



Meeting of the NATIONAL PICKLEBALL ADVISORY COUNCIL

Tuesday, January 13, 2026, 6:00 PM, ET

Video Conference

Discussion Notes

Attendees:

Charity Christianson	Alberta	Marcel Gagnon	Quebec
Lisa Hardy	Alberta	France Emery	Quebec
David Snell	BC	Marilyn Barrington	Saskatchewan
Ted Fardoe	Manitoba	Sean Booth	Yukon
Marie-Camille Roussel	New Brunswick	Ron Marion	President (Chair)
Nicole Carlson	NL	Alexandre Baril	Pickleball Canada
Don Johnston	Nova Scotia	Alden Briggs	Pickleball Canada
Deanna Christie	Ontario	Barry Petrachenko	Executive Director
Jonathon Moody	Ontario	Ryan Hanes	Director – Competitions
Doris Dunphy	Prince Edward Island	Terri Boizard	Support Staff
Nadine Boutin	Quebec		

Regrets:

Glenn Stumborg	Saskatchewan
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R. Marion called the meeting to order at 6:02 pm ET.

Chair’s Opening Comments

R. Marion welcomed the group.

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.

Updates and Information

Update from Board of Directors

SGM and Bylaw Changes

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R. Marion advised that the proposed bylaw changes previously discussed by NPAC, including board term lengths, election process, and the staggering of terms, have been reviewed and approved by the Board. A Special General Meeting has been scheduled for February 26, 2026, at 7:00 pm ET, to bring the proposed bylaw amendments forward to the membership.

Global Pickleball Federation (GPF)

R. Marion provided a summary of the GPF Annual General Meeting, noting that representatives from 70 countries were in attendance and that the GPF is seeking global recognition. Pickleball Canada provided governance support and submitted recommendations to help in the development of the GPF's future bylaws. It was noted that this work is timely for the GPF to address these governance matters with the Olympics on the horizon. B. Petrachenko added that the process remains a work in progress and that significant work is still required.

Operations

B. Petrachenko provided an overview of operational highlights.

Ryan Hanes – Director of Competitions

Ryan Hanes will head up Nationals and provide coordinated support for sanctioned events and provincials.

Branding / Logo / Website Overhaul

It was noted that the branding, logo, and website updates are expected to be completed by Spring 2026. Discussion included a suggestion from C. Christianson to consider the development of a mobile app, citing challenges with using the website on a phone. B. Petrachenko advised that a mobile app is under consideration, has presented some challenges, but remains on the list for future development.

National Team Development Announcement

An announcement is expected later this week regarding progress on the National Team Development plans.

Update on Programming Plans for 2026

Pickleball Canada noted its intention to meet more frequently with PTSOs on specific topics to gain a clearer understanding of program status across each PTSO. It was further noted that the development of national programs will require PTSO support and alignment, including engagement with appropriate PTSO personnel.

Program Development and Structure within the PTSOs

B. Petrachenko thanked the group for its assistance in filling appointments and noted the important role volunteers play in the success of programs. It was advised that there are still a few vacancies on the PCNS and Officiating Working Groups. Additional working groups are in development, including Coaching, which is in the early stages, and the Onboarding Clubs Task Team, for which a call for participation is underway. Members were encouraged to reach out with any questions regarding working groups or task teams. Looking ahead, future work will include reviewing PTC rules, refine the coaching program, and further develop the PTSO pathway to Nationals.

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Council Business

Best Practices Discussion / Info Sharing / Identification of Any Key Topics Goals in Officiating, Coaching, Player Development

R. Marion noted that this topic had been raised earlier in the meeting and referenced the previous one-on-one meetings with PTSOs. It was emphasized that it is important for the Board to understand the key objectives and strategic plans of each PTSO, recognizing that needs vary across organizations. B. Petrachenko added that Pickleball Canada is seeking input on key programming topics, including current initiatives and areas of focus such as officiating. While not explored in detail at this meeting, it was noted that these are areas where greater coordination across the country would be beneficial.

Discussion emphasized the importance of broad information sharing to ensure the appropriate personnel are aware of callouts and requests from Pickleball Canada. Coaching was identified as a key focus area, with B. Petrachenko noting that Pickleball Canada intends to support PTSOs by assisting with the organization of coach clinics. L. Hardy asked whether Pickleball Canada could help reinforce messaging that the NCCP pathway is the preferred and recommended approach.

