



## December 2021 Newsletter

### President's Message

Seasons Greetings & welcome to the December 2021, Pickleball Canada Bulletin.

This issue of the PCO Bulletin contains numerous news items, including information on a valuable additional insurance benefit: two PCO retirements; 2022 rule changes; the implementation plan for Canadian Tournament Player Ratings a NCCP update and a merchandising announcement.

As we approach the end of 2021, we find ourselves in the grip of another wave of the COVID-19 pandemic. Members in many parts of Canada are experiencing restrictions in playing our favourite sport and gathering with family and friends. As difficult as this is to live through once again, I ask you to take the threat seriously. Pickleball organizations across Canada have an important role to play in raising awareness of public health measures and the need to get fully vaccinated.

A tragic story from our pickleball community should help drive home this message.

I was deeply saddened to hear of the passing of Gail Hipperson from complications related to COVID-19. On behalf of the Pickleball Canada Board of Directors, I extend our thoughts and condolences to Rick and the Hipperson family, to all those in the pickleball community who knew Gail, and to everyone with family and friends suffering due to COVID..

The sharing of the following note has been requested by Rick ...

Karen Rust

The family of Gail Hipperson would like to share the news of her passing with the Pickleball community. Gail and her husband, Rick, flew from Edmonton to their winter home in Arizona on November 15, 2021. On December 1, 2021 Gail passed away from COVID-19.

Gail was a member of the Parkland Pickleheads Pickleball Club in Spruce Grove, Alberta for 7 years. She was an avid player and was a Level 2 referee. She also loved the thrill of competing in tournaments, especially with Rick.

Gail and her beautiful smile will be dearly missed by her family, her extended family and her Pickleball family.

Rick Hipperson would like to share the following message with Pickleball Canada members in hopes that no other family will experience the loss of a loved one due to COVID-19:

*"For the people who have not gotten their vaccine for whatever reason, please, please get your vaccination or booster shot as quickly as you can. COVID-19 is no joke or fake news. It is real and can be deadly.*

*Gail and I were both double vaccinated and were planning to get our booster shot this month. This tragedy has left our son without a mother, our grandson without his Nana, and me without my wife, partner, best friend and my Rock in life.*

*So again, please get your vaccine or booster shot when you can."*

*Rick Hipperson,*

*Parkland County, Alberta*

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## 2022 Pickleball Canada Championships

Make sure your calendar has the **2022** Championships noted. The following dates and locations are confirmed:



Nationals – June 20-26, 2022 Hosted by the Kingston Pickleball Club

Atlantic Regionals – June 3-5, 2022 Hosted by the Fredericton Pickleball Club



Western Regionals - July 23 – 26, 2022 Hosted by Pickleball Regina

Central Regionals – July 29 – 31, 2022 Laval, Quebec

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Bidding will open January 10, 2022, for the 2023 and 2024 Championships. The 2023 PCO National Championship will be awarded to a host club in Western Canada. The 2023 PCO Open Championship will be awarded to a host club in Eastern Canada. Locations alternate annually. The deadline for letters of intent is February 28, 2022, and April 4, 2022, is the deadline for bid submissions for both the 2023 and 2024 Championships.

See the [Tournament Overview](#) webpage for more information on locations and timing. Visit [pickleballbrackets.com](http://pickleballbrackets.com) for details on upcoming tournaments. Use the search function to restrict your search to Canadian events.

For more information, please contact: [Deanna.Christie@pickleballcanada.org](mailto:Deanna.Christie@pickleballcanada.org)

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### VALUABLE NEW INSURANCE BENEFIT

Pickleball Canada has added \$500,000 Abuse Liability coverage to the insurance benefits provided to individual members, Affiliated Clubs and Affiliated Provincial/Territorial Associations. Having this coverage has increased in importance with the growth in the number of youth training and pickleball programs.

Affiliated Clubs and Affiliated Provincial/Territorial Associations must implement Abuse Prevention and Screening policies consistent with Pickleball Canada's policies in order to be eligible for coverage. The cost of this additional benefit is being absorbed by Pickleball Canada. Assistance with implementation of the policies will be provided in January.

For more information, view these webpages: >[Insurance](#) and >[Policies](#)

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### Upcoming Retirements

Tony Casey and Karen Wallace have served on the Pickleball Canada Board of Directors for four and five years respectively, with several of those years as Officers. They are looking forward to a well-deserved 'retirement'. To allow for a smooth transition, Tony and Karen will hand over their positions of Vice-President, Planning & Development and Secretary in January but remain on the Board until the May 31 Annual Meeting. Karen has also committed to completing her two major projects related to updating the PCO Bylaws and rolling out the new Screening policy. Tony is moving right into a leadership role in the formation of a unified global pickleball organization.

