



PICKLEBALL B C
BOARD MEETING
October 4, 2021

Present: Walter Knecht, Rod Williams, Brian Shum, Sharon MacDonald, Dave Eaton, Karen Watson, Heather Hood, Dave Eaton, Becca Stuve, Barry Montgomery,

Regrets: Al Thomson

1. **Quorum** – met
2. **Minutes** of September board meeting motion to approve with no amendments Barry Montgomery, 2nd Karen Watson, carried
3. **Financial Report – Brian Shum**
Report Attached

Discussion with respect to the renewals on investments due in November – these will be moved to ones with a better rate of return.

4. **Membership Report – Rod Williams**
Report Attached

Discussion - Memberships continue to increase with more each day – many first-time members increasing as well – continued discussion with respect to the number of memberships in the West (BC, Alberta, Saskatchewan) being 50% of what is currently registered with Pickleball Canada – need to push for representation by population – this item should be back on the table for next year's PCO board.

Further discussion presented on absorbing the PCO charges that will be applied to Clubs depending on the number of club members.

Motion by Rod Williams to propose that PBCA pay these expenses up to a total of \$5000 for this first year only – 2nd by Barry Montgomery – Discussion with amendment proposed by Karen Watson that all Clubs affected by this payment be notified by PBCA that this was paid on their behalf – no opposed – Motion carried.

5. **Head Referee Report – Alan Thomson**

No Report – Walter commented that PCO has held referee clinics for Nova Scotia and New Brunswick using instructions from Alberta – approximately 21 level 1 & level 2 referees were certified.

6. Ratings Report – Barry Montgomery

No Report

Discussion -- some have been using Pickleball Brackets for ratings, mostly for tournament play -- it was found to be very easy to use and user friendly – stats are each to access and helpful – fully transparent.

Becca Stuve questioned the rating of 3.75 as this is not in case with USAPA rating system. It was explained that any rating 3.5 for example would be seen as 3.75 and a rating of 4.0 seen as 4.25 – this gives a range for the rating as opposed to a set number, as everyone goes to mid level.

7. Youth Development Report -- Heather Hood

Report Attached

Heather and Walter met to discuss how to get 'grants' ready to go – working on getting the application form together.

The Grant Proposal document was sent to all executive members pre meeting – Walter Knecht motioned to accept in concept the Youth Grant Proposal, 2nd by Heather Hood – none opposed – Carried

Walter suggested that Clubs should consider whether equipment purchases become school property or Club property for better utilization.

Proposed that monies applied for be matched by the organization applying for grant – matching funds may be in resources as well.

Motion by Walter that the 2022 PBCA budget contain a provision for up to \$10,000 in funding for Youth Initiative Grants, 2nd by Heather – none opposed – Carried

Motion by Walter to approve the Community Grant Program, 2nd by Karen – none opposed Carried.

Motion by Walter to approve the Community Initiative Grant, 2nd by Barry with amendment that amount be set at \$5000 for the 2022 fiscal year. Carried

Brian Shum/Sharon MacDonald will sit on review board for the Youth grant applications; Karen Watson/Brian Shum to sit on review board for Community grant applications.

The Youth Newsletter is ready to go and has been sent to Walter and Ken for distribution.

Heather has been invited to sit on a national leadership committee with PCO and will report on the provinces – their next meeting in next Monday.

A further Town Hall meeting to further discuss and represent the upcoming youth grants will be scheduled.

8. Pickleball BC and Tennis BC Task Force Update – Ray Dear

Report Attached

A pre meeting report was sent on the conclusions of discussions and implementing plan for this joint venture.

Ray Motioned to accept the recommendations and reports, 2nd by Becca

Lengthy discussion followed concerning 1. The use of 'lighter' coloured paint lines being used for pickleball with preference given to the tennis lines; 2. The clause that suggested that more pickleball courts would only be created 'without a loss of tennis courts", was problematic and only benefiting the tennis community, without equal consideration being given to the pickleball community; 3. The proposal that only two pickleball courts per tennis court would be the 'standard' seriously reduces the pickleball court potential and does not address differences in overall fenced enclosure sizes.

Asked about a timeline and Ray pointed out that the committee would like to get approval so that the recommendations could be proposed to be included in the fiscal year budget. It was feared that any delay would delay it for another year.

Ray will bring the concerns back to the committee.

Barry motioned to table the motion by Ray Dear, Karen Watson 2nd. Carried. This was done to allow for more time; for more informed debate; for some Board members there was not enough time. Ray is open to written or oral presentations re these issues.

