Mission

Pickleball Ontario is a non-profit association of volunteer pickleball enthusiasts who are committed to supporting the growth of the game along with participation and development of both recreational & tournament players throughout the province of Ontario. Pickleball Ontario was founded in 2011.

Pickleball Ontario was the first in the world to develop a Long-Term Player Development program, with the assistance of an Ontario Trillium Foundation grant.

Pickleball Ontario was the first in Canada to develop an online, interactive, contact updated Places to Play directory.

Pickleball Ontario has an acclaimed Ambassador program.

Pickleball Ontario operates through a network of more than 58 clubs and 422 facilities (community centres, churches, schools, tennis and badminton clubs).

Pickleball Ontario serves over 100,000 players (per Dec 2019 IPSOS poll) through a wide variety of programs designed to assist in the development of players, coaches, volunteers and referees.

Pickleball Ontario (PO) Benefits

* PO Online Pickleball Magazines

Pickleball Ontario posts 2 online magazines several times throughout the year. The PCO Scoop and US Pickleball magazines deliver the latest pickleball news featuring Canadian content. Articles include tournament news, regional club information, coaching and fitness stories, pro player bios and more. Bold advertising and advertorial features are available throughout their pages keeping you updated on new equipment.
**PO Partner Perks Discount Program.**
Pickleball is the fastest growing sport in Canada, and we have just what you need to improve your game. Shop for the latest in performance pickleball clothing, training aids, and other official merchandise. Partner Perks allow you to save on all your pickleball gear!

**PO Competitive Structure**

Pickleball Ontario members participate in many tournaments each year accommodating players in age categories from 9 to over 90.

By hosting tournaments, clubs and facilities have an opportunity to benefit by:
- generating additional revenue for club activities/projects through entry fees, food/beverage sales, etc.
- generating additional tourism for the local area
- providing a fun experience
- raising club profile to attract new members
- providing an added service to current members
- allowing clubs to give something back to the community
- providing players the opportunity to reach their competitive goals
- exposing Ontario politicians to the benefits of Pickleball and the need to invest

**PO Youth Program**

This PO initiative is designed to promote the introduction and development of pickleball to children/youth by providing opportunities for young players to participate in the sport. Players will have access to:
- programs offered within the community
- pickleball camps and summer recreational camps
- school programs; which will introduce students and teachers to the sport with the hope pickleball will become part of their curricular activities. Schools will have access to equipment supplied by Pickleball Ontario
- tournament play through the Exceptional Youth Exemption process aimed at providing our highly skilled youth players the opportunity to compete against adults, in adult tournaments, on a controlled basis
* PO Clinics and Demo Days
This program travels to clubs and facilities throughout every region of Ontario
- groups get an opportunity to participate in either a ½ or full day taught by capable instructors
- clinics are available for every level - beginner, intermediate, masters, doubles, para, preparing for a tournament, etc. or a combination
- clinics are available for youth as well

* PO Coaching, Referee and Player Development
Recognizing that most players want to learn, improve or get stronger at their game one of the keys to Pickleball Ontario’s success is coaching, referee and player development. Pickleball Ontario:
- will be providing NCCP level Coaching programs, currently in development
- is facilitating clinics as part of a national program to develop properly trained referees
- offers approximately 6 coaching and 5 referee courses per year
- developed an Athlete Development Program for pickleball, based on sound science and principles of long-term athlete development

* PO Club Insurance
We have you covered!!

The insurance coverage provided through Pickleball Canada, in which Ontario participates, has been enhanced for 2020. Insurance covers all pickleball play in clubs and drop in across Canada including:
- a $5,000,000 Commercial General Liability policy,
- a $10,000 Participant Sport Accident coverage (including instruction and coaching), and
- $2,000,000 coverage for Directors and Officers/Wrongful Acts.


* PO Ambassador Program
Ambassadors are volunteers who have pledged to promote the sport of pickleball and Pickleball Ontario in their local areas. Ambassadors increase awareness, enhance the marketing efforts of PO, grow and sustain program delivery and strengthen partnerships in their regions.
- 63 named ambassadors, listed on the PO website
- Ambassador forum (share ideas on what has worked in their areas)
* PO Club Support
Pickleball Ontario offers support to clubs through their Club liaison contact. Clubs have access to one on one support, ranging from: individual club concerns and assistance with future club goals to provincial information and future direction objectives.

Through Pickleball Ontario we can assist with featuring topics such as
- club tournaments, etc.
- facilities
- tennis court maintenance, with adding lines for shared use with pickleball
- administration (hiring a club pro, etc.)
- annual reports
- sample by-laws/club constitutions
- AGM breakout session/seminar information

* pickleballontario.org
- over 120,000 hits per year on 58 clubs and 425+ facility descriptions/maps in Places to Play
- online membership and renewal processing
- partner perks
- year-round tournament listings
- newsworthy articles

* PO Provincial Team
Pickleball Ontario players compete at the Canadian Nationals (timing TBD)
- more than 16 team members each year, for each of 5 teams
- managed by PO player development team
- regroupings for top players
- PO will provide Team Ontario touring coaches
- Process to select Team members still under development

* PO Office
Pickleball Ontario is staffed by 12 volunteers playing roles on an operational Board. Volunteers are available to answer any questions. To contact Pickleball Ontario simply send an email to memberservices@pickleballontario.org, or reach out to one of our directors via this website page: https://pickleballontario.org/about-us/.