Appointments to fill the vacancies will be made at the January meeting of the Board of Directors. We are very fortunate that some excellent candidates have stepped forward to help Pickleball Canada continue to thrive.

Tony's and Karen's commitment to and efforts on behalf of Pickleball Canada over the years have been very significant. We are sad to see them leave but wish them all the best!

*A Message from Tony Casey:*

*My participation with the Pickleball Canada Board has been memorable — always interesting, mostly enjoyable and sometimes challenging. I've appreciated the opportunity to work with so many dedicated people who are so committed to the growth and development of our great sport.*

*I joined the board of Pickleball Canada in 2018 with my primary areas of focus on strategic planning, governance and recreational pickleball.*

*I've had lead roles regarding membership and organization development, Board recruitment and succession planning, and the preparation of Strategic Plan 2021-2023 and an approach for its implementation.*

*Managing the search and hiring process for our first executive director, and establishing a presence for Pickleball Canada in the National House of Sport have been among my responsibilities and highlights. I've also been involved with youth pickleball, best practices, volunteer recognition, global affairs and the establishment of the National Pickleball Advisory Council.*

*The Pickleball Canada Organization is in very good shape. A strong Board is in place with experienced, skilled and passionate leaders from many parts of the country. There are lots of opportunities and challenges ahead that President Karen Rust, her colleagues and Executive Director Carla Anderson will surely seize and tackle with care, enthusiasm and aplomb.*

*I often describe myself as a decidedly unremarkable player. But according to some folks, my game is getting better. My sling shot-like backhand is apparently my forte.*

*I plan to play a lot of pickleball over the coming months, years and few decades here in Vancouver and in Oaxaca. And I may now have time to get back into unicycling!*

*Here's to more successful third shot drops for all of us.*

*Cheers!*

*Tony*

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*A Message from Karen Wallace:*

*The first time I ever saw pickleball was when I was out for a run in Florida. I used to run - a lot. Marathons, half marathons, an ultra, once. On this particular run, I stopped in the park to find out what the heck this funny game was folks seemed to be having so much fun playing. We were immediately invited in to play, and that was it, good-bye running, hello pickleball.*

*Since then, I've taken clinics, played in a few tournaments and loved all that pickleball has to offer. Friendships, good fun, exercise and countless opportunities to be humbled by that little whiffle ball.*

*I was also keenly aware that I would never have had these opportunities to enjoy the sport if it wasn't for all the volunteers who make it all happen. I became one of these volunteers in 2017 as a PCO Board member and policy lead, then in 2018 as Secretary for PCO.*

*Much has happened since I joined, the list of accomplishments is as long as it is impressive.*

*The National System and a made in Canada coaching program to name just a couple. I'm pleased I've been able to contribute by being the "record-keeper" and developing policies to support the sport becoming safer and stronger.*

*Pickleball Canada is in good hands with a strong Executive team and a talented group of Board members. We're fortunate to have Karen Rust as President and Carla Anderson, our Executive Director. They both bring a wealth of experience in sport, vision and a drive to get things done. They and the rest of the Board will continue to advance pickleball in Canada with passion and meet whatever challenges and opportunities come their way.*

*While my running days are mostly behind me, I've never lost my love for travel. After being introduced to pickleball, I've gone on a pickleball cruise in the Caribbean, played and helped instruct pickleball on the Gold Coast of Australia and even got a couple games in while in Fiji. When COVID restrictions ease, I can see a trip to France in my future. I'll be bringing my paddle with me and proudly wearing my Pickleball Canada jacket.*

*Karen Wallace*

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## **Youth & Junior Pickleball**

The PCO Youth/Junior initiative continues to gather steam. Early objectives have included the development of a national network of participants in junior and youth pickleball activities across the country to discuss how to tackle the youth market, share best-practices and ultimately to develop a national framework for youth and junior pickleball. Several meetings with such like-minded enthusiasts took place this Fall with more planned for the new year.

Highlights of discussions and activities include:

1. Engaging a graduate intern to assist in developing resources and activities.
2. Collating the resources presented in the meetings (approximately 10 to date) as well as previous resources PCO has access to (another 10).
3. Conducting an internet search for additional pickleball resources specific to youth/junior activities.
4. Developing an early draft of an overall best-practices resource package, which will eventually be posted on the PCO website.
5. Developing a national Youth/Junior Pickleball Newsletter.
6. Developing national strategies specific to target groups/areas and level of play (introduction, recreational, competitive and high performance).
7. Ensuring there is an LTAD and NCCP tie-in, especially with tennis, as well as the inclusion of a Safe-sport process.

