



Zurich Tennis

OUTDOOR SEASON

June until September 2020 | zuerichtennis.ch



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REGIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS 2020

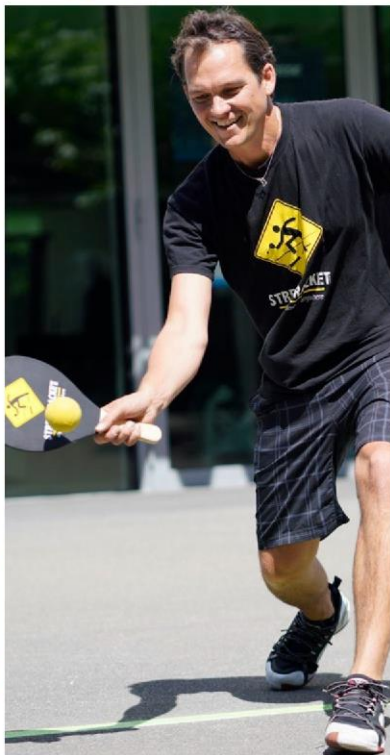
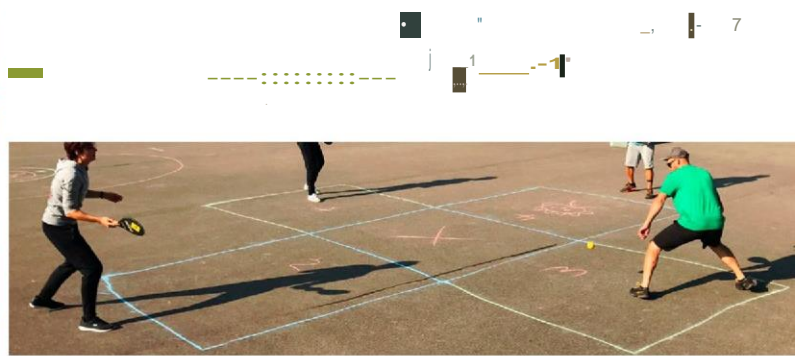
Zurich City Championships

Championships Limmattal

Winterthur City Championships

IMPRESSUM

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Street Racket – anyone, anytime, anywhere

It is played on the streets, in gardens, on parking lots, on school playgrounds or at sports clubs. We are talking about street tennis or as the inventor Marcel Straub calls it: Street Racket. It can easily be adapted to the surroundings due to its simplicity which is not bound to endless rules.

Young players are enthusiastic about Street Racket. Since it is not sheer power or a hard shot that leads to winning the point, but feeling for the ball and agility, both boys and girls can meet eye to eye. «The ball is not supposed to leave the court», the players describe an important rule of the game, where a foam ball is hit with wooden rackets.

INVENTED OUT OF NECESSITY

Street Racket was developed by Marcel Straub, a sports teacher who grew up in Langnau am Albis. The idea came to Marcel in 2015 on the Caribbean island of Dominica, where he was supposed to teach table tennis. Once he got there however, he found that there were no tables. So he drew a «table» on the ground. Back in Switzerland, Marcel worked on a bigger ball to slow down the game, thought up the court measurements and rules, produced rackets and did a lot of advertising. «Street Racket is a sport for the young and the old, for beginners and experts. The game can also help develop motor skills,» says the Zurich native. «The costs are minimal, and you can even play it indoors.» Last autumn, Marcel Straub resigned from his position in the Zurich Sports Department and has since then dedicated all his time to the marketing and establishment of Street Racket as a brand.

«It's also exciting for the clubs.

«Coaches can use Street Racket in lessons or training as a warm up or introduction to a lesson, as a warm-up before tournaments, for team building processes, to improve the feeling for the ball, for the logical and structured setup of moves on the small model as well as for the elaboration of a game overview», says inventor Marcel Straub.

STREET RACKET IS GREAT FUN

Claudia Furger, responsible for school and street tennis at the Zurich Regional Tennis Association (RVZT), sees great potential in the new sport: «There are several reasons why this new sport is so appreciated. For example, Street Racket offers a wide variety of game forms and challenges on all levels. Also the playing time can be set as you wish. Street tennis can be played alone, as a singles, as a doubles or mixed. Especially for beginners in tennis, it makes sense to improve the feeling for the ball in a playful way with a racket and a ball. This will lead to faster progress, more sense of achievement and therefore even more fun and motivation on the tennis court. It doesn't take much: A few strokes on a fairly even surface are enough and you can start playing. Street Racket is great fun; you can play it with friends, neighbours, colleagues, family, in the sports club or at school».

