



April 29, 2023

PICKLEBALL CANADA - UPDATING OUR BYLAWS

To the Members of Pickleball Canada: Thank you!

Together, we are witnessing phenomenal growth in our sport. We have come from just over 1000 members in 2015 to over 46,000 in December, 2022. We are riding the crest of an enormous wave of popularity, with pickleball in the news, on TV, and played all over the country. We have come from a fun, recreational activity, to being recognized as a fully-fledged [National Sport Organization \(NSO\)](#). We are growing, we are strong, and we have so much ahead of us.

With this growth comes opportunity, challenge and, of course, responsibility. One major challenge we have is with our [bylaws](#). These were established with a much smaller organization in mind and when we did not have provincial or territorial organizations, as we do now. We have, simply, outgrown the vision our predecessors held and it is time to upgrade.

Our current bylaws are inadequate – they do not comply with the [National Act for Not-for-Profit Corporations](#), they are inconsistent with the [Canadian Sport Governance Code](#) and are impractical (e.g. facilitating a vote of 46,000 is not practical). We need to update our [bylaws](#) to become an officially funded NSO with Sport Canada, and we need to do so now.

We cannot do this update in isolation, of course, so over the past 12 months we went to the pickleball community for input and added consultation. We have a Governance Committee which met some 24 times specifically on bylaws. We created a National Bylaw Discussion Group, made up of representatives from the Provincial and Territorial Pickleball Associations across the country, and others, which met an additional 14 times. We sent out three national surveys and wrote over 14 bylaw drafts. We consulted with the community, we heard, and we listened. We went to *Sport Law* to make sure we are legally compliant – we are.

As a result, please find attached our [proposed new bylaws](#). It complies with the National Act and meets NSO standards. It's practical. It's been vetted. It's needed.

So why come to you now? Because our existing bylaws state we must ask the full membership for permission to upgrade.

Can you still provide input? Absolutely! We plan to host two Town Hall sessions for members and to have a Special General Meeting just for members, just on bylaws. We will adapt the bylaws as necessary and then ask the broader community to vote on the final draft.

Together we can make our sport stronger. Thank you for your support and continued involvement. Yours in Pickleball.