Meeting of the NATIONAL PICKLEBALL ADVISORY COUNCIL

Tuesday, September 29, 2026, 6:00 PM, ET

Video Conference

Discussion Notes

Attendees:

Charity Christianson	Alberta	**Marcel Gagnon**	Quebec
Lisa Hardy	Alberta	**Marilyn Barrington**	Saskatchewan
David Snell	BC	**Glenn Stumborg**	Saskatchewan
Leigh Hoyt	NB	**Dane Cruickshank**	Yukon
Eleanor Fitzpatrick	NS	**Ron Marion**	President (Chair)
Jonathon Moody	Ontario	**Alden Briggs**	Pickleball Canada
Doris Dunphy	Prince Edward Island	**Barry Petrachenko**	Executive Director
Nadine Boutin	Quebec	**Terri Boizard**	Support Staff
		Philippe Germain	Interpreter

Regrets:

Ted Fardoe	Manitoba	**Don Johnston**	Nova Scotia
Marie Thibeault	New Brunswick	**Nicole Carlson**	NFLD

R. Marion called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm ET.

Chair's Opening Comments

R. Marion welcomed members and welcomed Leigh Hoyt, Vice-President of Pickleball New Brunswick, and Leanne McCarthy, an administrator with Pickleball Nova Scotia, to 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.

Update from Board of Directors

R. Marion provided a brief update on current Board matters and ongoing work.

Operations

B. Petrachenko provided a verbal Operations update, with the written report to follow later this week.

NOTE: Action Items appear in **Green Font**

National Championships

- The National Championships had over 3,000 matches and marked the second year of the PTC.
- BC won the PTC for the second consecutive year.
- Thanks were extended to all provinces and participants, with the goal of having more provinces participate next year.
- The event continued to evolve as a purpose-built pickleball facility. The facility was well received by participants.
- The RFP will be updated with several small changes and an updated version will be sent to the current bidders this week.
- D. Snell asked whether the bid book could be shared. B. Petrachenko noted that the updates are limited to approximately 5–6 smaller areas.

Provincial Events

- All 10 provincial championships were held successfully this year. Thanks were extended to everyone involved.

Sanctioned Tournaments

- There have been 71 sanctioned tournaments to date, slightly up from last year.
- Some tournaments have experienced a decline in participation, and there may be opportunities to make adjustments to the program.

League Pilot

- Participation in the league pilot has been low to date, but the concept was viewed positively.
- The pilot is intended to explore a club-to-club aspect, with learnings from this year helping inform the approach going forward.

Officiating

- Work is underway on a standardized training curriculum and program that can be used across the country.

High Performance

- The High-Performance program continues to progress, including a Combine event in May and an MLP event in Michigan in July.
- Winners from the National Championships have been identified as possible candidates for the high-performance program.
- The National Cup will take place in November in Dallas, Texas.
- Two development camps are being planned for the fall.

Youth Program

- Pickleball Canada is working with BC on its school-based initiative, with information expected to be shared with PTSOs this fall.
- The initiative is intended to support implementation of the program in 2027.

NOTE: Action Items appear in **Green Font**

- D. Snell advised that they are prepared to begin in January 2027. B. Petrachenko confirmed January as the current target, with more information to be provided to PTSOs shortly.
- The program in BC is delivered by coaches who are teachers and includes education for teachers as well as outreach to students.

Council Business
Sport Integrity Policy Suite Implementation
PTSOs feedback, comments, questions

The Council discussed the implementation of Pickleball Canada's Sport Integrity Policy Suite, including the questions and comments submitted by the PTSOs and the additional information circulated in advance of the meeting.

- R. Marion acknowledged the significant work undertaken in reviewing the policy suite and encouraged continued questions and discussion as implementation progresses.
- B. Petrachenko noted that an extensive package had been circulated earlier in the month and that additional questions and items had been raised since then. Some of the newer items will require further review as implementation continues.
- Pickleball Canada is aware of potential conflicts between the national framework and provincial/territorial legislation and will continue to work through these issues as part of implementation.
- The importance of ensuring that provincial policies, codes of conduct and processes are aligned with the national framework was discussed, while recognizing that provincial legislative requirements may result in some differences.
- The Council discussed the intended role of the Independent Third Party (ITP) and the importance of maintaining independence in the complaint and adjudication process. The objective is to avoid duplication of processes and ensure that complaints are appropriately triaged to the organization or jurisdiction responsible for handling them.
- Questions were raised regarding appeals, including how an appeal may apply to a decision or sanction and the importance of ensuring natural justice and an opportunity for individuals to be heard. Some PTSOs will be reviewing their existing appeal processes as part of this work.
- The allocation of costs associated with the ITP, Fair Play Officer and other independent processes was discussed. B. Petrachenko clarified that where a complaint is determined to fall within Pickleball Canada's jurisdiction and is accepted by Pickleball Canada's ITP, Pickleball Canada would be responsible for the associated costs. Costs would not automatically transfer to the PTSO.
- It was noted that where a complaint falls within a PTSO's jurisdiction, the PTSO would remain responsible for following its applicable policies and processes, including associated costs.
- The need for clear jurisdiction and triage procedures was emphasized to prevent individuals from pursuing parallel processes through both a PTSO and Pickleball Canada.
- L. Hardy from Alberta recommended that each PTSO confirm its obligations under applicable provincial legislation and with its provincial sport organization/regulatory authorities. Particular caution was recommended for complaints involving maltreatment, sexual assault, bullying or other serious matters, where the appropriate independent process may need to apply from the outset.
- The UCCMS and its definitions were identified as an important reference point for harmonizing codes of conduct and avoiding the development of substantially different definitions across jurisdictions.