9. CoVid Update/ViaSport – Karen Watson

No Report

Discussion – Karen gave a condensed version of what the requirements are for safe indoor return to play – stating that cleaning after sessions were not required, as it was determined that contact points are not a pressing concern; entry and exit doors can be the same one; 6 feet apart for doubles play and masks still a required on entering ; masks off once on court.

10. Court Development – Dave Eaton

Report Attached

Discussion held on gathering information from various Clubs in the province to share information from community to community on the dos and don'ts to be success working within your community – felt that all had quite different approaches, but nuggets of similarities. A portfolio of different approaches is being worked on.

11. **President's Report – Walter Knecht**

Report Attached

Discussion on ITAC committee, their importance and/or relevance is being revisited – the committee meets every 2 months

Discussion around the possibility of membership being allowed to other sport clubs, as well as pickleball clubs.

Discussion very restricted in the interest of time – will be brought forward next meeting.

Next meeting scheduled for Wednesday, November 10, 2021, at 6:30pm.

Motion to adjourn by Rod Williams, 2nd by Barry Montgomery

THE link = <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/7963445852>

Treasurer Report – Brian Shum

Cash Position
Board Meetings

4:54pm
Oct 05/21

Opening Bank Balance (VanCity) 24,483.96
PayPal account balance 281.29

Term Deposit #1 rolled (0.95/1.05/2.00%) Mat Jul 06/24 - Annual Opts 6,141.40
Term Deposit #2 (0.6/0.7/1.10% Mat Nov 24/23 - Annual Opts) 7,000.00
Term Deposit #2 (0.6/0.7/1.10% Mat Nov 28/23 - Annual Opts) 12,000.00
Investments 25,141.40

Total Cash Available 49,906.65

Expenses (Est):

Walter (MailChimp)	Sep/Oct	300.00
Website Ad Expense (Ken)	Inv #58 & #60 - Net	234.29
PCO (Membership Remittance)	967.00 \$5	4,835.00
PCO (Membership Recovery)	3,100.00 840.00	(2,260.00)
Misc		500.00

Total Expenses Accrued 3,609.29

Ending Bank Balance - Estimated 46,297.36

October Membership Report – Rod Williams

There are 50 BC clubs launched and collecting dues through PCNS, an increase of 2 from last month. – Port Hardy Pickleball and Funky Bounce Pickleball (West Kelowna)

The following 4 clubs still are not accessing the system either because they have not begun administrative duties or have not yet signed a MoU.

Get Stoked Pickleball Revelstoke – no contact whatsoever.

Peace Country Pickleball Association – initial contact made then Radio Silence. They are holding club tournaments and training sessions but have no active memberships or PCO insurance any longer. This has been pointed out to them.

Peach City Pickleball - winter season club, no contact.

Saturna Pickleball Association – likely disbanding until next season, though they seem to keep advertising what fun they are having on the Island...

Vanderhoof Pickleball – I sent along a package of info to them last week.

Only 1 Club is technically in progress, and I don't anticipate hearing from them until 2022.

-Shuswap Lake Estates Pickleball – No contact after they signed and returned an MoU, but several individuals from the area have joined Club BC over the summer and have indicated they wish to be transferred to SLE once it operational.

-As of September 30th.

1928 Memberships processed through the PCNS in March

861 Memberships processed in April.

626 Memberships processed in May (248 Brand New PCO numbers)

1082 Memberships processed in June (612 Brand New PCO numbers)

655 Memberships processed in July (471 Brand New PCO Numbers)

348 Memberships processed in August. (304 Brand New PCO Numbers)

557 Membership processed in September (222 Brand New PCO Numbers)

10 Memberships refunded through the PCNS due to duplicate registrations or a desire for a club to see the last of some folks complaining about Covid protocols (2 incidents)

180 Active Members are less than 30 years old

PBC Membership

As of September 30th, there were 7826 Active PBC members, an increase of 224 from the last meeting. There were over 900 memberships expiring during September or on October 1 due to a few large clubs having that as an anniversary date. (Vernon, Kelowna, Chilliwack, Squamish and others). 335 of those members did renew early and were processed in September.

By the morning of October 1 there were just over 7200 active members on the roster indicating that over 600+ members had not yet renewed in September. As I write this report, there have been 120 PBC registrations by 3:00 on Oct 1 while we normally average around 20 per day. I expect that wave of renewals to continue for a while. We also have an additional 188 memberships expiring in October, so if everyone renews, we can expect almost 800 registrations this month.

Walter was informed that BC sits at 32.6% of the total membership of PCO.

National PCNS News -

None. Next meeting scheduled in late October.

System improvements are ongoing as we find bugs. The latest big fix was the ability for a club to have members upload a copy of their vaccination certificate if that is required by the venue when they are playing indoors. The uploads were not a problem, but the club could not find or see the file when querying a membership profile, and they now can

Event Management module still not implemented.

