

The fastest growing sport in North America

Le sport qui affiche la croissance la plus rapide en Amérique du Nord

<http://pickleballcanada.org>



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PCO welcomes all pickleball submissions.

Please send photo and text documents (.doc, .txt or .rtf) with a max of 400 words by the first day of the publication month to

Matthew Giancola, Editor, at news@pickleballcanada.org

President's Message

By Val Vollmin

Well spring is almost here! Our snowbirds will be heading home with their medals and pickleball will be revving up across the country....expanding from the indoor to outdoor courts.

To help with the explosive growth of the sport that we continue to see, PCO is pleased to announce a new "Net Initiative" for affiliated clubs and provincial organizations. We are expecting our first shipment of nets around May 1, 2016. Details will be available on our website (pickleballcanada.org) very soon.

As pickleball continues to

grow, we are seeing new provincial organizations being formed and PCO looks forward to working with them in our endeavor to be recognized by Sport Canada.

Our newsletter this month includes an article from Cookie Drake and Mona Burnett. If you have any questions regarding pickleball, please send them in and let these two fantastic pickleball players give you some tips!

Happy Pickling!

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The Experts Column

by **Cookie Drake and Mona Burnett**

We are honored to have been asked by the executive of Pickleball Canada to provide an informal forum which will appear in the PCO newsletter from time to time. The objective is for us to give readers some playing tips about the game of pickleball. We also welcome questions from interested players about any aspect of the game. In this edition, we thought we would start by giving you a little background about ourselves and how pickleball came into our lives. Our names are Cookie Drake and Mona Burnett.

Cookie resides in Cold Lake, AB and began spending some time in Arizona eight years ago. Her husband kept telling her to go down to the courts in Sun City Festival and try this new sport called pickleball. Well, who could resist trying “pickleball”?!?!?! With no background in racquet sports, it took Cookie four years to gather the courage to give it a try. Well, four years later, Cookie is playing at the highest ranked level (5.0) and travels and competes in tournaments all across North America. If ever you head to the pickleball courts, you will almost always find Cookie.....she loves to play this game!!! Cookie has medaled in many of the prestigious tournaments in North America including the Tournament of Champions, USAPA Nationals, Huntsman World Senior Games, US National Senior Games, Grand Canyon State Games, SoCal Classic (Melba Bishop) and the Canadian Western Nationals.

Mona resides in Calgary, AB and is a full time snowbird also living in Surprise, AZ. She has been playing pickleball for eight years and began playing competitively about six years ago. It has been a fun and wild journey over these last six years. Mona was riding her bicycle past the pickleball courts in Sun City Grand when her curiosity got the better of her. She stopped to find out what this sport was and signed up for a beginning lesson to see if she would like the game. After the initial lesson, she never put her paddle down. Since Mona came from a squash background, the skill set was easily transferred to pickleball. Mona, also, can be found on the pickleball courts pretty much each day (usually across the net from Cookie!!!!). Mona has medaled in many of the prestigious tournaments in North America as well including the Tournament of Champions, USAPA Nationals, Huntsman World Senior Games, Grand Canyon State Games, SoCal Classic (Melba Bishop) and the Canadian Western Nationals. Her most notable and recent achievement was USAPA Nationals VII where she set a senior women’s record when she won a gold medal in five events -- each event that she entered.

Pickleball is the fastest growing sport in North America and provides hours of entertainment to young and old alike. In what other sport could you find Grandpa and Grandson partnering together in a tournament? Trust us, this just happened at the Grand Canyon State Games. If you are interested, go to pickleballchannel.com to view photos of this special team.

Once a person tries the game, they are said to have been “bit by the pickleball bug.” Anytime you should pass by pickleball courts you will hear the infectious laughter and witness the comradery of all the players on the courts. Pickleball, first and foremost, is about having FUN!!!!

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Appreciated Ambassador

by Hugh Gordon of West Kelowna, B.C.

In a little fishing village four hours south of Puerto Vallarta is a pickleball program that is flourishing thanks to UASPA Ambassador Dave Marshall.