With some 30-40 best-practice examples in stock, we will plan for a virtual national conference on youth/junior pickleball and a sharing of more resources and best practices, as we develop a truly national framework for youth and junior participants.

To date this PCO network has included:

1. Dave Best – PCO Board (Ottawa)
2. Rose Sawatzky - PCO Board (Manitoba)
3. Elaine Roy – formerly on the PCO Board (Quebec)
4. Deanna Christie - PCO Board, VP Competitions (Ontario)
5. Leigh Bradwell – (Ontario)
6. Ted Fardoe - PCO Board (Manitoba)
7. Randy Dove – (Saskatchewan)
8. Heather Hood – (British Columbia)
1. Kristin Lidster – (British Columbia)

## **2022 Rule Changes from the IFP**

Following are the major rule changes that recreational and tournament players need to be aware of effective January 1, 2022:

**Spin Serves** - In 2022, a player can spin the ball before striking it on the serve, but only one hand can contact the ball before the ball is hit. No foreign substances, material, apparatus, or additional body parts can be applied to the hand or aid the hand that releases the pickleball. This eliminates what has been called the 'chainsaw' serve as well as the 'COVID' serve.

**The Drop Serve** - No changes were made to the drop serve other than to remove its Provisional status.

**Wrong Score Called** - The rules concerning what happens if the wrong score is called by a player or a referee have changed. If a player thinks a wrong score has been called, a player may stop play to ask for a correction before the ball is served. If it has been served, the rally is to be played out and the score correction (if any) is made before the next serve occurs.

**A Dropped Ball** - In non-officiated matches, it is not uncommon for a player to carry an extra ball. If an extra ball is carried, it must not be visible to the opponent. If a player accidentally drops an extra ball during a rally, it will result in a fault. This does not apply in an officiated match because the referee is responsible for removing any extra pickleballs from play.

**Calling the Score** - after a 15 second warning. Instead of a referee calling the score immediately after the 15 second warning expires, the referee will call the score after the players are ready or should be ready.

**Medical Time-outs Called by a Referee** - If a referee, in the interest of player safety, determines that either medical personnel or the Tournament Director should be consulted for a player health issue, that time-out is not chargeable to the player as a medical time-out. The player retains the right to call their own medical time out later in the match, if needed.

**Verbal Warnings** - A referee may now issue verbal warnings for more than just profanity. Any situation that could result in a Technical Warning may instead be addressed by the referee as a verbal warning. Only one verbal warning per match, no matter what the infraction is, may be issued to a team, or player in singles.

**When can a Technical Warning or Foul be called?** - Referees are empowered to issue Technical Warnings or Technical Fouls for various reasons, but it has been unclear exactly when a technical should be announced. The 2022 rules now make it clear that a referee will not stop a rally to call a technical warning or foul on an offending team. Any technical warnings or fouls will be assessed after the rally is over.

**Earbuds** - While some sports allow coaching during active play, pickleball does not. Since it is possible that a player could receive coaching via earbuds, earbuds will not be permitted on the court during tournaments with the exception of hearing aids.

**Tournament Score for a Retirement** - The score recorded for a player or team that elects to 'retire' from a match has been revised to allow the actual scores of the match to be recorded. A team retiring may play additional matches in their bracket if any are warranted.

*The complete, updated International Federation of Pickleball Rulebook is expected to be available at the beginning of January. The Pickleball Canada Officiating Support Materials including the Officials Training slide presentation, Referee Handbook and Rules tests are being worked on and will be made available as soon as they are ready.*

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## Canadian Tournament Player Ratings

In January 2022, Pickleball Canada will introduce a “made in Canada” Canadian Tournament Player Rating (CTPR) system, which applies to all sanctioned Tier 1, 2, 3, and Tier 4 tournament play. CTPRs for players will be recorded under the PCO ‘club’ in [Pickleball Brackets \(PB\)](#), the [recognized ratings, tournament, and League/Ladder software provider for PCO](#).

The initial CTPR will be critical to the future validity of player ratings. Once fully implemented, all players who wish to play in PCO sanctioned tournaments will be required to set up a Player Profile in PB and asked to complete a form which will provide “filters” as guides to help PCO determine each player’s initial CTPR. This is a one-time process for each player before their first sanctioned tournament is played. Going forward, only games from PCO sanctioned tournaments will affect a players’ CTPR.

