



EUROPEAN RACKET STRINGERS ASSOCIATION INTERNATIONAL

PRESS RELEASE

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ERSA International's position within the professional stringing community, updates to existing certification and relationships with other associations

ERSA Intl. would like to clarify its position and leadership within the professional stringing world & in particular it's worldwide stringing & customizing workshops, stringing certifications and ATP Tour stringing support.

ERSA Intl. was founded 17 years ago as an extension, in Europe, to the USRSA (US Racquet Stringers Association). After a short time and through mutual agreement, ERSA Intl. became an independent non-profit stringing association. Due to the dynamic and expert country managers who work in conjunction with ERSA International the association has gone from strength to strength. Most country managers are current Grand Slam stringers with many years tournament experience making them the perfect certification testers with the responsibility to uphold the standards expected by ERSA International.

Country specific associations under the umbrella of ERSA International cover the whole of Europe, for example ERSA-UK, ERSA-Italy, ERSA-Germany, ERSA-Spain, ERSA-France, ERSA-Ireland to name a few.

The ERSA International footprint has not been limited to Europe however, ERSA-China was set up years ago as one of the first non Europe countries under ERSA Intl. influence, now there is ERSA-Taiwan, KRSA (part of the ERSA Intl group in South Korea) ERSA-Brazil, ERSA-Argentina and the newly formed ERSA-USA. Other countries are also represented and these include Australia, Canada and the list is getting longer day by day.

The certification being used by ERSA Intl. up until the end of 2016 has been supplied by the USRSA with the agreement that ERSA Intl. would test USRSA members overseas and promote USRSA in Europe. The ERSA Intl. has been encouraged to administer the same certification exams as the USRSA throughout Europe.

These exams had been administered by ERSA certified testers for the last 16 years with no friction between the two associations. A change in USRSA management made the relationship untenable and certain "unprofessional" decisions have been a deciding factor in shaping the renewed growth and new direction for ERSA Intl.

The names of the certifications, given by both associations, were the USRSA CS & USRSA MRT and the ERSA CS & ERSA MRT.

As of this year ERSA International will no longer administer these exams for a number of reasons, the most important being:

- The exams, in their current state, are outdated and in dire need of modernizing and bringing into the 21st Century.
- The acronyms CS (Certified Stringer) and MRT (Master Racquet Technician) are **not** registered by anyone anywhere and are open to misleading stringers as it will depend on the association and tester who is giving the exam. *The only officially registered name and acronym for this certification is USRSA CS & USRSA MRT.* Anyone, in any country, could theoretically register the acronym & names CS & MRT and nothing could be done about it. This can, and has, lead to confusion in the stringing world and ERSA International would like to distance itself from it, now that the chance has presented itself.
- The Master Racquet Technician (MRT) is a great starting point for a professional shop based stringer and means that the stringer knows about stringing, strings and racquets. However, as recognition for a Tour level professional stringer it comes up short and for this reason, ERSA Intl. created the different Pro Tour Stringer level of certification exams 12 years ago which have become the industry standard for tournament stringers.

ERSA International, being the largest stringing association that exists worldwide is leading the way in racket technician training programs. Through the new certification exams and the inclusion of badminton and squash specific exams, ERSA Intl. covers training for all racket sports. ERSA badminton global manager Mark Goodman and ERSA squash global manager Nick Down are unequalled in their expertise and the training given by them is the best in the world.

The new ERSA Intl. certifications are:

ERSA Stringer

ERSA Professional Stringer

ERSA Master Professional Stringer Levels 1 & 2

ERSA Pro Tour Stringer Levels 1 & 2

ERSA Master Pro Tour Stringer

As of January 2017 anyone with the ERSA CS and ERSA MRT can take an upgrade exam to the new certification.