NOTE: Action Items appear in **Green Font**

- J. Moody noted that the goal in Ontario is to align its policies as closely as possible with Pickleball Canada's framework while identifying any necessary provincial differences. The possibility of working together to simplify and align the policies was discussed.
- M. Barrington shared information about the Sask Sport policy suite and its complaint/ITP flowchart as a possible resource for PTSOs reviewing their own processes.
- PTSOs were encouraged to continue bringing questions forward to Pickleball Canada as implementation progresses. B. Petrachenko advised that questions can be directed to him or T. Boizard, who can help connect PTSOs with the appropriate resources.
- The group agreed that Sport Integrity implementation should remain on the Council agenda as implementation approaches and continues beyond November.

Sport Integrity Policy Suite implementation to remain on the agenda for the November Council meeting and as needed thereafter.

Affiliated Clubs/Endorsed Events Follow up / Registration Requirements
PTSOs feedback, comments, questions

B. Petrachenko provided a follow-up on the proposed addition of a recreational/community event tier within the tournament registration process.

- Pickleball Canada intends to introduce a registration process for recreational and community events operated by affiliated clubs. This would provide a simpler option for events that do not meet the criteria for a sanctioned tournament.
- The intent is to support a broader range of club events, including jamborees, fun days and similar community activities, while ensuring Pickleball Canada and the PTSOs are aware of events being operated by affiliated clubs.
- The recreational/community tier is not intended to impose a standardized event structure. Clubs would have some flexibility to customize their events.
- Events operated by affiliated clubs would need to be registered so that Pickleball Canada and the applicable PTSO have a record of the activity.
- B. Petrachenko emphasized that the registration requirement is intended as an administrative and risk-management measure, rather than as a punitive process or a way to discourage clubs from holding events.
- The registration information will also provide better visibility into the types and number of events being offered by clubs and may help Pickleball Canada and PTSOs better support these activities.

Insurance / Risk Management

- The importance of registering club events was discussed in relation to the national insurance program and the need for Pickleball Canada and PTSOs to know what activities are being operated by affiliated clubs.
- B. Petrachenko clarified that the discussion is not intended to suggest that regular club activities, practices or instructional programs must be individually registered.
- The focus is on events outside of regular club play, such as tournaments, jamborees and other organized special events.

NOTE: Action Items appear in **Green Font**

- The registration process is intended to reduce uncertainty around events being operated by affiliated clubs and provide better administrative and risk-management oversight.
- B. Petrachenko noted that the insurance webpage will be updated to reflect the new recreational/community event tier and related information.

Questions and Clarifications

- B. Petrachenko noted that information had been circulated on July 7 and that further updates will be provided as the new tier is implemented.
- D. Snell described BC's current process, which includes a review/registration process for club events, and noted that BC views this as a service to its clubs.
- It was clarified that the new process will use the tournament/event registration portal and that events outside regular club play should be registered.
- The group discussed events held by affiliated clubs at facilities other than their usual club location. B. Petrachenko confirmed that the location of an event does not remove the need to register the event where it falls within the type of organized activity being discussed.
- The group also discussed events involving members from other clubs. The focus remains on registering the event being operated by the club rather than restricting where members may play.
- B. Petrachenko emphasized that the broader objective is to have better visibility of club events so that Pickleball Canada and PTSOs can support clubs, understand participation and activity levels, and strengthen risk-management practices.

Pickleball Canada to establish the recreational/community event registration tier.

Insurance and related website information will be updated to reflect the new process.

Pickleball Canada and PTSOs to continue working through the details of the process and terminology, including how broader events such as jamborees and fun days are captured.

Suggestions of Topics for Future Meetings

Private Clubs – Future Task Teams

- The Council discussed whether private clubs should be a future topic for the Council.

B. Petrachenko will take this away to be discussed at the provincial level and whether a smaller group/task team would be helpful to further explore the topic and identify a clear direction before bringing it back to the Council.

Youth Programming

- B. Petrachenko noted that youth programming has been raised previously as a potential area of focus.
- Pickleball Canada is currently gathering information from the provinces, including BC's school-based youth program, to better understand existing programming and opportunities.
- There is currently no funding program in place. Potential financial support may be considered in the future once a program and approach have been established.

NOTE: Action Items appear in **Green Font**

- D. Snell noted that Via Sport has been very supportive of youth programming in BC and likely similar options are available in other provinces.

Youth programming will be included on the agenda for a future Council meeting, with approximately 5–10 minutes allocated for the topic.

Closing Comments
R. Marion thanked members for their participation.

Adjournment
The meeting was adjourned at 7:30 pm ET.

Next meeting: November 17, 2026 6pm EST / 4pm PST

NOTE: Action Items appear in **Green Font**