

PICKLEBALL CANADA

*The fastest growing sport in North America.
Le sport qui affiche la croissance la plus rapide
en Amérique du Nord*



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Points of Interest

- ▶ Pickleball Canada and IFP work together to help grow our sport with very specific rules so we can all compete on a level playing field.
- ▶ Have you booked into our National Championship yet?
- ▶ Huntsville, Utah - World Seniors Games. A couple of winners.
- ▶ Some suggestions on how to improve ratings & skill levels by Wayne Roswell.
- ▶ Pickleball is now in PV, Mexico, thanks to Lynn & Pat
- ▶ A peek into Palm Creek Golf & RV Resort in Phoenix...Wow!
- ▶ And then there were 2 in Mexico. Can your club help them?
- ▶ Bev Butt's Rules Corner is back with more good suggestions and rules we should all follow.
- ▶ Renew your membership or become a new member for ONLY \$12.00 per year, \$32.00 3 years and NOW \$50.00 for 5 years.

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PICKLEBALL CANADA, IFP RULES, AND NON-CONFORMING PADDLES

Pickleball Canada is a member of IFP (International Federation of Pickleball) as are USAPA and AIPA. Almost all Pickleball in Canada and the USA is played under IFP Rules. All sports have rules. Rules bring order and fairness. Rules actually define what the game is! The rules tell us what the sport is, including what equipment is used and what the boundaries are. Sports have rules so everyone can play fairly and there can be a winner and a loser.

In the game of pickleball, in addition to the type and dimensions of the court and net, there are very specific rules covering equipment used, just as there is in every sport including tennis, hockey, badminton, table tennis, cricket, racquetball, basketball, squash, golf. Equipment rules and specifications are put in place for safety reasons, and to protect the character and traditional nature of the game, preserving the skills traditionally required to play the game. For this reason, the rules cover the dimensions and type of ball used and a list of conforming balls is published. There are rules covering the paddle. There are restrictions on the dimensions, limitations on the materials used and construction. Paddles have traditionally been made of rigid, non-compressible material. The game is not played with a strung racquet.

Any paddles producing a trampoline effect or similar effect to a strung racquet are non-conforming.

IFP uses a deflection test as one measure of the rigidity and compressibility of the paddle. Paddles are submitted by the manufacturer to make sure they conform to the specifications for paddles. IFP publishes a list of paddles that do and do not conform to the paddle material specifications. Players of all skill levels want to play with conforming equipment. Most

players would never consider buying a piece of non-conforming equipment in any sport. Some would say "It's a bit like cheating". It would be fair to say that 95% of all pickleball played in North America is played according to IFP Rules. As the sport grows, as it does dramatically everyday, it becomes extremely important that new players be given sound advice when they purchase their first paddle. **Buy a conforming paddle, you can use it anywhere in Canada and the USA**, in fact anywhere in the world. Learn to play the game in the traditional fashion, learn the skills required to play properly. Read the official IFP rules so that you know what they are. These are the internationally accepted and used IFP Rules.

<http://ipickleball.org/rules/pbrules-ifp.pdf>
These are the **official rules of Pickleball Canada and USAPA**. Here is a link to the IFP website showing the list of paddles that do and do not conform to the paddle material specs. http://ipickleball.org/rules/IFP_Paddle_Material_Specifications.pdf
There are **92 paddles listed that are conforming**. There are **4 paddles listed that are NON-conforming**.

The **non-conforming models include Performance One Paddles, the Q1 model**. The other non-conforming paddles are **Frank Wu products, Apike, Hush and "Edgeless"**

Make sure your friends and new players buy conforming paddles. There are many to choose from. We would like to encourage and ask all PCO members and supporters to help a new player with advice on their paddle purchase. As they learn the game they will be very grateful to you for steering them in the right direction, helping them to play by the official IFP rules. Thank you very much for your support and cooperation. Happy Pickling!

2013 Pickleball Canada National Open Championship
Registration form: <http://pickleballcanada.org/tournaments>

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HUNTSMAN WORLD SENIOR GAMES, UTAH



If you want to see top players from all over North America, you have to go to the HUNTSMAN SENIOR GAMES in St. George, UT. This is where the action starts for the winter season.

Lots of Canadians go here, the venue is huge and the competition is tough to say the least.

The lady on the left is Lone Gienger from Lynden-WA, who plays regularly in Abbotsford, B.C. Her partner on the right in Ladies Doubles is none other than Carol Haworth PCO area Ambassador from Chilliwack, B.C. They won BRONZE in the 70-74 age group. Congratulations ladies for a job well done, I am sure it was a hard fought battle.

Photo supplied by Ron Gienger, lone's husband.

Thoughts on a Rate or Skills Level Tournament

The club I belong to here in Florida held its first annual skills level tournament on January 5 and 6, 2013. I was involved in the sanctioning process and I refereed several games. Here are some of the pros and cons from this non expert.

In a skills level tournament, players rate themselves by their ability using a criteria sheet provided by the USAPA. If one partner is a 3.5 and the other a 4.0 then both partners must play as 4.0. In other

words you play up rather than down as with age criteria tournaments. Of course the rating is the biggest factor. With age, your birth certificate tells you what group you are in but with ratings, it is self-rating and of course how well you have done in past events. Well in our event there were very few players who had already played in such an event, so honesty was the policy. Would picklers sand bag it to win a medal? Do I need to answer. This is the first concern and a serious one.

The other factor is age does play a role. If a 71 year old and a 17 year old are 3.0's and on the opposite of the net and they have played 10 games to this point and the match is now going to the third game in the best two of three, I think we know who has more gas left in the tank and despite being equal in ability, they are

not equal in stamina and this can be a factor in large tournaments such as ours.

