

January 2023 Newsletter

Hello everyone!

We hope you had wonderful holidays filled with much joy. We were like Santa's Elves here at Pickleball Ontario working right through the holidays. But all the hard work has paid off because we are ready to share the most exciting news.

Introducing our inaugural

PICKLEBALL ONTARIO CHAMPIONSHIP SERIES

It is going to be the battle of the regions. We will be holding 6 regional tournaments. The regions are as follows: Southwest, Niagara Region, Central West, Central East, East and North.

Please see these regions here. <https://pickleballontario.org/affiliated-clubs/>

The gold medal winners from each class of play will be invited to the finals. And when we say invited, we mean that for the finals there will be no tournament fees to pay. That is just one of the perks. We are working hard on getting more.

Our Championship Series will kick off in March and will culminate in the finals in September.

First up will be: **EAST REGIONALS**

MARCH 17-19 in KINGSTON

Check those Pickleball Brackets so you don't miss the chance to represent your region.

**THE CHAMPIONSHIP SERIES FINALS
SEPTEMBER 21-24 in COLLINGWOOD**

Bet you can't wait to hear the details of the other tournaments. Soon, very soon.

This undertaking is so big that we have all hands on deck to make this the first and the most memorable series of tournaments to date. Not only are we, on the Board, involved but many members in the host cities are stepping up to offer their help. We thank the Presidents of our affiliated clubs. We'll acknowledge them as THE SERIES progresses.

We are also very happy to announce that Ryan Hanes will be our Tournament Director for the entire series. Ryan has a great deal of experience, and we are very happy to have him on board.

Thank you, Bryan Merritt, Junior Bent, and Ron Klayman, who along with me, form the Executive Committee. Your commitment during what should have been a holiday break was much appreciated. Together we were able to start setting the framework for this Championship Series. Now all of us on the Tournament Committee can start doing our tasks.

GRASSROOTS INITIATIVE

Our affiliated clubs will be happy to hear that our Director of Clubs, Suzanne Penner will be introducing PO's latest initiative called "Grow our Game". This will show our support and commitment to our grassroots programs. Please ensure we have the latest contact information for your club so you can take full advantage when she rolls out the initiative in March.

Suzanne also wanted to mention another item in her portfolio. She is reviewing and overhauling the Ambassador Program. Suzanne herself is an Ambassador in the Kenora area so she has firsthand knowledge. She is contacting the Ambassadors with a brief survey, please watch for it and complete. Your participation will be greatly appreciated.

Thank you, Suzanne.

NEW BOARD MEMBERS

We are very pleased to introduce our 2 new Board Members.

RON KLAYMAN, TREASURER

Ron is a CPA, CA, CFE, ALA. Ladies and gentlemen, your money is in good hands. Ron had his own accounting firm but now is happily retired... sort of, because now we keep him busy.

Ron says: I am looking forward to a successful and rewarding time with Pickleball Ontario and my fellow board members. Happy to provide my guidance and expertise to enhance Pickleball Ontario for today and years to come.

LUC GRENON, SECRETARY

A little bit about Luc Grenon

I was born in Montreal and grew up in Toronto where I attended university and joined IBM upon graduation. I was fortunate to spend the last 36 years at IBM in a career that took me, my wife and our three children around the world including living in Asia for the past ten years in cities such as Shanghai, Tokyo, Sydney, and Australia. I have always stayed active in racquet sports throughout my life including tennis, squash, and ping pong. I also have stayed connected to the Collingwood/Blue Mountain area and being newly retired I am thrilled to have found the sport of Pickleball (and have forsaken all the rest!). I live in Thornbury, Ontario and currently President and Treasurer of the Georgian Triangle Pickleball Club and an avid player. I look forward to working with all of the PO Board members and helping in any way I can to grow the sport for everyone.

Thank you, Ron and Luke, and welcome. Pickleball Ontario is grateful to have you on our Board.

RULE CHANGES

It's January so you know what that means. If you are looking for the highlights of the latest rule changes, Gail Pryor, has them on PO's website www.pickleballontario.org. On the left-hand side of the website there is a section called 2023 Rule Changes. Click on it and it will take you to where they are listed. Also, if you are looking for the full 2023 Rule Book, you can find it by going to the home page. Highlight the tab marked "What is Pickleball", click on Rules and Regs, click on Rules of the game, click on 2023 Rule Book. It's easier than it sounds! Gail also wants you to know that The Pickler a free publication has a great article about the rule changes.

Thank you, Gail, great work on the website.

REQUEST FROM TOM HAGGERT

Tom, the Vice-Chair from Kawartha Lakes Pickleball Association has a proposition for our other affiliated clubs or if you know of a municipality that would like to join in the following:

We are considering the use of this new product [PickleRoll](#) matting (you can see the video on YouTube). We are wondering if any other clubs are considering the same and seeing if we could create a buying group to get better pricing. My initial communication with PickleRoll was they will not consider discounting unless the order is larger than 12 units (we were asking about 6 mats). Each 30' x 60' mat costs \$8,000 USD.

So, that is our ask in a nutshell. Looking to build a buying group, perhaps for other pickleball related items as well.

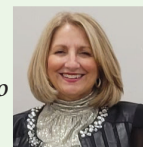
You're thinking outside the box Tom.

Thank you, Tom

Looking forward to sharing more news in the coming weeks.

Daphne Micallef Reid

President, Pickleball Ontario



Helen Pace, Interim Newsletter Editor.

Director, Pickleball Ontario

