



## President's Message

Welcome to the July 2022 Pickleball Canada Bulletin.

So much has happened since the April Bulletin:

- Pickleball Canada's Annual Meeting of Members was held, with the election of 8 Directors,
- Kingston, Ontario hosted the 10<sup>th</sup> National Championship,
- There were numerous sanctioned and unsanctioned tournaments, and
- Pickleball Canada Continues to grow, with the number of registered members now over 35,500!

I hope everyone is enjoying our great summer weather and finding lots of time to play pickleball.

Karen Rust,

President, Pickleball Canada

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## Tournaments

The Pickleball Canada Atlantic Regional and our National Championships are now complete with the Western Regional and Central Regional Championships to be held later this month.

The Atlantic Regional Championship saw 304 players compete in 32 events over three days.

The event was hosted by the Fredericton Pickleball Club on fifteen courts at the Grant Harvey Centre in Fredericton, NB. Click [here](#) for results.

The 10<sup>th</sup> Pickleball Canada National Championship was the largest pickleball tournament ever held in Canada with 945 players competing over five days in 102 events on 35 courts. Two venues were used: the Invista Centre with 28 courts and the Kingston Pickleball Club's brand new seven court indoor facility. Click [here](#) for results.

This was a massive undertaking for the Kingston Pickleball Club volunteers, especially with only eight months to plan and organize the event. There were several learnings: a two-year time frame is recommended for organizing an event of this size; registrations should be capped at a lower level to ensure events end in the early evening, and there is a need for more referees to be recruited and trained.

That being said, the organizers and volunteers are to be thanked and congratulated on providing this exceptional tournament experience to Pickleball Canada members.

The [Western Canada Regional Championship](#) will be held in Regina, SK July 22 – 24. Registration is full with 300 players entered in 51 events. The championship will be played over three days on 17 courts in the Viterra International Trade Centre.

The [Central Canada Regional Championship](#) will be held July 30 – 31 in Laval, QC on twenty-four courts at the Tennis 13 facility. Register by clicking [here](#).

Please note, advanced entry opportunities for the 2023 Championship events will be offered to Gold medal winners from the 2022 Championships. i.e. 2022 Provincial gold medal winners gain early entry to 2023 Regionals and 2022 Regional and National gold medal winners gain early entry to the 2023 National Championship.

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### Tournament Director Tip

To ensure your day ends around 6:00 p.m., register no more than 6 teams/court per day. For example, if you have 12 courts, limit registration to 72 teams/day, whether doubles or singles.

The Pickleball Brackets report "Daily Team Count" will keep track of how many teams are entered. The Planner Snapshot tool is also very helpful in generating start and end times for events. It is also important to keep the courts full throughout the day.

Managing the number of players registered to a reasonable end time will ensure a good experience for both players and volunteers.

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### Protect Your Eyes!

One of our members recently experienced a very serious eye injury while playing pickleball without protective eyewear. She has asked that her story be shared in the hope of preventing other players from suffering a similar fate. This is her story...

*As I sit and type this out, I can't help but think about all the safety features we have come to know as standard, but in reality were the result of too many accidents that could have been prevented or at least be less severe. Hockey helmets were not standard till 1980 or so and seat belts - we all hated those. Hard hats were not liked at all. The list really does go on and on. Sadly it takes enough accidents to say, "hey maybe we should try to protect ourselves a bit". Here is my story. I hope it will change your mind. If it were standard equipment and offered right next to the paddle like in racquetball no one would think twice about it.*

*On June 12th, I went down to our local Arena to play some Pickleball with fellow members. It was not a tournament, just drop in and play. My first game was with some higher ranked people and it was a lot of fun. Me and my partner played and won by 2 points, they could have beat us but played down a bit. It was a fast paced game none the less.*

*The next game was with people in my ranking about 3.4 or so. It was a very even game matching points; the score was 11 to 10. We were all at the kitchen line volleying when a hard hit came off of the male opponents paddle that was true to the whiffle ball's nature. It didn't come straight, it danced around and hit me directly on the open eyeball. I immediately fell and crawled screaming to the side. It was the worst pain I had ever experienced. I knew it was bad as I felt my eye explode and was bleeding a lot. A girl from our group immediately took control and my son got them to bring some ice. After she looked at my eye she told my son to take me to the hospital emergency.*

*At the hospital the doctor sent out pictures of my ruptured eye and a Surgeon in Vernon said he could do surgery on it. After a 5 hour drive, we made it to Vernon. By this time I was on pain meds and not doing very well. I was rushed into surgery where they tried to put my eye back together. The way the surgeon explained it, everything that was in my eye was outside my eye. I then was sent to Kamloops to a specialist and now I am being sent to another surgeon to see if there is any hope.*

*I had protective eye wear but never wore them. I thought they impaired my vision and were ugly. I also thought what are the chances of getting hit in the eye? Lots of people can't believe a Pickleball did that. It's not the slow game it used to be. It is a much more competitive and hard hitting game. I believe things need to keep up to the evolving game and so does the safety. If Pickleball Canada shows pictures of real people playing using eye wear, it too will become standard.*

*This has completely changed my life. I don't know if I will drive again, ride my bike or do a lot of other things. At 65 it's not as easy to adjust, so don't be the next casualty. Be smart – wear eye protection and still have fun.*

*Darlene L.*

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### **Coach Education**

I hope you took the time to read the very informative Pickleball Coach Education News Update that was distributed on June 22nd.

