-line kill shots – they are too quick, and return these 70% of the time
	Changes to Make:	More pinches
	Diet:	Normal; carbo-loading 90 minutes b4 match
sical	Water:	32 oz b4 match, + Gatorade
Physical	Sleep:	8 hours
	Work/Rest Ratio:	2:1

	- · ·	014 1141 4 1 1
	Drive Serves:	OK – a little too slow, though
<u>s</u>	Lob Serves:	Good – effective against backhand, less so against forehand
nd Ski	Ceiling Shots:	Very good
ues ar	Pinches:	Very effective
Techniques and Skills	Kill Shots:	OK – not low enough to be effective against Brad and Danny, though
	Footwork:	Very good – nice setups, good follow-through
	Relative Position:	Good
	Focus & Concentration:	Excellent
	Visualization:	Good – especially with serves
<u>s</u>	Attitude:	Great – I had a great time
Mental Skills	Motivation:	Great
Menta	Confidence:	Very Good
	Rituals:	Bounce ball 5 times before service; take 10 seconds b4 receiving (racquet up)
	Mental	Good – especially eye focus and
	Toughness:	relaxation
al.		h! We won in a close tie-breaker
Score & Overall Eval.	15-12; 13-15; 11-	9
L	l .	

#### **Mental Toughness Inventory**

#	Questions	Score
1.	My eyes are controlled (eyes on ball during contact, focused between rallies.)	2
2.	My shoulders are back, my head is up, and I project confidence.	2
3.	I walk with high energy, on my toes, balanced and ready for action.	2
4.	I end my rallies with a positive physical response such as positive self-talk, fist-pump, etc.	3
5.	I feel relaxed and loose – I take deep breaths, my arms hang loosely at my sides, I deliberately relax before the next rally.	2
6.	I think clearly before each rally begins, pausing and visualizing before I serve.	3
7.	I perform well-defined rituals before I serve – I bounce the ball, check my position in the service box, check my receiver, etc.	3
8.	I perform well-defined rituals before receiving service – I look at my strings to minimize distractions and increase my focus, I visualize my footwork and relative ball position, I sway as I balance on my toes.	3
9.	I am calm and relaxed between rallies, and I respect the officials and my opponents at all times – I never argue with them, and keep my mind on my game.	3
10.	I take a minimum of 3 seconds and a maximum of 10 seconds after the referee calls serve (both serving and receiving).	3
11.	Total Score	26

#### **Mental Toughness Inventory Scoring**

Almost Always = 3 Mentally Tough = 24 – 30
Sometimes = 2 Some Deficiencies = 21 – 24
Almost Never = 1 Serious Deficiencies = Below 21

# Racquetball Skills Confidence Survey Forms

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6.	Control my emotions during a game.			
7.	Come from behind and win.			
8.	Improve my game.			
9.	Accept constructive criticism.			
10.	Hit forehand kill shots.			
11.	Hit backhand kill shots.			
12.	Consistently serve well.			
13.	Put forth the effort required to succeed.			
14.	Execute a successful strategy.			
15.	Adapt to changes in my opponent's strategy.			
16.	Anticipate my opponent's shots.			
17.	Analyze my opponent(s) and develop a pre-game strategy.			
18.	Be positive and optimistic.			

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Practice		Tournament		Date:	
Affirmation #1:					
Affirmation #2:					
Affirmation #3:					
Affirmation #4:					
Affirmation #5:					
Affirmation #6:					
Affirmation #7:	on				
Affirmation #8:					
Affirmation #9:					

Practice		Tournament	Date:	
Affirmation #1:				
Affirmation #2:				
Affirmation #3:				
Affirmation #4:				
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Affirmation #7:	on			
Affirmation #8:	on			
Affirmation #9:				

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	•			
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Affirmation #9:	on			

Date: Time: Goal/Objective
Guided Imagery/Visualization
Oulded illiagery/visualization

Time:
Goal/Objective
Guided Imagery/Visualization

Date:	Time	•
	Time Goal/Objectiv	е
	Guided Imagery/Visu	alization
	Outded Illiagery/Visu	anzation

Date:	Time: Goal/Objective
	Goal/Objective
	Guided Imagery/Visualization
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Date:	T	ime:	
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	Guided Imagery/	Visual	ization

Date:	Time: Goal/Objective
	Goal/Objective
	Guided Imagery/Visualization
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# **Training Log Worksheets**

Practice Sessions and Games	Location:	
	Date:	
actice and G	Time:	
Pra	Duration:	
ine	Light Weights:	
ont	Cardio-	
Š.	Vascular:	
Warm-Up Routine	Stretching:	
Wa	Suryanamaskar:	
Techniques and Skills	Drive Serves:	
	Lob Serves:	
	Ceiling Shots:	
	Pinches:	
	Kill Shots:	
	Footwork:	
	Relative Position:	
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# **Racquetball Training Log Worksheet**

