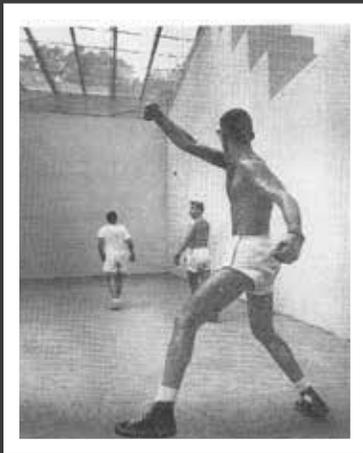


# Howie Eisenberg



**Howie Eisenberg made extensive contributions to handball for almost 50 years. He authored numerous articles for *Ace* and *Handball* Magazines, had a paper presented at a symposium on handball at the Sorbonne; founded and captained handball teams in the NJ and Southern California handball leagues, served as USHA National 1-Wall Commissioner during the 1980's and again 22 years later.**

In that position, Howie was tournament director of the National 1-Wall small and big ball championships. He also organized and directed events ranging from 4-wall tournaments in New Jersey and Mexico to junior and pro 3-wall tournaments in California. Programs Eisenberg put together and published in conjunction with those tournaments were instrumental in fundraising.

Founder and captain of teams at Brooklyn College and of teams in the

New Jersey and Southern California handball leagues, Eisenberg's most noteworthy accomplishment in that regard was organizer of Team USA, which he led in international tournaments in Europe and the US and resulted in a proliferation of countries playing 1-wall big ball. His considerable prior exposure, having played and met players and organizers in North and South America, Europe, Asia, and Australia over a period of many years, was a valuable asset in promoting the game in other countries.

Elected to the USHA Board of Directors (BOD) and serving for a period of 6 years, Eisenberg's initial priority was to foster greater mutual appreciation and cooperation between the BOD and the 1-wall community. Overcoming entrenched negative views on both sides that were detracting from the best interests of 1-wall and the USHA, Howie was responsible for reconstitution of the USHA 1-Wall Committee (1WC), which he chaired for four years. In his tenure as Chair and Commissioner, working within the USHA structure, the 1WC made recommendations resulting in the BOD implementing a number of innovations including free youth memberships, 1-wall rule changes, codification of a set of big ball rule modifications, creation of the national 1-wall intercollegiate and national big ball championships, innovation of objective measures for 1-wall awards and an annual dinner honoring players and contributors, and establishment and development of relations with the international handball community.

# Howie Eisenberg...

As captain of Team USA, Eisenberg was involved in all of the planning and logistics in bringing teams to Europe four times to compete (and win) in international big ball championships. He proposed and gained USHA and World Handball Council acceptance for 1-wall big ball team events to be held at the World Handball Championships. Eisenberg coordinated and ran the initial event which resulted in far eclipsing the record for most countries in an international handball championship.

This expansion of international play was furthered when Eisenberg was instrumental in effecting a meeting of representatives of the WHC, the CIJB, and the GAA whose total memberships comprise 85 countries. This resulted in the formation of the World Wall Ball Association (WWBA) whose charter is to bring handball to the world stage. With bylaws that incorporate international standards and regulations, the WWBA, headquartered in Dublin, is well positioned to seek Olympic status. A major stepping stone toward that goal was achieved when one-wall big ball was presented as a demonstration sport at the World Games in Cali, Columbia.

While his primary focus was on 1-wall, Eisenberg strove for advancement in all phases of the game. Towards that end, during his tenure on the BOD, he was a member of the Budget, Game, Hall of Fame, Planning, and Promotions committees as well as the 1WC. He has been an informed responsible voice of reason in discussion and decision making in a number of important issues such as cooperative and complementary mutual support between the WPH and USHA.

Howie Eisenberg's contributions to the advancement of handball are listed chronologically below.

## Howie Eisenberg Handball Contributions (1965-2012)

**1965 - 2012:** authored more than 75 articles for USHA publications, Ace Magazine and Handball Magazine. Included were instructionals, biographies, tournament descriptions and 1-Wall Commissioner's columns.

**1974, 1975:** founded and coached the Brooklyn College handball team.

**1978 - 1986:** founded and captained the Courtworks team in NJ Handball league

**1982 - 1986:** elected USHA I-wall handball chairman/commissioner. Performed many functions to promote 1-wall handball.

**1982 - 1985:** tournament director of USHA national 1-Wall Championships

**1988 - 1997:** founded and was tournament director of international handball tournaments in Rosarito Beach, Mexico

**1990 - 1995:** founded and captained the Racquetball World team in the SOCHA Handball league

**1999 - 2003:** one of the founding officers of the California Junior Handball Development Assn, organized and directed pro 3-wall and junior tournaments; authored and published programs that were instrumental in junior fund raising.

**2007 - 2012:** elected to successive 3 year terms on USHA Board of Directors. Performed many functions to promote all forms of handball, nationally and internationally.

**2007 - 2010:** elected to successive 2 year terms as USHA 1-wall committee chair. Continued to serve on 1WC through 2012. Performed many functions to promote 1-wall handball.

**2007 - 2012:** elected to 3 successive 2 year terms as USHA I-wall handball commissioner. Performed many functions to promote 1-wall handball.

**2007 - 2011:** organized, coordinated, and captained Team USA men's and women's handball teams for competition in international tournaments in Europe and the U.S.

**2008:** conceived, organized and was tournament director of first annual USHA National Big Ball (1-wall) Championships.

**2009:** organized and was tournament director of Federation Cup men's and women's team championships at the World Handball Championships in Portland, OR

**2009:** Wrote and had a paper on 1-wall handball presented for the Confederation Internationale de Balle au Mur, a colloquium on Jeux de Paume (handball games) at the University of Paris Descarte, a division of the Sorbonne

**2009 - 2012:** served as World Handball Council 1-Wall Coordinator

**2010:** initiated and formulated agenda together with Peter Cohen of England and Carlo Berrino of Italy for a meeting of the GAA (54 countries), CIJB (23 countries), and the WHC (8 countries) in Imperia, Italy to found the WWBA Subsequent meetings in Valencia, Spain, Dublin, Ireland and Nizza Monferrato, Italy resulted in creation of the WWBA whose charter is to bring court handball (1-wall big ball) to the World Games and the Olympics.

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