

Pickleball Canada
Interprovincial/Territorial Advisory Council
March 24, 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)	YES	Michel Legault (NB)	YES
Kirk Jensen (AB)	YES	Pat Morrison (NS)	YES
Janet Bradshaw (SK)	YES	Brian Strongman (PEI)	Regrets
Doug Cable (MB)	Regrets	Leonard Lye (NL)	Regrets
Jim Parrott (ON)	YES	Sue Staffen (YT)	5:30pm on
Bill MacGregor	Regrets	Guest: Jeff Rooney	YES

1. Call to Order

- Richard Chambers, Vice President, Operations (PCO) called the meeting to order at 4:03 pm PDT, welcomed the participants, declared a quorum and appointed himself as recording secretary.

2. Adoption of agenda

- Adopt the agenda as circulated. Jensen/Bradshaw CARRIED

3. Acceptance of Minutes

- January 28, 2019 Meeting
 - Adopt the minutes of January 28, 2020 with a typo correction to the Newfoundland report. Legault/Jensen CARRIED

4. COVID-19 Protocol/Response and Membership Issues

In almost all cases pickleball has shut down across the country. A small number of private courts are still being used for small groups.

The response to communication/guidelines from PCO has been heavily positive. PCO is not a policing organization but has primary responsibility for National, Regional and sanctioned tournaments and to provide guidance on other issues.

PCO is anticipating a possibly significant reduction in both new members and renewals. This could/will have a big impact on the PCO budget and program initiation. PCO is going to initiate a 'Stay Connected to Pickleball' program to continue to engage members in pickleball related activities. Need to decide if regionals and Nationals will remain with same hosts for next or simply follow the rotation. Richard Chambers will follow up with each area.

Garry Wolfe is willing to work with provinces/territories to tailor messaging regarding renewals or new members.

What should PCO and Provinces/Territories do as far as membership renewal? The recommendation from PCO is to leave it to the individual as to whether to renew or not, in other words 'business as usual'. A member who does not renew will not be covered by insurance. However, the time period between not renewing and being dropped from the PCO

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list will be extended beyond the current 60 days so that when members do renew it will be easy for them to do so. ITAC was in favour of the above approach.

5. Provincial/Territorial Reports

B.C. (Walter Knecht)

- Pretty much shut down - an opportunity for house keeping

Alberta (Kirk Jensen)

- Membership dues for 2020 were started to be collected on March 1. The membership numbers were coming normally in for PA Wild Apricot integrated clubs along with a large non-integrated club through the first half of March, but this may slow through the following months.
- Lethbridge is coming on board with the association and Beaumont is looking to become a club member.
- Three emails were sent out through March to the membership regarding guidance regarding the COVID-19 virus. The PCO links were sent out to the player membership in the email.
- An email was sent out to the clubs with the 2020 policies that PCO has developed. Clubs were asked to make them available at club facilities.
- A Pickleball Alberta Facebook page was created and currently has 155 followers.
- Alberta VP Haddow Thul had a phone conversation with Jeff Rooney regarding sponsorship. The call involved what PCO does and how they can share ideas back and forth on both national and provincial initiatives.
- Director jackets have been ordered for the Directors. These jackets will be worn at clubs, events, clinics and tournaments and people will be able to more easily identify directors to ask any questions or give any comments regarding the association or game.
- Are considering making apparel available for certified levels of officials. Hats available to Level 1 Officials, shirts to Level 2 Officials and a “tool kit” pouch to Level 3 Officials.
- The Red Deer Pickleball Club requested and received the bid package for the 2021 National Championships. They are very excited to submit their bid.
- Have just issued third edition of the monthly Presidential PA Update that includes:
 - PCO updates
 - Upcoming clinics and tournaments
 - “Faces Around the Court” The February issue highlighted US National Champion Cookie Drake from Cold Lake.
 - “PA Power Rankings” Top 10 men and women were updated

Request that any assistance or training that we can do in advance of the national member management system roll out that PA be advised as we want to ensure a smooth transition for out association and members.

Congratulations to PCO for their quick response to the membership in regard to COVID-19 virus.

Congratulations to PCO for bringing aboard Steve Deakin as an ambassador for the association and game.

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Saskatchewan (Janet Bradshaw)

- Have received approval from Sask Sport as an emerging sport status. An operational grant up to a maximum of \$25,000 per year for 3 years will be provided to Pickleball Saskatchewan to assist in development. (Congratulations to Pickleball Saskatchewan!)
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Manitoba (Doug Cable)

- No Report

Ontario (Jim Parrott)

- Potential cancellation of 2020 Provincials currently to the Board for a vote. To be announced within a few days.
- For Eastern Regionals, Ontario is ok if Quebec cannot hold the 2020 Eastern Regional, that it be pushed to 2021, and Ontario takes 2022, and that cycle continues. Richard Chambers will schedule a meeting to discuss.
- PAO has started a Gender Equity workgroup aimed at creating action plans to develop/adopt policy (once PCO has a policy) and maintain behaviours in accordance to such policy. Doug Thomson supported and may/will have a candidate to include in the workgroup (will know more in May 2020). Jim Parrott and Doug Thomson to discuss further.
- For PSO status, Ontario has about 26 criteria to meet, and most difficult is the existence and use of a certified NCCP coaching program. PAO has met most of the other criteria.

Quebec (Marcel Lemieux)

- No Report

New Brunswick (Michel Legault)

- Revising constitution and bylaws - creating new directorships
- Working with Québec on para promotion; youth initiatives are under investigation; membership management is something they wish to explore with PCO.

