



Meeting of the NATIONAL PICKLEBALL ADVISORY COUNCIL

Tuesday, September 9, 2025, 6:00 PM, ET

Video Conference

Discussion Notes

Attendees:

Lisa Hardy	Alberta	Ian Campbell	Ontario
Jill Groves	Alberta	France Emery	Quebec
Marilyn Barrington	Saskatchewan	Ron Marion (Chair)	Pickleball Canada
Glenn Stumborg	Saskatchewan	Alexandre Baril	Pickleball Canada
Marie Camille Roussel	New Brunswick	Joanne Kealey	Pickleball Canada
Nicole Carlson	Newfoundland	Michelle Davey	Pickleball Canada
Don Johnston	Nova Scotia	Terri Boizard	Support Staff
Sean Booth	Yukon	Elizabeth Werner	Support Staff
Barry Petrachenko	Executive Director	Phillipe Germain	Translator

Regrets:

David Snell	British Columbia	Ted Fardoe	Manitoba
Stephane Briere	Quebec	Doris Dunphy	Prince Edward Island

R. Marion called the meeting to order at 6:05 pm ET.

Chair's Opening Comments

Nicole Carlson and Sean Booth were introduced as new members of the group. R. Marion congratulated Manitoba on the hosting of a tremendous national championship event and their exemplary leadership.

Meeting Agenda

The agenda was reviewed and there were no comments or questions.

Discussion Notes – Previous Meeting

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

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Updates and Information

Update from Board of Directors

R. Marion confirmed that the NPAC Terms of Reference have been adopted by the Board of Directors. He also provided an update on governance items under consideration by the Board of Directors and requested feedback on two items:

Director Term Lengths – Option to extend terms of Directors to reduce the high turnover currently occurring because half of the Directors are currently up for election every year.

Discussion: D. Johnson asked if these items required bylaw changes and suggested his opinion that this change could make it more difficult to recruit volunteers if terms are longer.

Election Process – Option to move from multiple rounds of voting for individual candidates to a slate-based approach, where a recommended group of candidates is presented and voted on together.

Discussion: M-C. Roussel raised questions regarding transparency in such a system, how candidates would be evaluated, and steps necessary to ensure proper criteria is followed. It was noted that under such an option voters would still have the ability to reject the slate, in which case the process would revert to individual candidate voting. A. Briggs addressed the transparency question, noting that voting would always rest with the members, even in this type of scenario, and that the Nominations Committee is structured with three independent members and only two board members to prevent the board from swaying results in the preparation of a slate.

R. Marion shared that, Geoffrey. Biss has resigned from the Board of Directors, and as a result, G. landiorio, who had been a recommended candidate at the 2025 election, has been appointed by the Board of Directors to fill the vacant position in accordance with Pickleball Canada Bylaws.

Operations Report

B. Petrachenko highlighted the operations report that had been circulated prior to the meeting, highlighting that work is underway in reviewing and updating the **Pickleball Canada website**, the **Subsidy Program** has had a positive effect, with increased participation achieved at events this year, **Tournament Sanctioning** procedures are currently being reviewed and input will be sought at the October NPAC meeting and through monthly provincial operational meetings, The Board is reviewing the **Abuse Prevention policy** and updates will be shared soon, the **Facilities** Task team's final meeting was in August, with a report to be released shortly, a task team has been created to review and refine the **coach program**, with appreciation extended to those who recommended candidates, an **Officiating Program** Task team is reviewing programming to increase officials, the **National Championships** was a strong event led by Ted Fardoe and a team of volunteers with 705 participants from 8 provinces and the provincial team competition was a success and will continue in future, the review process for review of the **2026 Nationals Bids** is underway, the **Ambassador Program** continues to be a successful initiative, **Subsidy Reports** – Final reports with PTSOs being completed to close out the year, the **PCNS Planning Task Team** includes 10 members selected from 30 applicants with the group focusing on long-term enhancements to the system, a new waiver template is now available for youth and adult participants, **Sport Canada Funding Eligibility** for Pickleball Canada has been confirmed, the Sport Canada Commission on the Future of Sport has released their preliminary report with a link provided in in the meeting documents, **Corporate Partnerships** have provided positive feedback on operations this year as partners were pleased at Nationals and provincials, in follow up to feedback since the last NPAC meeting an agreement has been reached with DUPR to provide Pickleball Canada's ratings engine with an announcement to be distributed the day following this meeting – Tournaments with registration

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already open may continue with CTPR if desired, but the CTPR system will be retired this Fall, monthly **Operational Meetings** with PTSO representatives are now in place.

Questions from the Operational Report:

Coaching Programs

A question was raised about the current arrangement with Tennis Canada for coaching, given that Pickleball Canada is now a recognized NSO. Concerns were also raised over the difference in course costs between tennis and pickleball and whether there is a plan or timeline for developing our own program.

Response: B. Petrachenko noted that the long-term goal is for all PTSOs to deliver their own coaching programs, coordinated nationally but implemented provincially. This will take some time to develop. The current agreement with Tennis Canada expires early next year, with renewal discussions focused on the best possible approach to clinic delivery and administration. The Commission report may also guide this collaborative model. A task team is working on a blueprint for 1-, 2 and 3-year stages. Costs are being reviewed, with the expectation that adjustments may be possible as more pickleball clinics are offered.

Officials / Referees

Comments highlighted that referee development remains a challenge, with shortages in some provinces, and that training pathways differ significantly compared to coaching.

Response: B. Petrachenko acknowledged the concerns and noted that the task team was formed in part based on feedback from Quebec on this topic. Work is underway to address these issues and improve training structures.

CTPR / DUPR Transition

Questions were raised regarding when the final CTPR tournaments would take place, whether existing tournaments would need to take action to remain under the CTPR, and how results will be recorded during the transition to DUPR.

Response: B. Petrachenko explained that tournaments already open can choose to use CTPR or DUPR, with the final CTPR event expected in the fall. Results will continue to flow into both CTPR and DUPR for now until the CTPR is retired. The organization will work with event hosts to ensure smooth transitions.

Council Business

Future of Sport in Canada Commission

R. Marion provided an overview of the Commission report, noting that the executive summary outlines priorities such as collaboration, governance, safe sport, communication, efficiency, strategic planning, and accountability. The discussion emphasized the importance of continuing to improve transparency and using NPAC as a forum for sharing and outreach.

Discussion – Coaching and Safe Sport

Concerns were raised regarding uncertified coaches delivering clinics without Safe Sport training. Suggestions included developing listings of certified coaches, supporting clubs in accessing qualified coaches, and how some PTSOs are

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strengthening affiliation requirements (e.g., NCCP training and Respect in Sport). It was also noted that awareness initiatives such as Safe Sport Week and Athletes' Week are important as the sport continues to grow.

New items from the PTSOs

No new items were added

Closing Comments

R. Marion thanked everyone and reminded them the next meeting is November 18th.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 7:20 pm ET.

Next meeting: November 18, 2025 6pm ET

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