

Pickleball Canada
Interprovincial/Territorial Advisory Council
January 28, 2020 Meeting Minutes

Present at Uber Meeting:

Richard Chambers (Chair)	YES	Garry Wolfe (Vice President)	YES
Doug Thomson (President)	YES	Marcel Lemieux (QC)	Regrets
Walter Knecht (BC)	In part	Michel Legault (NB)	Regrets
Kirk Jensen (AB)	YES	Alan Thompson (Regional NB)	Regrets
Janet Bradshaw (SK)	YES	Pat Morrison (NS)	YES
Rose Sawatzky (MB)	YES	Brian Strongman (PEI)	Regrets
Doug Cable (MB)	Regrets	Leonard Lye (NL)	Regrets
Jim Parrott (ON)	Regrets	Colleen Parker (YT)	Regrets
Robert Hogue (PQ)	YES		
Bill MacGregor	YES	Jeff Rooney	Guest

1. Call to Order

- Richard Chambers, Vice President, Operations (PCO) called the meeting to order at 4:02 pm PST, welcomed the participants, declared a quorum and appointed himself as recording secretary.

2. Adoption of agenda

- Adopt the agenda as circulated. Jensen/Hogue CARRIED

3. Acceptance of Minutes

- November 26, 2019 Meeting
 - Adopt the corrected minutes of November 26, 2019. Bradshaw /Sawatzky CARRIED

4. Provincial/Territorial Reports

B.C. (Walter Knecht)

- Continuing to grow - 35 clubs and another 10 on the way
- 40 tournaments on the calendar for 2020

Alberta (Kirk Jensen)

- 4400 members - 9 Clubs use Pickleball Alberta Wild Apricot - some use spreadsheet uploads others are integrated
- Examining branding and selling apparel on website and developing a new logo
- Trevor Burndred named as Alberta Chief Referee
- Have highlighted pickleball pioneers and leaders in their newsletter
- Have created a top 20 players list in various categories
- Looking at getting sponsor for Pickleball Alberta
- Calgary (and Edmonton) are working on increasing number of outdoor courts
- Steve Deakin doing a four-day clinic at end of month

Saskatchewan (Janet Bradshaw)

- Western Regionals - July 23-26
- A lot more people playing than there are members

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Manitoba (Rose Sawatzky)

- Working at getting more people signed up -rather than just recreational
- Referee clinics being set up

Ontario (Jim Parrott)

- No Report

Quebec (Robert Hogue)

- Eastern Regional being held in Chateauguay. Jeff Rooney assisting with sponsorships.
- 50 clubs - 5000+ members
- Sport Quebec coming out with new criteria for recognition as Provincial/Territorial Sports Organization.
- Held a tournament for elite players - 60-70 players - Open Category (Team Quebec). Another tournament for elite players 50+ to be held March 1. (this information from Marcel Lemieux)

New Brunswick (Michel Legault)

- No Report

Nova Scotia (Pat Morrison)

- About 40 new members joined in so far this year - looking for ways to promote renewal of membership
- 2020 Bid to Host Provincials - looking to have a recreational segment of the tournament. Jeff Rooney assisting with sponsorships.
- Have created a Sponsorship committee to capitalize on commercial interest in supporting pickleball
- Also looking at Youth Pickleball - increasing interest from schools - Alan Thompson has provided assistance
- Sport Nova Scotia - have accepted application from Pickleball Nova Scotia to be approved as a PTSO.
- Looking to create more clubs

Prince Edward Island (Brian Strongman)

- No Report

Newfoundland (Leonard Lye)

- We have a new pickleball courts at the St. John's Greenbelt Tennis Club. They converted a tennis court to 2 pickleball courts and plans to convert more as demand increases.
- The nearby town of Paradise (real name) has asked us to provide pickleball instructions to their 50+ members. They have a new recreation facility with 4 courts. Program is starting in February.
- The NL Association for the Deaf also wants to start pickleball for their members so that they can eventually take part in the National Deaf Games. We are looking into facilities now.

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- The number of new players continue to increase, and our primary location is used daily for pickleball.
- We started an 8-week ladder at our primary location, and it is going very well. The element of competition has boost interest and level of play.
- Two of our players played in 2 tournaments at the 4.0 level down in the US. One of the tournaments was the World Super Seniors.
- Several members are attending a clinic in Punta Cana with Ben Johns in March and a clinic by Mark Renneson in Vernon in May.
- A contingent of about 10 players plan to participate in the Atlantic Regional tournament at the end of May. Just waiting for registration to start. No news yet.
- We are hosting our 2nd annual provincial tournament on April 25th/26th, and the Town of Grandfalls has planned an invitational tournament on May 9th.

Yukon (Colleen Parker)

- No Report

5. President's Report (Doug Thomson)

5.1 Insurance Update

- Insurance policy has been renewed with some enhanced benefits - in particular, covering drop in play for members who may be playing with non-members and an increase for Director and Officers of affiliated clubs, provinces and PCO from \$1 million to \$2 million. Instructors and coaches are also covered as long as they are PCO members. PCO insurance only covers the player while playing in Canada. The bad news is that due to accident history the cost of sports injury insurance has increased. The provision of insurance now consumes 40% of the \$5 national fee. PCO can live with this situation for a short time because of an accumulated surplus of funds. This is not sustainable over the longer term. The rewrite of the revised insurance policy has been done, it needs to be translated and then will be posted on website. Information will be sent directly to ITAC members. Cyber security insurance is being investigated as a future issue. Doug thanked the many contributors to the rewrite process, making special mention of Walter Knecht and Bev Walker.