- [ENGLISH CTPR Request Form](#)

For Canadian tournament players who have already completed the online questionnaire or who already have game results recorded in their [Pickleball Brackets](#) personal player profile, their CTPR will start on January 1, 2022 using their most current Pickleball Brackets rating number which is displayed as nine digits (Example: 4.12345678). Only players who have “rolling” active numbers will be placed into the CTPR (PCO Organization). Players who register for their first PCO sanctioned tournament after Jan 1, 2022 will be asked to assist the PCO Ratings Group by completing the online form. Players will then be brought into the CTPR starting at the midpoint of the skill level they have selected in their player profile. Until such time as players have recorded sanctioned tournament games, they are not considered to have a formal CTPR. *You may view your CTPR in Pickleball Brackets by accessing the Pickleball Canada Organization (search on Clubs), then click on ‘Members’ and search for your name.*

Players with concerns or questions regarding their starting CTPR may contact [ratings@pickleballcanada.org](mailto:ratings@pickleballcanada.org) prior to any new tournament results being recorded to their CTPR.

Pickleball Brackets will continue to calculate a PB tournament rating which will capture all game results for all tournaments a player competes in worldwide that use the PB software. This data will be useful in determining the initial CTPR for a player entering a PCO sanctioned tournament for the first time.

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## NCCP for Pickleball

Twelve **Instructor 1: Introducing Pickleball** courses have been held with 140 people completing all requirements to date.

Upcoming modules are posted for registration on: [NCCP for Pickleball](#)

Dates are being planned in Moncton, Fredericton, Truro, Halifax, Chilliwack, Yukon, and Whistler. New dates will be posted as locations are secured.

Please contact [Deanna.Christie@pickleballcanada.org](mailto:Deanna.Christie@pickleballcanada.org) if you believe you have an area with interest in holding a course.

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## Social Media News

Pickleball Canada is fortunate to have 3 interns working with PCO from the Algonquin College

Sport Business Management Graduate Certificate program in Ottawa. These 3 students are working on PCO's social media, and they would like your help! They are looking to grow our social media platforms and would like to add a personalized touch from our members. We are looking for photos and/or videos that can showcase our amazing sport of pickleball on our social media accounts. So far, we have received photos of pickleball play in the snow, a Christmas tree made out of pickleballs and more. We love your creativity!

**If you would like to be featured on our pages, please send pictures and videos with a few phrases of what we are seeing to, [socialmedia@pickleballcanada.org](mailto:socialmedia@pickleballcanada.org) We are looking forward to seeing how everyone incorporates pickleball into their lives all year long!**

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### **Help Wanted**

Pickleball Canada has been very fortunate to have found a '**Privacy Officer**'. The appointment will be put forward for confirmation at the January Board meeting with a formal announcement to follow.

We are still seeking volunteer(s) with an interest in **Policy and Governance**. There is some important work to be done in this area to review/update existing Pickleball Canada policies and oversee the implementation of new ones such as the Safe Sport policies.

If you are interested in getting involved with Pickleball Canada by volunteering in this area, or would like more information, contact: [Karen Rust, President](#)

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### **Pickleball Canada Merchandise**

Pickleball Canada has entered into an agreement with an online 'store' to produce and deliver Pickleball Canada branded merchandise. A wide variety of apparel in both men's and women's sizing will soon be available. The initial product selection has been made and the web store pages are being prepared, with launch planned for January. Additional products can be added in future if more options are desired.

Stay tuned!

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As the 2022 New Year begins, the Board of Directors of Pickleball Canada wish you good health, happiness and a year full of great times on the courts. Whether you are pursuing a spot on the podium or enjoying a weekly game with friends, pickleball is a game for all, for life!

Your Pickleball Canada Board of Directors and Executive Director:

President - Karen Rust

Vice-President, Planning & Development - Tony Casey

Vice-President, Administration & Competition - Deanna Christie

Secretary - Karen Wallace

Treasurer - Peter Milovanovic

Directors: Robert Hogue, Bill MacGregor, Rose Sawatzky, Bryna Kopelow, Ted Sherback, Dave Best, Ted Fardoe, Cara Button, France Emery, Pat Morrison, Cynthia Clark, Gail Prior

Executive Director - Carla Anderson

**Questions? Comments? Email:** Karen Rust, President [karen.rust@pickleballcanada.org](mailto:karen.rust@pickleballcanada.org)