A listing of NCCP for pickleball certified coaches in Canada is available [here](#).

Click [here](#) to see a list of upcoming courses.

Please contact [Deanna Christie](#) if you know of an area with interest in holding a NCCP for pickleball course.

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### **Club Ratings & the Revelstoke Pickleball Club Experience**

The following testimonial from the Revelstoke Pickleball Club shows that introducing performance-based ratings at the club level does not have to be a complex or stressful experience. Here is a small club that took some simple steps that led to an understanding of the concept and then to a full out program. It also shows that even small clubs can get started with little cost and gain confidence in the outcomes. Just using the Pickleball Brackets ratings engine and recording some games is a very easy test drive for any club.

*Starting a new Pickleball club is a challenge. The Revelstoke Pickleball Club tried to start just before Covid hit, so our actual launch was delayed for a couple years. We got going full time in November 2021. We now have over 70 members and growing.*

*As we continue to grow, we face the same challenges that all clubs experience, the main one being how to help the members have the most fun while playing the game. I was lucky enough to be introduced to Barry Montgomery early in 2022. I asked him what is the best way to rate members level of play so that we could have more evenly matched skills and games, with better and longer rallies resulting in more fun. He introduced me to the Pickleball Brackets Performance-Based Ratings Engine. I took the info back to our Directors and we decided it was worth the effort to implement it on a test basis, as Barry suggested.*

*Barry did a fantastic job of introducing and explaining how the system works and how to make use of it to help our members play more balanced, enjoyable games. He arranged a zoom meeting with 4 of our directors and spent the time going over the workings of the system, its advantages, and how individual results are used to calculate a player's rating. He emphasized that the ratings are not the be all and end all, but are used to help players identify other players of similar skill, so the games they play will have longer rallies, and hopefully everyone will have more fun as a result. He was available for follow up questions which was much appreciated.*

*Barry also allowed us to try out the system by using his Tick Tok demo club on Pickleball Brackets. We had over half our membership sign up and start recording scores in specified Brackets sessions. Over a period of 4 weeks we recorded over 100 games (4 players) which is a lot of interactions with a small club base. As the administrator, Barry took on the inputting of scores and keeping them up to date. He did a great job and our members were very interested in what happened to their rating number as the number of recorded games increased. We all really appreciated the time and energy he put in while doing these tasks. It was a great help getting to see how Brackets works without going at it by ourselves and making potential mistakes at the beginning that would affect someone's rating negatively down the road.*

*As a retired teacher, I really appreciated Barry's teaching style, clarity of instruction, responsiveness to our specific queries, and patience in helping us understand not only the rationale for using the system within our club, but also the nuances of the system.*

*On behalf of our club, I would like to thank Barry for helping us get Pickleball Brackets up and running and have now transitioned the recorded player ratings from Tick Tok over to our own Revelstoke club ratings. We are enjoying using the system to help our participating members have more fun while playing. Members have commented on how close some of the scores have been and that they find they are playing good games.*

*Terry Beitel  
President  
Revelstoke Pickleball Club*

Barry Montgomery, Pickleball Canada Director and Ratings Committee chair can be reached at [ratings@pickleballcanada.org](mailto:ratings@pickleballcanada.org)

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### **New Elected and Appointed Directors**

At the May 31, 2022 virtual Annual Meeting which was attended by 74 members, we thanked and bade farewell to departing directors Tony Casey, Bryna Kopelow and Karen Wallace. They have all made significant contributions to the growth of pickleball in Canada and we are pleased they have offered to continue to be available to support the organization going forward in less formal roles.

The following eight individuals were elected as Directors of Pickleball Canada, with the Executive positions filled at the Board's Organizational Meeting:

- Leigh Bradwell (Treasurer)
- Deanna Christie (Vice-President, Sport)
- Cynthia Clark
- Jacqueline Clarke (Secretary)
- Jon de la Mothe
- Ken Nowlan
- Peter Milovanovic (Vice-President, Operations)
- Peter Walker

Subsequent to the Annual Meeting, Barry Montgomery of Vernon, B.C. was appointed as the British Columbia/Yukon Territory Regional Director. Doug Fogg of Edmonton, Alberta was appointed as the Prairies Regional Director.

After the Organizational Meeting, Ken Nowlan decided not to serve as an elected Director. This vacancy was filled by the appointment of Alan Thomson of Saanich, B.C. Al will be familiar to you as the author of the Referee's Corner in the Scoop. He is a Certified Referee and has a great deal of experience in the areas of officiating and rules development. Al was also appointed the National Leader of Officiating following the resignation of Walter Knecht from this role.

We sincerely thank all these individuals for volunteering to serve on the Pickleball Canada Board of Directors. Their biographies are available on the [Board and Committees webpage](#).

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The Board of Directors of Pickleball Canada hopes you are having a wonderful time playing this great sport of pickleball and being part of our growing community of pickleball enthusiasts!

Your Pickleball Canada Board of Directors and Executive Director:

President - Karen Rust

Vice-President, Operations - Peter Milovanovic

Vice-President, Sport - Deanna Christie

Secretary – Jacqueline Clarke

Treasurer – Leigh Bradwell

Directors – Robert Hogue, Rose Sawatzky, Dave Best, Cara Button, Jon de la Mothe, Peter Walker, France Emery, Pat Morrison, Cynthia Clark, Alan Thomson, Gail Prior, Barry

Montgomery, Doug Fogg

Executive Director - Carla Anderson

Questions? Comments? Email:

Karen Rust, President

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