



Meeting of the NATIONAL PICKLEBALL ADVISORY COUNCIL

Tuesday, July 14, 2026, 6:00 PM, ET

Video Conference

Discussion Notes

Attendees:

Charity Christianson	Alberta	Nadine Boutin	Quebec
Lisa Hardy	Alberta	Marilyn Barrington	Saskatchewan
David Snell	BC	Glenn Stumborg	Saskatchewan
Ted Fardoe	MB	Dane Cruickshank	Yukon
Don Johnston	NS	Ron Marion	President (Chair)
Eleanor Fitzpatrick	NS	Barry Petrachenko	Executive Director
Jonathon Moody	Ontario	Terri Boizard	Support Staff
Doris Dunphy	Prince Edward Island	Philippe Germain	Interpreter

Regrets:

Marie-Camille Roussel	New Brunswick	Nicole Carlson	NFLD
Marcel Gagnon	Quebec	Alden Briggs	Pickleball Canada
Michel Pingret	Quebec		

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

Chair's Opening Comments

R. Marion welcomed everyone.

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.

Update from Board of Directors

New Board Member List

R. Marion provided an update on the new list of Board of Directors, noting that L. Grenon has completed his tenure on the Board. He also advised that Véronique Giry of Alberta has joined the Board as a new Director.

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Operations

B. Petrachenko provided an overview of current operational activities and introduced the new format of the operations report. He highlighted the successful participation of Pickleball Canada's first Team Canada at a MLP event in July, noting the valuable exposure for athletes and the continued development of the high-performance program through future camps and player identification initiatives.

It was noted that the Vietnam Pickleball World Cup team is not affiliated with Pickleball Canada and PTSOs were encouraged to reach out if they receive questions about the organization of this team, noting that staff are happy to provide accurate information and resources. Members of the Advisory Council discussed the approach being taken by PTSOs in response to requests for support from players participating in the Vietnam event. It was noted that proactive communication and getting ahead of the conversation will be important in helping the community better understand who represents Team Canada. Members acknowledged that the recognized Team Canada program is the group that recently participated at the MLP event, with additional events, camps, and clinics planned in the coming months to continue building awareness and exposure for the program.

B. Petrachenko also highlighted the planned enhancements to the PCNS, including integration with court reservation capabilities and other tools, with implementation targeted for the September 1st membership rollover. Discussion also took place regarding the introduction of a requirement for the annual updating of club information in the PCNS. It was explained that this process will ensure affiliated clubs keep their contact information current, helping to improve communication between clubs and PTSOs. As club administrators, executives, and board members change each year, this annual update will help ensure the appropriate contacts are maintained and receiving important information. Members of the advisory council expressed their support for the introduction of this requirement.

Council Business

Provincial Highlights and Updates

N. Boutin shared that Quebec is preparing for the PTC and has launched a new partnership with a federation to collaborate on shared human resources. An agreement has been signed, with three targeted events planned, and the partnership is expected to continue through the winter season.

T. Fardoe provided an update on Manitoba's Pickleball Roadshow, which launched the previous week. The program has seen strong participation, with clinics reaching maximum registration capacity in each community to date. The initiative is focused on youth ages 10–17, with approximately 16 participants per community, and is expected to connect with hundreds of youths throughout the summer.

G. Stumborg shared that Saskatchewan is preparing for an upcoming Easter Seals event featuring wheelchair pickleball programming.

J. Moody thanked members for their previous meeting feedback regarding private clubs, and provided an update that Ontario has seen a drop in registrations for some events and one initiative (North Regional?) has been cancelled. Ontario is exploring options to add part-time administrative and social media support.

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E. Fitzpatrick from Nova Scotia shared that a private club has expressed interest in becoming an affiliated club and requested support from other PTSOs regarding policies and bylaws for working with for-profit clubs. Nova Scotia also highlighted the addition of a part-time coordinator who could benefit from connecting with others in similar roles. They also announced and invited members to attend their October 1–4 event. Additional updates included work underway to address coaching education, specifically helping coaches understand the distinction between NCCP coaching levels. Six clinics will be offered to increase awareness and promote the importance of NCCP-certified coaches.