After a few complaints, PCO is considering extending the membership for folks registering in the last few days of September until the end of 2022, as the 'Written in Stone' date for an extended membership was October 1st, but several clubs across the country announced that their soon to expire members could renew early and gain membership until the end of 2022 but didn't make it clear that new members or those previously expired had to wait until Oct 1 to receive the same consideration. I had this detail in a **large RED** font on the PBC waiver form that everyone had to acknowledge, but I guess some folks don't read what I write. (have I lost you yet?)

Motion:

I brought this topic up last month, and as we did not have a quorum it was tabled. PCO will be charging clubs a fee based on total club membership for future enhancements to the PCNS system. There is yet no designated purpose for these funds, just a wish to create a pool of funds for future PCNS needs. PBC itself will also be receiving a \$3000 bill for this fund, based on our membership size, along with Alberta while Ontario and Quebec will be billed \$1500 each based on current memberships. No other provincial organizations will be billed anything.

The PCO's intends to directly bill all clubs over 200 members a \$100 charge (BC has 11 clubs currently in that position) and clubs over 500 members a \$200 charge (BC will likely have 4 clubs in that position by year's end if Vancouver Pickleball continues to grow). Clubs below 200 members will not be charged anything for this fund.

My proposal is to have Pickleball BC absorb these club costs for 2022, a total bill of \$1900 above what is going to be billed to PBC directly (\$3000).

-I do know Walter intends to bring this charge up at his National Meetings wondering why they want to charge a levy for a system that is still so obviously in the development stage, so further news on this topic may be coming.

Youth Development Report – Heather Hood/Walter Knecht

PBC and TBC Task Force Report

October 6, 2021

On Wednesday September 28th, the Task Force approved the second part of the Joint Pickleball Court Recommendation Paper to be submitted to their respective Boards with the recommendation to approve. It was 7 months in the making meeting every two weeks, compiling our discussion points into two papers with multiple editions and revisions.

The thrust of the paper is to recognize the shortage of pb courts and recommend to municipal decision makers that dedicated pickleball courts are the preferred solution. Firstly, to build new dedicated pb courts secondly, to repurposing appropriate tennis courts for pb courts.

A good chunk of our discussions centered on dual lined/shared courts as it presented the most conflicts in some of our communities. However, it was felt that a focus on dual lined / shared courts would let municipalities off the hook by resorting to this strategy. However, it was also recognized that in some communities dual lining / shared courts will be the only viable option. As a result of this fact, we split the paper in two parts. The first to provide a strong argument and strategy for dedicated pb courts. The second part would be made available to interested parties if that was their only option via a link within both PBC and TBC's website.

The process was collegial but arduous as both sides presented points to make their arguments but they were often met with countering points for discussion. We, the pickleball task force members felt that the tennis task force members were sincere and invested in the advance of pb and the building of pb courts to meet the growing demands of the game. It was not lost that both sides had our biases and interests in mind. The papers were written with the attempt to eliminate or minimize those biases recognizing that we would not completely please the tennis and pickleball communities. We felt the papers were still an important step in moving towards a starting point for communities to build dedicated pb courts collectively.

The Task Force felt that it was critical to get the paper out early fall as municipalities will be in the planning and budgeting process for the next fiscal year.

The Task Force is committed to move the joint positions by planning two town hall meetings to clarify and answer lingering questions. The first town hall is for both tennis and pickleball members / public to be held on October 27th. The second town hall will target invited municipal planners, decision makers, and sport consultants in mid November.

Although it is recognized that these papers are not perfect, they do meet a need for our provincial and national communities. They are living documents that can be revised as we move forward with this pb court shortage problem.

The members of the Pickleball BC Task Force recommend that the PBC Directors accept the papers and the implementation strategy.

CoVid Update/ViaSport – Karen Watson

No new information for covid or Provincial Sport Organization.

Court Development – Dave Eaton

President’s Report – Walter Knecht

Pickleball Canada Draft Safe Sport Policies

Three new Safe Sport Policies

- 1) Screening
- 2) Social Media
- 3) Whistleblower

These will form part of a larger suite of policies intended to promote and support a safe, welcoming environment for all involved – respectful, equitable and free from harassment and abuse.

Existing Safe Sport Policies

- ✓ Abuse Prevention
- ✓ Concussion Protocol
- ✓ Code of Conduct
- ✓ Complaints and Discipline
- ✓ Appeals
- ✓ Equity and Inclusion

Other policies may be added over time (e.g., Trans-inclusion policy) subject to PCO Board approval.

