



Pickleball Canada By-law Amendments

Key Messages

1. Background

- Pickleball Canada (PC) has identified the proposed changes based on extensive research and in collaboration with representatives from provincial and territorial pickleball organizations across Canada as well as consulting with Sport Canada and Sport Law.
- PC is undertaking these by-law amendments to update and modernize the organization, to bring it in line with the best practices of most of Canada's National Sport Organizations (NSOs) and better reflect the needs of its Members.
- The proposed changes were approved by previous PC Boards of Directors in 2019 and confirmed in early 2021.
- In 2021 a new By-law Task Force was struck, charged with taking the motions approved by the Board in 2019, drafting changes to the By-laws and developing consultation and communication materials. This Task Force was also asked to ensure the PC By-laws were consistent with the *Canada not for Profit Corporations Act* and proposed changes would support a strong membership and governance system into the future.

2. Fundamental Change in Membership

- The establishment of formal affiliations (and accompanying affiliation agreements) between Pickleball Canada and the Provincial/Territorial pickleball organizations has been a cornerstone to the foundation of the pickleball in Canada structure since 2018.
- Recognizing the importance of the Affiliated Provinces and Territories (P/T's), PC is moving towards a membership model that will make the P/T's the one class of voting Members within PC.
- Under this model the P/Ts, as organizational entities, will formally and directly represent the interests of Registered Participants (individuals) within their particular province or territory.
- This partnership between the P/Ts and the Board of PC will lead to a stronger national organization, one that understands and supports the interests of P/Ts while building a strong network of pickleball across Canada.
- These amendments will ensure that votes cast at the meeting of Members are those of a formal, organizational body rather than by a set of independent individuals who are not bound to represent the overall interests of their province or territory.
- This model will ensure a representation by population voting system.
- These changes will enable Pickleball Canada to achieve its stated Purpose, to develop and sustain a dynamic, integrated Canadian system that promotes participation, competition and excellence in pickleball.

3. Proposed By-law Amendments

a) Voting Members

- Move from approximately 28,000 individual Members voting to all Member Provinces and Territories voting.
- Individual Members under the current By-laws will be recognized as “Registered Participants”, a term used by most NSO’s.
- Member P/T’s will delegate a single person to vote on behalf of all of its voting Members at PC meetings of Members.
- While Registered Participants will not have a direct vote with PC, their P/T delegate will ensure the needs and interests of all their voting Members are reflected at the national level.
- Registered Participants will continue to have an influence and a say at the national level of pickleball by voting at their local level and can continue to shape the national direction of pickleball by volunteering for committees, or taking on other volunteer roles at PC

b) Allocation of Votes

- All P/T Members will be allocated the same number of “base votes”. As well, each Member will be allocated an additional number of votes based on the proportion that their P/T has of the total number of Registered Participants in PC.
- This balanced system of vote allocation will ensure that no one Member will be without votes while recognizing that Members with more Registered Participants should have more voting power at the PC meetings of the Members.

c) Number of Directors

- The number of Directors will be reduced from eighteen (18) to a range of nine (9) to thirteen (13).
- The Canadian Sport Law Governance Code which all National Sports Organizations are encouraged to adopt recommends a minimum of five (5) Directors and a maximum of fifteen (15).
- A smaller number of Directors supports a more efficient Board with each Director having a defined role and portfolio, reflecting the skills and expertise they bring to the Board.