Monday to Friday he is setting up portable nets at 7:30 AM so that all the locals and snowbirds can play by 8 AM. In the summer the program shifts to the late afternoon primarily due to the warmer weather.

Over the years Dave has convinced the Cabo Blanco Hotel and the current manager, Eduardo, to allow permanent lines to be painted on their under-used tennis courts. On a few occasions we even saw Eduardo participating. As a result some chose to stay at the hotel just because of the courts. Others enjoyed a tradition of having a few beers or a snack served on the courts and poolside. The courts have 20-30 participants daily, with new vacationers arriving each week.

Dave has purchased nets, paddles, balls and other equipment, so there is enough for anyone that wants to play. This is not an easy task in a small fishing village with no sporting goods store, and all the equipment is ordered.

The majority of players there seem to be Canadian snowbirds or expats, with a few Americans and locals. Everyone was more than welcoming. We now have a whole new circle of friends.

Dave teaches the game to anyone who wants to learn. He referred to the program as "his baby" and the commitment shows.

To fund some of this, Dave organizes a pig roast for 85 people. It is hosted by a local fellow, John from Calgary, in one of the largest and most beautiful homes in town. Many of the regulars help with tickets and music.

We went there with a plan of staying seven days, but we are heading home tomorrow after a five week stay. This is mostly due to the great job and loads of fun experienced at the Hotel Cabo Blanco and the program run by one of the most dedicated pickleball ambassadors anywhere, Dave Marshall.

You might have notice the name of the village has not been mentioned. The reason is a friend of ours who originally invited us to this village, repeatedly told us not to tell anyone for fear everyone will come and then ruin it by turning it into another PV. I have kept my promise but if you get out your computer and find Hotel Cabo Blanco, you'll find it.

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PICKLEBALL JUNIOR PROGRAM - PARKINSON RECREATION CENTRE - OUTDOOR COURTS

by **Bill Franzman**

Pickleball Kelowna's Junior Program was introduced in June 2014 for 10 to 14 year olds on Sunday afternoons and Monday evenings. The program registration fee was set at \$5.00 for the summer (June, July and August). The 2015 Junior Program had 17 members, about twice as many as in 2014. In 2016, we hope to double our numbers again. Games are played on 12 outdoor courts!

We had a few of our juniors play in the Pickleball Kelowna fun tournament day along with the adults. They enjoyed it so much that several have registered for the Canadian Nationals this coming July. Of course the aim of the program is to have fun while learning how to play a game that we are sure will keep the young-uns interest and make them anxious to return. Last year we also had a couple of holidaying juniors join us.

It's a great opportunity for our juniors to play with their peers, learn skills and have a whole lot of fun. Registration starts up shortly before schools close for the summer.

Parents are encouraged to hang around and maybe have a game or two with the kids.

Editor's Note:

Bill Franzman (back left) continues to give back to the game he loves. Back in 2009 Bill was affectionately called Mr. Pickleball Canada...go to pickleballcanada.org...click on News tab, click on Newsletters then find Sept. 2009 edition to read all about Bill's contributions to growing our sport in Canada!



Upcoming Tournaments

Please refer to our new webpage to view upcoming tournaments at

<http://www.pickleballcanada.org/#!/upcoming-tournaments/c21kz>

Membership Information

Please re-new or join PICKLEBALL CANADA. Membership application form is available on the website at <http://pickleballcanada.org>

One year \$12.00
Three years \$32.00
Five years \$50.00

Club Group Rates available (20 members minimum) contact:

president@pickleballcanada.org

Membership and Renewal

Please print and submit online completed forms and payment to:

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Rules Corner

Question:

Where can I learn about the regulation changes around approved balls for use in competition?

Answer:

The International Federation of Pickleball has come out with a new set of regulations for pickleballs in the coming two months. The criteria for balls has been clearly defined and a list of approved balls is now posted on the official IFP website. To view the new specifications and a list of approved balls please visit this website. <http://www.usapa.org/ifp-ball-specifications/>

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