Practice Sessions and Games	Location:	
	Date:	
	Time:	
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ine	Light Weights:	
Warm-Up Routine	Cardio- Vascular:	
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# Racquetball Training Log Worksheet

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# **Competition Log Worksheets**

Tournament Information	Tournament Name:	
	Location:	
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Lourn	Division/Round:	
	Doubles Partner:	
	Name(s):	
	Strengths:	
(s)	Weaknesses:	
Opponent(s)	My Effective Strategies:	
	My Ineffective Strategies:	
	Changes to Make:	
Physical	Diet:	
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	Changes to Make:	
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# **Mental Toughness Inventories**

#	Questions	Score
1.	My eyes are controlled (eyes on ball during contact, focused between rallies.)	
2.	My shoulders are back, my head is up, and I project confidence.	
3.	I walk with high energy, on my toes, balanced and ready for action.	
4.	I end my rallies with a positive physical response such as positive self-talk, fist-pump, etc.	
5.	I feel relaxed and loose – I take deep breaths, my arms hang loosely at my sides, I deliberately relax before the next rally.	
6.	I think clearly before each rally begins, pausing and visualizing before I serve.	
7.	I perform well-defined rituals before I serve – I bounce the ball, check my position in the service box, check my receiver, etc.	
8.	I perform well-defined rituals before receiving service – I look at my strings to minimize distractions and increase my focus, I visualize my footwork and relative ball position, I sway as I balance on my toes.	
9.	I am calm and relaxed between rallies, and I respect the officials and my opponents at all times – I never argue with them, and keep my mind on my game.	
10.	I take a minimum of 3 seconds and a maximum of 10 seconds after the referee calls serve (both serving and receiving).	
11.	Total Score	

Almost Always	s = 3	Mentally Tough	=	24 - 30
Sometimes	= 2	Some Deficiencies	=	21 - 24
Almost Never	=1	Serious Deficiencies	s = E	Below 21

#	Questions	Score
1.	My eyes are controlled (eyes on ball during contact, focused between rallies.)	
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8.	I perform well-defined rituals before receiving service – I look at my strings to minimize distractions and increase my focus, I visualize my footwork and relative ball position, I sway as I balance on my toes.	
9.	I am calm and relaxed between rallies, and I respect the officials and my opponents at all times – I never argue with them, and keep my mind on my game.	
10.	I take a minimum of 3 seconds and a maximum of 10 seconds after the referee calls serve (both serving and receiving).	
11.	Total Score	

Almost Always = 3	Mentally Tough	=	24 - 30
Sometimes = 2	Some Deficiencies	=	21 - 24
Almost Never = 1	Serious Deficiencies	= B	elow 21

#	Questions	Score
1.	My eyes are controlled (eyes on ball during contact, focused between rallies.)	
2.	My shoulders are back, my head is up, and I project confidence.	
3.	I walk with high energy, on my toes, balanced and ready for action.	
4.	I end my rallies with a positive physical response such as positive self-talk, fist-pump, etc.	
5.	I feel relaxed and loose – I take deep breaths, my arms hang loosely at my sides, I deliberately relax before the next rally.	
6.	I think clearly before each rally begins, pausing and visualizing before I serve.	
7.	I perform well-defined rituals before I serve – I bounce the ball, check my position in the service box, check my receiver, etc.	
8.	I perform well-defined rituals before receiving service – I look at my strings to minimize distractions and increase my focus, I visualize my footwork and relative ball position, I sway as I balance on my toes.	
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11.	Total Score	

Almost Always	; = 3	Mentally Tough	=	24 - 30
Sometimes	= 2	Some Deficiencies	=	21 - 24
Almost Never	= 1	Serious Deficiencies	3 = E	Below 21

# **Additional Notes**





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# References

- United States Racquetball Association. (2002). Learn Your Lessons 3. Colorado Springs, Colorado: United States Racquetball Association. This training program includes a workbook, a DVD, and a CD. You can order it from their website: www.usra.org.
- 2. Zafutto, Anthony. A. (1976). Alphagenics: Using Your Brain Waves to Improve Your Life. New York: Warner Books, p. 63. The Brain Wave State Diagram was adapted from the work done by Dr. Anthony Zafutto. It is a simplification of the brain wave patterns emitted by human beings during various phases of their day. In reality, all 4 brain wave patterns are always present, but the simplified depiction offered by the table is useful for training oneself to become aware of various shifts in state.
- 3. Samuels, Mike, M.D., and Samuels, Nancy. (1975). Seeing With The Mind's Eye: The History, Techniques and Uses of Visualization. New York: Random House, p. 120-133.