3) **Summary of new policies**

Screening

- Level of screening is based on level of risk (e.g., occasional volunteer with no access to children or finances vs coach with access to children where parents are not present)
- Criminal Record check will be required prior to being approved in position at PCO and every 3 years thereafter (all existing Board members will need to have a record check completed)
- Policy describes a process and guidelines for determining whether to approve a person who is found to have a criminal record history.
- PCO to partner with Sterling BackCheck to complete the Enhanced Police Information Check at a cost of \$25. plus tax per record check.

Social Media Policy

- Policy is to protect PCO and its members against discriminatory, defamatory or otherwise inappropriate online statements or pictures
- Provides examples of social media conduct in violation of PCO's Code of Conduct (e.g. posting a picture that is hateful, disrespectful or otherwise harmful to PCO, its members or the Pickleball community; the use of social media to engage in a sexual relationship where there is an imbalance of power between the individuals)
- A person who believes there has been an inappropriate use of social media can make a complaint under the Complaints and Discipline Policy. If complaint is founded, the person may be disciplined as per the policy.

Whistleblower

- Offers protection from reprisal or retaliation for those who make a complaint of fraudulent, unethical, illegal activities of a person engaged in PCO activities.

- Complaint must be made in writing to PCO and provide details of the activity (complainant may choose to keep their identify confidential).
- Compliance Officer (an external entity) screens the report to ensure it falls within its jurisdiction.
- In consultation with the Board, the Officer may determine report can be heard under the Complaints Policy.
- If Compliance Officer investigates, the Board may impose sanctions (e.g. suspension, termination) on the person subject of the report and/or turn the matter over to law enforcement.

Other topics from the 21-09-26 ITAC Meeting

PCO insurance policy - coverage changes up or down

Question from PCO - as claims costs go up (although they did not in 2021 so far) should we cut back our coverage scope to control costs? Nearly to a person we all said we would lose a lot of members if you cut medical coverage to just Affiliated Club activities - MANY clubs do not have such events, MANY people go out and play wherever there is a court. I think there was between 50 and 70 medical claims last year. No information re affiliated play versus random, no data on type of injury - actually no risk management data coming back at all.

An ABUSE Liability segment will soon be added - specifically targeting youth activities - about \$11 k.

I think there is confusion on what is actually covered - the PCO web info has changed.

Post meeting note - had a chance to voice talk with Karen Rust - suggested we should have an ITAC Zoom just on 'insurance' - it is not a straight or clear issue.

Safe Sport Policies

These came from nowhere in my mind - see previous notes.

National Team?

This is still a 'what you talking about' concept? Do we have a Provincial Team? How are we developing one? Wait a minute - what is the goal - where would they play, who would they play, who would fund?

And then Provincial Tournaments - how do we organize, control and whatever? So far, we are at zero for a couple reasons - no one wants to define or perform (I have asked).

The Regional Tournaments (3 regions in our wide country) may be going to preferred loading for Provincial winners. Nationals may go that way as well.

Let us try a Provincial tourney concept again - see attached doc - Provincial Tournament_Hosting Details.

ITAC purpose, participation etc

At the previous ITAC meeting - the value of ITAC was raised and a committee set forth to investigate. A quite controversial topic - from OK to nearly useless. A special one agenda item ITAC meeting will be held Oct 26 just for a discussion around this body and its purpose.

Second Post Meeting Note

During my aforementioned conversation with Karen Rust covering several topics I pushed for more single purpose (shorter) ITAC conversations - conversations that are not time but topic limited.

Another Development in the Works

I know some of you have heard me ramble a bit about wanting (me and them both wanting) other entities to be able to join the pickleball fraternity somehow. I have talked with, to varying depths, with 6 multisport clubs - and have had interest from each to associate with pickleball. Advertising, membership draw, knowledge, sanctioned tournaments etc.

I took this to PCO Karen Rust as I had internal conflicts over a couple relationship issues - insurance being the biggest. She was curious. Together we developed a chart defining AFFILIATED Clubs - pickleball only entities and Associated Organizations - multisport or maybe multi-something just not dedicated pickleball.

The chart cleared my mind a fair bit (believe this - there is/was no real definition for an Affiliated club) but Karen had her teeth in and wanted to take this to the PCO exec committee and now the whole PCO board. I think it is going there with a positive spin but my position is **they** are NOT PCO properly and in many ways are no different than our normal clubs. We should be able to affiliate or associate, garnering promises to be nice, do the right things etc - no need to ask or talk with mom or dad. I drafted an MOU for these cases (sent to Karen at her request), an MOU that is Province and Associate centric.

One thing that really spurred me on - Whistler Racquet Club - now 100 tennis players and 300 pickleball players, painting over their tennis courts etc - they want a PBC relationship.

END OF REPORTS FOR OCTOBER 4, 2021 MEETING

