

Dear members

As the warmth of Spring embraces us once again, it brings with it the delightful opportunity to step back onto the outdoor pickleball courts. We can indulge in our favorite pastime of pickleball among the elements. After a long Winter hiatus, it is truly wonderful to see the courts bustling with activity once again.

At Pickleball Ontario we have been hard at work on some wonderful initiatives:



01 Plant the Seeds

Our grassroots Plant the Seeds initiative is in full swing. We have already had several member clubs participate in this grant. Remember it will close on May 31st.

This is the second offering in our Grow the Game initiative. The board earmarked an additional \$35,000 for this second phase. The criteria are programs to introduce the game to new players and youth programming. We are reading about some great work being done by our clubs. Thank you to all of you who give so much to your communities.



02 Pickleball Ontario Scholarship Program

Kitty Chow and Sarah Anantharjan will be providing the sign up for our scholarship program. Five (5) worthy recipients will be chosen from the entries. Look for that coming very soon. Our scholarship program is in collaboration with Economical Insurance and five of you will each receive \$2,000 towards your educational needs.



03 Municipal Committee

The Municipality committee has been formed in response to multiple requests from key stakeholders for guidance on how best to approach municipalities on keeping pace with the growth of the game. Our objective is to define best practices for all internal/external stakeholders. Such as but not limited to:

- Dedicated Facilities
- Available Funding
- Risk Management

Over the course of the year the committee will meet several times to discuss best practices, share ideas, thoughts, and experiences. I would like to take this opportunity and thank the following committee members for their participation in this important work:

- Shelley Trocki President of Grimsby Pickleball Association
- Ken Haggert Vice Chair of Kawartha Lakes Pickleball Association
- Marsha O'Connor President West Nipissing Ouest Pickleball Club
- Malinda Hebert President of Tecumseh Pickleball Association
- Sarah Anantharajan Secretary of Pickleball Ontario
- Junior Bent Vice President of Pickleball Ontario

Their efforts will create resources and a knowledge base that addresses the needs and aspirations of members across the province, simplify interactions and effectively engage municipalities, further growing Pickleball in Ontario.

04 Pickleball Ontario Championship Series

We are proud to present 8 qualifying tournaments and of course our invitation only Finals in Toronto. Do you have what it takes to make it till the end? Only one way to find out. It's set to be an exhilarating showcase of talent from across Ontario. We invite you to visit our tournament website to get all the latest information about our Championship Series.



Powered by
canfitpro

05 Pickleball Ontario

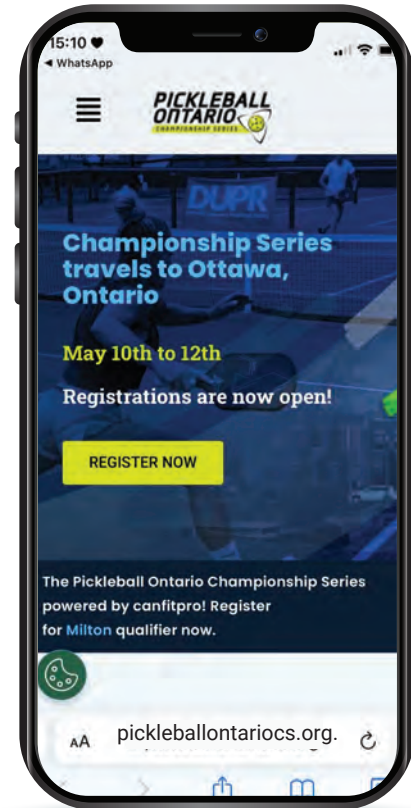
pickleballontario.org

We're not only excited about our competitive matches but also about the opportunity to give back to our participants, member clubs and the communities that we will be hosting the Championship Series.

As we embark on this journey together with you, we never forget the importance of giving back and making a positive impact in the communities we call home. Through the support of our sponsors, we want to continue to spread joy, foster connections and make a difference.

At each tournament location, we are thrilled to announce that a lucky school will receive a special donation. Thanks to our sponsors' generosity, the chosen schools will be gifted with a complete pickleball set, including nets, paddles, and balls. It is our way of spreading joy and promoting an active, healthy lifestyle among the youth in our communities.

Pickleball Ontario will be reaching out to school boards in our host cities to give them a chance to receive this wonderful gift. Of course, there will be plenty of prizes for our tournament participants as well.



06 Director of Clubs

Suzanne Penner

Spring has sprung and we are continuing to grow! It continues to be a very busy year for Member Club memberships! We currently have 67 Member Clubs affiliated with Pickleball Ontario (PO), enjoying all the benefits that come with "Club" membership, as well as supporting pickleball at the grassroots level. Since our last newsletter we have welcomed the following clubs:

-
- Prince Edward Pickleball Club
 - Pickering Pickleball Club
 - Georgian Bluffs Pickleball Club
 - Dryden Pickleball Club
-

Welcome aboard! We are happy to have you as a part of our Pickleball Ontario community. We all play an important role in the sport by encouraging participation in recreational and competitive programs. Through your continued membership you will be supporting the growth of pickleball through the provincial organization as well as grassroots initiatives.

If you know of any clubs in your area wishing to become a member please contact me at suzannepenner@pickleballontario.org and put Club Membership in the subject line and I would be happy to assist you.

07 Member Club Updates

For new members registering or renewing after a period of absence, the rollover date has been changed to September 1st vs. October 1st. New registrations will be valid until December 31st of the following year. i.e. registrations paid after September 1, 2024 - membership will be valid until December 31, 2025.

PCO is no longer charging a "Club Fee" for clubs over a certain number of members. If your Club has paid this fee in the past, you are eligible for reimbursement. Please contact Rod Hamilton, Treasurer at PCO, to inquire about reimbursement for your club. Rod's contact info is rod.hamilton@pickleballcanada.org

As of July 1st, Pickleball Ontario will no longer absorb the processing fee for each member. This practice was done in the past to assist and encourage members to get back to playing after the COVID pause. As with the PCO fees and most clubs fees this minimal amount will be added to the member's fees upon registration/renewal.

If clubs have any questions regarding these changes, please contact us at info@pickleballontario.org



08 Head Official Pickleball Ontario Karen Hill

Officiating in Canada was an ambition of mine within a year of when I began playing pickleball. I volunteered at the Windsor Senior Provincials as a court runner...but was elevated to on court scorekeeper.

Now time has passed and the game we love continues to mature. One of the rules that often is questioned, regards the idea of "weaponizing" the serve. The rules have changed so that we can't do anything to the ball to add spin as spin was seen as an advantage to anyone, such as Zane Navratil, who developed the chain saw serve.... that was pretty much not returnable.

But it was confirmed this past week at a Zoom meeting I attended, that we can use the paddle to add spin to the ball. So, this is why the question keeps on coming up.... We are not to weaponize the serve by adding spin to the ball. Yet we can add spin to the ball, using the paddle.

The USAP Director of the Rules Change committee – Ken Schoonover, let it be known he is very much in favour of using the paddle to add spin to the ball; either using a volley serve or a drop serve.

What's your opinion?

If members have any questions regarding these changes, please contact me at officiating@pickleballontario.org

As we gear up for an action-packed season of pickleball, we extend our warmest invitation to join us on the courts and be a part of the Pickleball Ontario community. Whether you're competing for the title or simply enjoying a match, there's plenty of fun to be had by all.

Daphne Reid
President of Pickleball Ontario