5.2 2020 Budget and Membership Fee

- PCO 2020 Preliminary budget has been approved by the board based on the current \$5 fee. Because of an accumulated surplus over the past several years PCO is able to expand several initiatives (Youth, Recreational, Integrated Technology Platform, Marketing) but it will use up the accumulated surplus less a \$50,000 contingency. The budget is based on a plan to significantly enhance our value proposition for members and provide a basis for the consideration of a fee increase later in 2020 or 2021.

5.3 AGM Date and Process

- May 12th - looking at using a new electronic voting process.

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5.4 Other issues

- International Federation of Pickleball - Canada is looking to take a larger role within the IFP - Tony Casey, PCO Director is the new IFP Delegate. PCO will have the same number of votes at the AGM as USAPA
- Sports Canada - on hold as they reorganize the criteria for National Sports Organizations.
- National Coaching Certification Program (NCCP) and International Pickleball Teachers Professional Associations (IPTPA) - NCCP, as authorized by the Coaching Association of Canada, is required by Sports Canada. IPTPA is recognized as a valid instructional program but it cannot take the place of NCCP.

6. Vice President, Development (Garry Wolfe)

6.1 Partnerships, Marketing and Strategic Alliances (Jeff Rooney)

- How can Jeff help you with marketing and sponsorships? Call him if you are looking for help at promoting the sport. PCO is looking for opportunities to build on strengths and initiatives that might go across the country, across a region or across a province.
- If you need help or would like to talk to Jeff contact him at partnerships@pickleballcanada.org

6.2 Player Support

6.2.1 Youth Strategy - National Youth Coordinator

- John Hyland will be in touch with you over the next few weeks about some initiatives underway.
- If you know of people interested in youth development that wish a conversation with John send an email to youth_jeunesse@pickleballcanada.org

6.2.2 Integrated Technology Platform (Garry Wolfe)

- Six stages of implementation of ITP was sent out with agenda.
- An implementation committee is in place.
- Contract signed with provider
- Launch of first stage will be sometime in June.
 - PCO will be in touch with provinces as we get closer to spring to incrementally bringing on provinces and clubs.

6.2.3 Recreational Pickleball

- Looking for community level Leaders across the country to be part of developing 'best-practices' connecting introduction to pickleball- recreational pickleball-competitive pickleball. Asking for contacts - send information to Tony Casey at recreation@pickleballcanada.org Document was provided last week and is attached.

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7. Vice President, Operations (Richard Chambers)

7.1 Membership Report

- 21,600 members

7.2 Policies

- Pickleball Canada is working on several draft policies that have ramifications at the local level.
- Concussion Protocol - local level should have procedures in place. Two one-pagers were provided: 5 Tools for Concussion Recognition, and Sport Concussion Pathway (What to Do About It). It is recommended these be shared at the local level.
- Abuse Prevention - local level should increase awareness of these issues. Two one-pagers were provided: Steps for Reporting Inappropriate Conduct and Steps for Reporting Child Abuse. It is recommended these be shared at the local level.
- Privacy and Protection of Personal Information - this is going to become increasingly important with the Implementation of the Integrated Technology Platform.

7.3 Competitions

7.3.1 Sanctioning

- Role of the PTSO in sanctioning (Doug Cable)
- For first time sanctioning requests perhaps a check in with the province would be a good step to include in the PCO sanctioning process.
- The entire sanctioning process will be revised in the latter part of 2020.

7.3.2 2021 National Championship Process

- The 2021 National Championship will be held in Western Canada. It is anticipated the bid book will be available by February 15 with bids being received by May 31st and the announcement made at the 2020 National Championships in Kingston in June.

7.3.3 Officiating Update (Walter Knecht)

- Material was distributed earlier.
- PowerPoint presentation for training referees - new rules - vetting from PCO - ready for translation.
- Recreating online test - building on and refining USAPA tests - over 300 questions - referee - rules and best practices, line judges, players. Have an online testing program, Class Marker, that will be integrated into the new integrated technology platform
- Referee Handbook has been developed - almost ready for vetting then translation then available on website.
- Each province/territory should nominate a Chief (head) Referee to implement the program in their jurisdiction. Also looking to create an Officials committee with PTSO representation similar to ITAC.

7.3.4 Ratings

- A ratings calculator and competition software will be part of the Integrated Technology Platform. It will be incorporated in the later stages of implementation (late summer/fall) to

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address the needs of clubs that are interested in implementing club level performance-based ratings. Involved as a resource is Barry Montgomery, Vernon, B.C. He is interacting with a number of clubs across the country who are implementing such programs and can be contacted at barmont22@telus.net if needed.

8. Next ITAC Meeting

- Tuesday, March 24th 4pm PST

9. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 5:28 pm PST