

President's Report

It is my pleasure to provide an update on the year's happening with Pickleball Saskatchewan. Our membership continues to grow as do the locations to play in the province.

We have put the following committees in place with the goal of providing structure for the work that needs to be done: Communication, Finance, Grants, Governance/Nominating, Membership, Officiating, Player Development and the Sask Sport committee. We have engaged non-Board members to serve on our committees who have expertise in a particular area. We are always looking for members to help with the workload.

Without a doubt the most exciting news this year was achieving Emerging Sport Status with Sask Sport. This is a testament to the groundwork that was laid by Board members in the recent past. It is a first but vital step to achieving full sport status that will benefit our membership.

Our newly formed Sask Sport Committee has been working with a consultant since April, devising and amending the requisite policies, budgets and meeting deadlines. Sincere thanks are in order to those individuals who put much of their summer aside to complete the necessary work in order to qualify for funding from Sask Sport. Our MAP policy will guide us in ways we can distribute these funds to clubs, new and established, rural and urban who meet our criteria. Each year we will have benchmarks to meet such as increase in membership, officials and coaches for continued funding from Sask Sport.

A new committee that has been very busy is the Officiating Committee. Under Karen Rust's guidance we have seen the numbers of certified officials increase within a short time.

Our ties with Pickleball Canada remain strong. You may have seen or participated in events that were profiled in our province by Pickleball Canada this summer.

The prairie representative position on the national Board has never been filled. By contacting our neighboring provinces we now have secured a seat at the table with Alberta taking the position for the first 2 years, followed by Saskatchewan, then Manitoba.

I have represented our province at the national level at ITAC (Interprovincial/ Territorial Advisory Committee) that meets on a regular basis. While we continue to grow provincially it is beneficial to learn what is taking place across the country as pickleball continues to explode in popularity.

I am especially proud of the way our members rallied to adhere to the restrictions that COVID-19 placed on play. Although it was disappointing to have our provincial tournament and the Western Regional tournament postponed, we look forward to these events in the 2021. Through innovation and perseverance outdoor play resumed throughout the province in the spring. We are now seeing the same for the indoor version.

Communication with our membership is paramount for our organization. A special thanks to Francis Mlilo for maintaining the website and Ruth Korchinski for maintaining the Facebook page. Many thanks go out to all our members, volunteers and Directors for all that you do to promote the sport.



Janet Bradshaw, President, Pickleball Saskatchewan