

Florida Dart Association

Section I

PREAMBLE/HISTORY

The purpose of the FDA is to do for darts what you cannot reasonably do for yourself or your organization do for itself. The FDA can provide:

1. State-wide co-ordination
2. National co-ordination
3. Standardization of tournament rules, sanctioning and equipment
4. State-wide and national competition
5. Representation on a national basis

Darts are organized, run and promoted on a local level. A league or an association is free to structure their organization any way they choose. Working only at the local level limits the exposure, the prize structure, and the competition, thereby creating the need for a State organization that ties the various leagues together.

The Florida Dart Association as a state-wide organization was informally started in 1976. As a legal entity, the Articles of Incorporation were filed on October 19, 1979 and officially became a not for profit corporation on October 22, 1979. The affairs of the corporation were managed by a Board of Trustees with four elected officers and twelve "Members-at-Large". Wayne Troiano of Palatka was the first President, with Greg Stephens from Miami as Vice-President, Karen Nelson from Winter Springs as Secretary and the first Treasurer was Merv Lunsford. The official FDA logo was adopted in 1983.

Fees were originally established as follows:

- Individual membership was \$8.00 per year.
- Lifetime membership was \$35.00 per year with a \$1.00 annual renewal fee.
- Association membership fees were \$5.00 (\$4.00 to FDA & \$1.00 ADO) per player.

Records indicate that one of the first "sanctioned" tournaments took place in Miami in July 1979. There were 106 open single entries (@ \$7.00 fee), 33 ladies, 20 lady double teams, 61 open double teams. The second sanctioned tournament was the Orange Park Open in September 1979.

Within ten years the FDA established the Florida Dart Association "Hall of Fame" (at that time the only dart hall of fame in the world), Men's and Ladies State Champions, Tournament of Champions (now know as the "Supershoot") and the FDA Wizard State Team Championships (currently "State Team Championships"). A 10th Anniversary Extravaganza Dart Tournament was held at the Hyatt of the Palm Beaches on September 12th, 13th & 14th, 1986. That tournament was jointly sponsored by the Everglades Darts Organization, the Miami-Dade Darts Association and the Broward County Darts Association. On Friday afternoon a team challenge was held between the Florida Dart Association and the Georgia Dart Association. The purse for this tournament was \$10,000.00.

Today the Florida Dart Association has twenty-two member associations. Its primary purpose is to sanction local dart tournaments, award championship points that determine state individual champions, sponsor the annual State Team Championships, Supershoot Championship Tournament and the Caribbean Cup Tournament held every other year.