C. Christianson provided an update from Alberta, noting that approximately 700 players are registered for provincials, which includes Special Olympics and youth programming. Alberta is also hosting a Coaches Symposium, with registered NCCP coaches invited to participate in sessions focused on expanding coaching skills and sharing best practices with Tracy Bennett from Tennis Canada.

Alberta also raised concerns regarding declining tournament registrations and the impact this is having on clubs and event hosts. Alberta will be working to understand the reasons behind declining registrations through a survey, and will be exploring different tournament formats and opportunities for clubs to generate revenue, including alternative event models such as singles-focused events or team-style formats to reduce competition between tournaments. It was also noted that the lower tournament enrollment challenge appears to be impacting larger metropolitan areas more significantly than rural communities.

N. Boutin noted that Quebec is experiencing similar challenges and is reviewing its sanctioning approach, including the possibility of reducing the number of events while ensuring quality experiences for players. Quebec also shared that recent bylaw changes have strengthened connections with clubs by increasing their involvement as members.

T. Fardoe added that Manitoba just recently is seeing similar trends, with players showing a preference for higher-quality facilities and surfaces, which may be impacting participation at some venues.

D. Snell shared that Phase 2 of BC's K–7 youth program has recently been completed, reaching approximately 11,000 students during the 2024/25 school year, with participation expected to increase in 2025/26. BC has offered to share its curriculum, leader guides, and other program resources with interested provinces. D. Snell also highlighted that BC's Provincial Championship will host over 1,000 participants across 29 courts. While registration numbers remain strong, BC continues to experience challenges recruiting enough accredited referees and coaches.

J. Moody further noted the broader trend they in Ontario are seeing is of clubs reducing tournament hosting and players seeking greater value from tournament experiences, including more games and improved formats. He encouraged provinces to continue sharing ideas and collaborating on solutions.

Affiliated Clubs / Endorsed Events

B. Petrachenko provided an update on the July 7 memo regarding sanctioned events. He explained that the intent of this adjustment is to ensure PTSOs are aware of events taking place within their provinces and to support clubs in aligning event formats and requirements under the Pickleball Canada umbrella.

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It was noted that Pickleball Canada insurance coverage applies only to members participating in approved events that meet established guidelines. A concern was noted that current administrative practices may not align with these requirements, and additional communication and education with clubs may be required if the proposed changes are implemented in 2027. The intent is not to target existing unsanctioned events, but rather to clarify expectations for events hosted by affiliated clubs under the Pickleball Canada/PTSO umbrella.

B. Petrachenko to confirm insurance coverage requirements limitations and report back to September meeting of the NPAC.

B. Petrachenko also noted an upcoming adjustment to the tournament sanctioning process, and reviewed updated wording that clarifies the procedure providing PTSOs the opportunity to either provide a letter of support or decline support for a sanction application. The group reached consensus on the proposed wording revisions and supported the new registration process for sanctioned tournaments.

Sport Integrity Policy Suite Introduction

B. Petrachenko provided an update on the Sport Integrity Policy Suite, noting that the Board has approved the suite and established a September 1st implementation date. T. Boizard is leading the implementation process. Pickleball Canada will provide PTSOs with advance notice and an opportunity to ask questions or address any potential provincial/territorial concerns prior to implementation. Further information will be shared over the coming month.

R. Marion requested that the Sport Integrity Policy Suite remain on the next agenda to address any questions or updates that may arise. He also requested that affiliated club registration requirements be added as a discussion item for the next meeting.

Affiliated Club Annual Registration

This item was covered in the Operational Report.

Suggestions of Topics for Next Meeting

The group discussed participation in the agenda-setting process and the opportunity for additional volunteers to assist with developing future meeting agendas. It was noted that Nicole Carlson and Marie-Camille have previously supported this process. Nicole is expected to continue supporting the group, and volunteers were invited to participate in the every-other-month agenda planning meetings. J. Moody from Ontario volunteered to assist with future agenda development.

T. Boizard to schedule NPAC Agenda Meetings – Presidents and include J. Moody from Ontario.

Closing Comments

R. Marion thanked members for their participation.

Adjournment

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The meeting was adjourned at 7:21 pm ET.

Next meeting: September 29, 2026 6pm EST

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