Pickleball Canada to provide information and support reinforcing the importance of NCCP-aligned coaching and the delivery of NCCP-based coaching clinics.

M-C. Roussell noted that New Brunswick's affiliation agreement requires NCCP certification; however, it was recently identified that some clinics have been delivered outside this framework. N. Boutin added that Tennis Canada and Pickleball Québec will be promoting the value of NCCP certification, with Pickleball Québec determining the timing and location of clinics. C. Christiansen noted similar challenges in Alberta, while T. Fardoe shared that Pickleball Manitoba manages clinics centrally through its website, including registration, under its existing agreement.

B. Petrachenko acknowledged alignment across PTSOs on this issue and emphasized the goal of improved coordination of coaching clinics through PTSOs. It was also noted that the Coach Coordinator role will support this work moving forward.

PTC / Nationals Planning

It was noted how much progress the event has made compared to the same time last year. A ranking system is currently being developed, with more information to follow soon.

Questions arose regarding the definition of a "pro" player, particularly the discrepancy between a 4.0 provincial level and a professional 4.0 level. C. Christiansen requested that the group come to a resolution on the definition of a pro player. She also noted that any changes made as late as June could impact player participation and asked whether costs could be capped to assist with budgeting.

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B. Petrachenko confirmed that a player fee will be released very soon and acknowledged that capping costs will help with budgeting. He indicated that this information should be available by the end of January, if not sooner.

Coordinate a meeting to finalize the definition of a pro player

Match Format:

T. Fardoe expressed concern that replacing the two-game match format with a single game could dilute competition. He noted that a best-of-three format is better suited for high-level competition. R. Hanes responded that match confirmations cannot be provided until the number of teams, courts, and matches is finalized.

PTC Team Funding:

M-C. Roussell requested clarification on who funds the PTC team and highlighted that their organization cannot allocate significant resources to competitive pickleball without impacting other programs.

B. Petrachenko noted that Pickleball Canada is actively seeking a partner and that livestreaming the Nationals will increase exposure. He acknowledged the funding challenges faced by some organizations.

Other Considerations:

M. Barrington highlighted that some members may not have citizenship required to attend Nationals and also suggested adding a 65+ category to the PTC, noting that in Saskatchewan the average player age remains over 60 and could be the case in other provinces as well.

Private Clubs Discussion – Review of Pathways of Integration into PTSO Affiliation

Discussion focused on private clubs, key elements and barriers to affiliation, and work completed to date. R. Marion noted that this discussion provides an opportunity to hear directly from PTSOs and better understand the challenges they are facing.

D. Johnston shared that in Pickleball Nova Scotia, affiliated clubs are refunded the \$5 per member paid to Pickleball Nova Scotia, and that introducing for-profit or private entities would require a policy change.

C. Christiansen asked what “value-adds” could be offered to affiliated clubs and at what level would these private clubs need to be members of Pickleball Canada and Pickleball Alberta?

R. Marion noted that this is an emerging issue nationally and emphasized the importance of developing a coordinated national approach, potentially through individual or group/committee meetings.

B. Petrachenko suggested convening a task-oriented group focused specifically on tackling this issue.

C. Christiansen requested support from the group to develop a list of potential value-added items for private clubs.

A. Briggs noted that private clubs in New Brunswick are less concerned about the \$10 fee and more concerned about insurance coverage. B. Petrachenko responded that Pickleball Canada’s insurance extension may support private clubs and that related messaging is forthcoming.

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T. Fardoe shared that private clubs are often interested in collaboration on programming, including youth camps. J. Moody added that private clubs also want opportunities to participate in tournaments, host Nationals, and be meaningfully engaged within the sport.

Determination of Key Topics

- Value-added offerings for private clubs
- Expected return or arrangement associated with private club affiliation

Set A Meeting Date of Key Topics Identified

February 3rd 2026 3pm PT to address the private club topic only.

Closing Comments

R. Marion thanked everyone for the discussion and reminded everyone of the SGM date of February 26th and the AGM date of June 25, 2026.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 7:30 pm ET.

Next meeting: February 3rd, 2026 6pm ET for Private Club Discussion and NPAC meeting is March 10, 2026

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