Now to the plus side. This first tournament at my club attracted over 130 players. Many were USAPA members because they want the rating. The heaviest subscribed categories were 3.0 and 3.5. A lady from my own club in Port Perry won a bronze in the 3.0 category. She is under 60 and her partner was over 80. The oldest players were 78 and 81. They are still able to compete. I think I might have been competitive in the 3.0 category but would not even consider competing in the 65 plus category in Ontario.

In other words a skills tournament allows players who would not be competitive at their age level to compete in these tournaments. It also allows new players to give it a go and see how they do. I am sure many would have shied away if there was not the 3.0 category.

As a referee, I saw many games go back and forth with only one lopsided game and even that team came back to win bronze after the one bad game. The skills level makes for close hard fought games.

My conclusion is that there is a place for both. In senior games, you go with age. In an open tournament, I recommend skill with one caveat. There be two age categories, 50 plus and under 50. This would balance the stamina factor that an older person gives up to a much younger opponent. Article supplied by

Wayne Roswell, Ontario, member of PCO and PAO. Thanks Wayne, Ed

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PICKLEBALL IN PUERTO VALLARTA - MEXICO



Canto Del Sol and Villas Vallarta are under joint management in Puerto Vallarta, Mexico. I personally have stayed there a number of times. I have spoken to their sports director about playing pickleball and though I got some interest, nothing happened (of course I did not have my paddles with me).

Well it seems that has now changed, thanks to Lynn and Pat Murphy, they not only got the hotels interested, they actually allowed them to set up and play pickleball on their courts. That is fantastic. Great job Lynn & Pat.

PALM CREEK GOLF & RV RESORT IN CASA GRANDE, ARIZONA - NOW THIS IS BIG

Palm Creek Golf & RV Resort in Casa Grande, Arizona. Lots of Canadians here as they have a very active pickleball program. On Tuesday and Wednesday of this week we had the privilege of taking part in a \$10.00 clinic put on by Dennis Forbes. About 160 resident pickleball players were in attendance and we all took several things away to work on. Check out their blog at: <http://www.palmcreekpickleball.blogspot.ca/> Photo & article supplied by Karen



MAZATLAN MEXICO - 1ST PICKLEBALL GROUP - FROM NANAIMO B.C. PB CLUB



Well things are progressing with the new PB group here and we hope to get a new website going to help in the promotion.

We need some help though as we have only one court and 4 racquets - Brian & Lynn's (Snyder) and 2 others they purchased and brought down from Phoenix, AZ. So they have to be around any time someone wants to play, which is limiting. **The suggestion was made that perhaps some successful clubs could donate some racquets and balls to help out the seniors in Mazatlan.** Email: acombc@yahoo.ca

Someone thought that if a package of used racquets and balls were put together that **Westjet** may fly them down for free as a donation to the Seniors in Mazatlan Mexico. Just a thought for consideration.

It has been quite a miracle to get this first court operating with Olga Sanchez, tennis pro at the Costa D'oro Hotel and the hotel have been most gracious and helpful for our efforts. By: Brian Snyder

TOURNAMENTS THIS YEAR FOLLOWING IFP RULES

2ND ANNUAL PICKLEBALL CANADA NATIONAL OPEN CHAMPIONSHIP, ABBOTSFORD, B.C.
CANADA'S LARGEST TOURNAMENT - JULY 6TH & 7TH. 21 EVENTS, 17 COURTS. MARK YOUR CALENDARS.
WE ANTICIPATE OVER 200 PLAYERS FROM ALL OVER NORTH AMERICA
LONDON, ONTARIO PICKLEBALL CLUB WILL BE HOLDING THEIR FIRST TOURNAMENT MAY 25TH, 2013
DETAILS AT: WWW.PICKLEBALLASSOCIATIONOFONTARIO.ORG

IF YOU HAVE A TOURNAMENT YOU WOULD LIKE OUR MEMBERS TO KNOW ABOUT LET US KNOW AND WE'LL POST IT HERE. ONLY REQUIREMENT IS IT MUST FOLLOW IFP RULES AND SANCTIONING IS AVAILABLE (INCLUDING INSURANCE) FOR APPROXIMATELY \$2.00 PER PLAYER (MINIMUM \$50.)

Please re-new or join PICKLEBALL CANADA

Your support is needed to help us grow & meet our commitments to communities across Canada.

If you have questions, we'll try to answer them quickly.

If you are already a member, please share your information with us.

Membership is a Privilege - We want your participation in all decisions.

Help us grow - With your input and support we'll have so much more to offer all members.

There is strength in numbers. Contact us below or go to: www.pickleballcanada.org

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RULES CORNER BY BEV BUTT

Chair Rules Committee P.C.O.

Did you know?

SOME NEWER RULES (rev. Jan. 2012)

From IFP Rules Section 12: Other Rules- Tournament Play

These Rules are followed in Sanctioned Tournament Play but recreational players may have occasion to apply them.

12.J.5 **Horizontal net bars:** Some portable net systems have horizontal bar that may include centre base. If ball hits bar or centre base before going over net, it is a fault. If ball goes over net and then hits bar, ball remains in play. If ball goes over net and then hits centre base or ball gets caught between net and horizontal bar before touching court, it is a let and must be replayed.

12.L. **Coaching.** Coaching is not allowed between time referee calls score and end of rally.

Players may consult with coach or other persons in time-outs and between games. Coaching between points is allowed as long as it is not disruptive, does not delay game and consists only of instructions, not a conversation. A conversation shall result in a time-out charged to player or team. If team is out of time-outs, then conversation may result in a technical warning or technical foul.

12. M. **One Paddle.** A player shall not use or carry more than one paddle during a rally (although one or two hands may be used on a hit and a player may switch paddle from one hand to another.)

Send questions/comments to bbutt@sasktel.net