



Meeting of the NATIONAL PICKLEBALL ADVISORY COUNCIL

Tuesday, July 8, 2025, 6:00 PM, ET

Video Conference

Discussion Notes

Attendees:

David Snell	British Columbia	Ian Campbell	Ontario
Charity	Alberta	France Emery	Quebec
Marilynn Barrington	Saskatchewan	Doris Dunphy	Prince Edward Island
Glenn Stumborg	Saskatchewan	Ron Marion (Chair)	Pickleball Canada
Ted Fardoe	Manitoba	Joanne Kealey	Pickleball Canada
Marie Camille Roussel	New Brunswick	Terri Boizard	Support Staff
Nicole Carlson	Newfoundland	Tamara Edwards	Director Events, Programs
Barry Petrachenko	Executive Director	Nuri Kim	Support Staff

Regrets:

Leonard Lye	Newfoundland & Lab	Richard Francoeur	Quebec
Sean Booth	Yukon		

R. Marion called the meeting to order at 6:04 pm ET.

Chair's Opening Comments

R. Marion welcomed everyone and thanked them for taking the time to attend the meeting and recognized the outgoing board members and acknowledged the work set out for the new board moving forward.

Meeting Agenda

The agenda was reviewed.

Discussion Notes – Previous Meeting

There were no comments or questions about the notes of the previous meeting.

Updates and Information

General Operations

B. Petrachenko presented the operational report for the end of May. Highlighted were the areas of growth and the success of the subsidy program. The goal is to have a provincial in all PTSOs.

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He also discussed insurance coverage, explaining that optional Director & Officer and Cyber Security policies have been offered to the PTSOs. He emphasized the importance of these policies, especially given current risks. Although participation is optional, B. Petrachenko strongly recommended both types of coverage to all PTSOs, noting that no organization is too small to benefit. He clarified that Pickleball Canada does not receive any financial gain from PTSOs who choose to purchase these policies.

Discussion:

- **D. Johnson** inquired about the possibility of bundling all insurance items into one package moving forward.
- **B. Petrachenko** responded that the immediate goal is for each PTO to explore the available options individually. He noted that if there were broad interest, group rates could be assessed in the future. Currently, only a few PTSOs have pursued additional information.
- **R. Marion** noted that the additional coverage is particularly beneficial for organizations with employees.

Additional Highlights:

- Under **Facilities**, the report is expected later this month.
- Under the category of **Pathways**, programming continues to be refined, and progress is being made.
- The host for the upcoming **National Championships** is well ahead in their planning, and the event is shaping up to be a success. Anyone planning to attend is asked to contact B. Petrachenko to coordinate discussions. There has been strong interest in hosting the 2026 Nationals, with several high-quality submissions already received.

PCNS (Pickleball Canada National System):

- A tracking system has been created to improve response times to update requests.
- A dedicated Task Team is currently being formed.

Organization:

- The Ambassador Program is thriving and making a visible impact across the country.
- The AGM was successfully held, and the new board brings strong energy and momentum. Appreciation was expressed for the contributions of outgoing board members.

Sport Canada:

- Pickleball Canada has now been recognized as a funded National Sport Organization (NSO). While this status brings some additional reporting responsibilities, it marks an exciting new chapter.

Stakeholder Partnerships:

- Recent successful events are having a positive ripple effect on our partnerships.

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Corporate Sponsorships:

- DUPR has expressed strong interest in exploring a partnership with Pickleball Canada.

Discussion:

- **D. Snell, D. Johnson, and M.C. Roussel** raised questions regarding the timing of grants and events, and how a potential partnership with DUPR might impact them.
- **B. Petrachenko** assured the group that the partnership is still in the discussion phase and that any events already in progress would not be affected.
- He encouraged anyone with feedback or concerns about the potential partnership to contact him directly, emphasizing that the final decision would be based on input from members and provincial bodies. This feedback will guide future discussions with DUPR.

PTSOs – Operational Discussions:

- Operational discussions with PTSOs are going well. Any PTSO not yet engaged in these conversations is encouraged to reach out to B. Petrachenko to schedule a meeting.

National Championships

T. Fardoe reported that the National Championships event currently has 688 athletes registered and 28 on the waitlist, with a few spots still available. Simulations are being run to determine whether more spots can be opened. Registration closes on the 20th. Five provinces are currently registered for the team competition, with one more expected to confirm shortly. A participant handbook is in development and is expected to be available within 2–3 weeks.

T. Edwards is preparing the roster submission for the provincial teams.

Provincial Team Selection Discussion:

M.C. Roussel inquired about how provincial teams were being selected, directing the question to D. Snell. D. Snell responded that he would be happy to speak offline in more detail, but shared that, generally, team selection is based on a combination of input from a committee, athlete participation at Provincials, and overall commitment.

B. Petrachenko added that best practices for provincial team selection would be a topic on the agenda at the October NPAC meeting. He emphasized that the goal is for every PTSO to have a team entered in the competition.

NPAC Structure and Terms of Reference (TOR):

B. Petrachenko provided an overview of the new structure of the NPAC (National Provincial Advisory Council) that has been in place since January. He acknowledged that feedback from members was taken seriously, leading to several improvements:

- Meetings are now held every two months
- Meeting length is capped at 90 minutes

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- The NPAC's input is formally recognized and forwarded to the Board of Directors
- Agenda items are collected two weeks in advance

He noted that this meeting and the updated Terms of Reference (TOR) reflect both previous frameworks and the feedback received from the group. B. Petrachenko explained the purpose of the TOR, how they function, and the process for sending NPAC recommendations to the Board of Directors for approval.

He invited comments on the TOR, specifically asking for any thoughts, suggested removals, or additions.

Discussion:

- R. Marion noted that work is underway to formally enshrine the NPAC into the organization's bylaws. He emphasized the importance of discussion notes reflecting the full range of group opinions—not just consensus—and advocated for the inclusion of dissenting views in the reporting process.

There were no questions from the group, and consensus was reached to move the TOR forward to the Board of Directors for approval.

B. Petrachenko assured the group that no issues would be stifled, and the appropriate adjustments would be made.

Agenda Items for the Future:

B. Petrachenko asked the group to consider whether any important items have been missed in past meetings and emphasized the need to continue shaping meaningful agendas moving forward. He noted the importance of identifying two individuals to collaborate with himself and R. Marion in building future NPAC agendas.

Volunteers:

- M.C. Roussel
- N. Carlson

Action Item: T. Boizard will contact both M.C. Roussel and N. Carlson to begin the process of including them in agenda planning discussions.

Closing Comments

R. Marion noted that governance will be a key focus for the NPAC in the coming year. With Pickleball Canada now recognized as a funded National Sport Organization (NSO), it is essential to provide strong leadership and foster a collaborative governance framework.

He also highlighted the need to address the significant annual turnover of Board members—currently six per year—and suggested that the bylaws be reviewed to help alleviate this issue in the future.

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R. Marion expressed his appreciation and optimism, thanking the group and sharing that he is extremely pleased with the new Board coming in. He concluded by stating he is confident in the direction and future of the organization.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 7:00 pm ET.

Next meeting: September 9, 2025 6pm ET

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