Nova Scotia (Pat Morrison)

- Initiative to develop a dedicated large facility was making good headway but has been put on hold as was some clinics
- Getting close to recognition as PTSO from Sports Nova Scotia

Prince Edward Island (Brian Strongman)

- No Report

Newfoundland (Leonard Lye)

- No Report

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Yukon (Sue Staffen)

- New Executive elected at AGM in February
- 4-session School program completed in February

6. Directors' Report Suggestion - Janet Bradshaw

Proposes that each Director send in written report prior to meeting to improve communication. Richard Chambers will see if he can collect them prior to each meeting.

7. President's Report (Doug Thomson)

7.1 ITAC - Roles and Responsibilities

- Advisory Council - Terms of Reference are available on PCO website - 5 Regional Representative positions are part of Board structure although there are vacancies

7.2 AGM Date and Process

- May 12th - 3pm PDT looking at using a new electronic voting process. Meeting will be held on Uber at <https://www.uberconference.com/room/pickleballcanada>

7.3 Youth Pickleball

- This is a big initiative of Pickleball Canada this year. It may be impacted by a reduction of revenue which supports the initiative. It was suggested that an interprovincial committee could be set up to share best practices.

7.4 International Federation of Pickleball (IFP)- update

- Tony Casey, PCO Board Member, is now an Officer on the Board of IFP
- IFP Rules (same rules just without USAPA branding) - Rules Committee has been created and PCO has appointed Alan Thomson, (B.C. - Certified Referee) as our representative. The rules have also been translated into French by our Québec crew.
- A coaching program is being promoted by IFP and Canada was incorrectly stated as being a partner in it. PCO has clarified that the only "certified" coaching program that will be recognized by Pickleball Canada will be the Sports Canada/National Coaching Certification Program.

7.5 Sports Canada

- Sports Canada is still in limbo as far as endorsement of new National Sports Organizations.

7.6 Steve Deakin as Pickleball Canada Ambassador

- Alberta complimented PCO on appointment of Steve Deakin as Pickleball Canada Ambassador.

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8. Vice President, Development (Garry Wolfe)

8.1 Coaching Program (Jim Parrott)

- Intro to Competition stream complete and ready to submit for Coaching Association of Canada (CAC) review and approval. Still awaiting CAC response. CAC is not positioned yet to support new sports. May be discussed at CAC March Board mtg.
- Community Initiation stream draft complete (about 120 pages). Pilot workshops to prove out the content have been cancelled due to the COVID 19 pandemic. Working on rescheduling.
- 45 instructional videos (in English and French), developed to augment the coaching materials, have been completed. These will be available to those coach candidates going through the training.
- Total Trillium funding was \$198,000, and PAO just received the final installment of \$32,000. Because of the COVID 19 pandemic, we are in discussions with Trillium to extend the project deadline. We are not sure yet how much of an extension is needed as we will need the self-isolation, social distancing and lock-downs to be lifted (or do virtual workshops).

8.2 Integrated Technology Platform

- Because of COVID-19, timetable for roll out will be slightly delayed. A new timeline will be forthcoming following discussions with our service provider.
- Pickleball Canada Tournaments - website has been created to be used for National and Regional Tournaments. Because of COVID-19 the website will begin to focus on 2021 Championships and also will be used to highlight sponsor support.
- Ratings discussions are ongoing with a ratings engine/competition software provider

8.3 Recreational Pickleball

- Tony Casey, Director working on Best Practices Document

9. Vice President, Operations (Richard Chambers)

Report attached that covered the following topics

9.1 Membership Report

- 22,300 members

9.2 Policies

- please make your members aware of the two policies attached to the agenda:
 - Concussion Protocol
 - Abuse Prevention
- These policies are most relevant to the club/local level for implementation Will investigate the opportunity to distribute the 'posters. Should/could be mentioned during Officiating training as well.

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9.3 Sanctioning

- twenty-five tournaments have been sanctioned to date in 2020. Many cancellations/postponements expected due to COVID-19. Sanctioning fees will be refunded. Work will likely commence in May with a review of the sanctioning process, roles and responsibilities and the inclusion of ratings.

9.4 2021 National Championship Process

- The 2021 Pickleball National Championship Bid book was released in February. It is on the PCO website. A city from Western Canada will be selected. The tournament will be awarded for one year. The 2022 Tournament will be held in Eastern Canada. The Championship will be a closed tournament - only residents of Canada can compete. The purpose is to crown Canadian Champions. The deadline for submission of Letter of Intent is April 5. Bids must be submitted by May 29 and the Host City will be named in June.
- For 2021 Regional Championships a Regional Championship Standards Handbook will be developed.

9.5 Officiating Update (Walter Knecht)

- Extensive work has been done by Walter Knecht, PCO Chief Official and his committee in revising the PCO Officiating Program.
 - The program has been clearly outlined,
 - the requirements for reaching each officiating level have been detailed,
 - the roles and responsibilities of PCO, Provinces/Territories and Clubs/Local level have been clarified, and
 - Significant resources have been developed including online tests, Referee handbook and Best Practices PowerPoint
- All the information and material are on the PCO website
 - English version is up on web site
 - French version is coming - about 50% complete
 - Class Marker hosts 10 online tests
- B.C. has done an online training session for aspiring referees.

10. Next ITAC Meeting

- Tuesday, May 26th 4pm PDT

11. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 5:48 pm PDT