The RVZT is currently developing various possibilities for collaboration with the inventor Marcel Straub. Street Racket is also suitable for schools and all those who want to get a taste of tennis without having the obligation of expensive membership fees and perhaps later on continue their enthusiasm for racket sports in a tennis club. Offering Street Racket in PE lessons at school, will allow children and young people to be introduced to the game with a racket and a ball and therefore also to tennis. Claudia Furger: «The close cooperation with tennis clubs in particular is extremely important, as they are supposed to offer children and young people interested in tennis training courses directly after the courses to make it easier for them to join the club».

Iris Rothacher

Please go to www.streetracket.net for further information.

«THERE ARE OVER 300 GAME FORMS – FOR ANY AGE AND ANY LEVEL»

Marcel Straub, SWISS Squash Champion in the NLA and NLB, invented Street Racket in 2017. Since 2018 there are more and more permanent playing fields in the city and canton of Zurich. Rackets and balls are even available for free at larger sports facilities. This movement concept is also becoming increasingly popular internationally. The inventor Marcel Straub explains why the simple game, born out of necessity, became a success story and where he still wants to go with this innovative idea.

Who plays Street Racket?

Everyone! True to our motto «anyone - anytime – anywhere». Smaller children from the age of three are given simpler tasks or exercise opportunities, often involving catching and throwing. Families play together and we also work with top athletes, people with handicaps or senior citizens.

Is the sport just for children and young people?

Not at all. What children and young people appreciate about Street Racket is that they can be active and creative. No additional support is necessary, i.e. no adult supervision or extra funding. And it's also safe, whilst keeping the element of fun. For many schools, Street Racket is already part of the curriculum. It enriches the playgrounds and certainly enhances lessons by incorporating the learning through movement concept. The schools and the students help Street Racket reach the families and neighbourhoods and other parts of the community.

What is special about this new sport?

We are talking about a concept of exercise and education rather than a new sport. Street Racket is the new basis of all racket sports and the idea is to reach out to a broader audience.

Just to name a few of the advantages: the costs are kept at a minimum, it can be played anywhere so no long journeys are incurred, no maintenance or installation of a facility is necessary. Thanks to a quick sense of achievement, everyone can experience Street Racket and enjoy the valuable game with just a racket and a ball.

This is certainly also an opportunity for tennis clubs and other sports facilities, because Street Racket may help motivate other racket players to join the nearby tennis club or play badminton. We want the world to swing the racket! There are more than 300 forms of play: for every age, for every level, for every sports enthusiast and every top athlete. Everyone can find a positive approach to the topic - a movement which can also bring forth many more tennis players.

What do I need to play Street Racket and where do I get the equipment?

All it really takes is a soft ball and a racket, a fairly even surface for the court and paint or chalk for the court. We developed the original equipment ourselves (available on www.streetracket.net/shop).

We recommend using the original Street Racket sets for the best effects and playing comfort. The most important thing is that the racket and ball form a perfect team, matching the dimensions of the street racket courts. The concept aims to bring together the material, rules and court system.

Why do you care so much about this game?

The concept is ours and we have a vision of an active and a movement-filled world. It was a long road, with a few added bumps and coincidences of life, which led us to this point.

We see how much good Street Racket does on a daily basis. We are amazed by the impact and the lasting impression we have already made. My wife, Rahel, and I have dedicated all our time to our dream of making Street Racket known around the world. We both gave up our management positions for this. There's no going back, let's rock the street!

Is the invention of Street Racket a success story or have you also experienced setbacks?

We are working day and night for our dream, our so-called fifth child, Street Racket. Because of the versatility and simplicity of the game, we saw the huge potential right from the start.



We receive enormously good feedback for our courses and contents. The concept is becoming more and more popular. But there will be and have been a few setbacks. Unfortunately we weren't always taken very seriously in the beginning. The Corona crisis is currently putting us under a lot of pressure, as all the courses, congresses and orders around the world were cancelled within just a very short period of time. We hope that the last few months of work weren't for nothing. We are however continuing our mission to reach out to as many people as possible and people at home need all the more exercise, variety and fun.

What are your next goals?

We would like to get more and more people moving and active and above all we would like to introduce Street Racket to teams of teachers from all over the world. We are currently working on a well-founded and comprehensive online introductory course to make travelling less important and to make it even more ecological and economical. We would like to cooperate with major exercise programmes at home and abroad as well as with appropriate organisations. We like to think big. The WHO and Michele Obama's «move» programme are also on our radar for the future. I dream of presenting Street Racket in the Olympic Village as an opportunity for athletes and officials from all over the world. We don't want Street Racket to become an Olympic discipline, but we want to make sure that the tennis cracks of the future become familiar with a racket and a ball early on thanks to Street Racket and if they then win gold at the next Olympics thanks to our influence, then all the better!

Who can interested parties contact and where can they gather more information?

We offer courses, introductions, event support, instructor training, school sports events and advice and are looking forward to your inquiries.

Just call 078 2171414 or send an E-Mail to info@streetracket.com. *IR*