

PICKLEBALL IS FOR EVERYBODY!

# THE VANCITY PICKLER

January - February 2024 Newsletter



## PRESIDENT'S GREETING

*Greg  
Feehan*



All of us have noticed the impossibility of booking indoor spaces, with players unsuccessfully attempting to register only seconds after the registration period opens, and subsequent wait lists many times the number of people registered. Although our Association has received strong indication from the Park Board that future outdoor venues are possible, we have also been counselled that we are unlikely to get many more indoor spaces in the already overcrowded Community Centres, as there are so many competing activities. Several private organizations have stepped up, with two new indoor facilities recently opened in Richmond and the promise of at least two new facilities in Vancouver, one at the foot of the Oak Street bridge and the other in the middle of the downtown core. Our Association has done what we can to encourage these developments. Although we would prefer public sites, we are willing to encourage anyone who wants to develop pickleball in the city.



## THE PARK BOARD PROCESS TAKES TIME

*Greg  
Feehan*



We look on with envy as our neighbouring municipalities add dedicated pickleball courts seemingly every month while Vancouver survives on just seven dedicated courts buttressed by a handful of “pop-up” and shared courts. Many ask why we can’t have nice things, too. Part of this is the cost of developing new courts in a city stressed for recreational dollars. Part is the paucity of land in the city.

But most follows from the Park Board’s focus on a carefully planned process to direct decision-making. Money for new

courts can only be approved as part of a multiyear budget cycle. The budget cycle can only reflect plans determined to be consistent with planning priorities. Planning priorities can only be set through the multiyear development of a Court Sports Strategy plan. This strategic plan can only be developed once other sports strategy documents in the pipeline have been completed. This process cannot be varied just because there is a rapidly emerging need.

Soon, we will have an opportunity to provide input to the Park Board's planning process. Their intent is to begin planning for the Court Sports Strategy document sometime in 2024. One of the early stages of this planning process will be a request for input from the public. When this request occurs, this will be our chance to influence their decision-making. We will soon be asking all of you to write to the Park Board, speak at their public meetings, and speak to your elected representatives.

Until then, they ask us to patiently respect the process.



Interested in advertising in the VPA's newsletter?

Email [newsletter@vancouverpickleball.ca](mailto:newsletter@vancouverpickleball.ca) for the 2024 Advertising Rate Schedule



## In the Neighbourhood

In collaboration with Pickleball BC, IPOP has submitted an application to the **City of Burnaby** to host the BC PROVINCIALS in Spring 2025. The tournament will be co-hosted with Pickleball BC and managed in collaboration with volunteers from pickleball groups in Burnaby and New Westminster.



Courtesy of City of Burnaby

VPA and North Shore Pickleball Board members tried out the Pacific Pickleball's facilities in South **Richmond** in January.



Courtesy Janet Martini

In January, Pickleball Paddles Canada closed its storefront location in **North Vancouver** and moved to fully online retail.



## CURLING RINK IS A GO FOR 2024!

**We're thrilled to announce that the Curling Rink will be converted into a Pickleball Hub again this summer.**

While we know that many members prefer to play outdoors during the summer, with nine courts, lounge access, and washrooms, the Curling Rink offers us the opportunity to host tournaments (Team Pickleball 3.0), special events (DUPR Fridays), lessons on weekends and evenings and free introduction sessions.

If you have an idea for an event for VPA members or would like to host an event (pickleball birthday party, anyone?), contact the [VPA](#) ASAP!

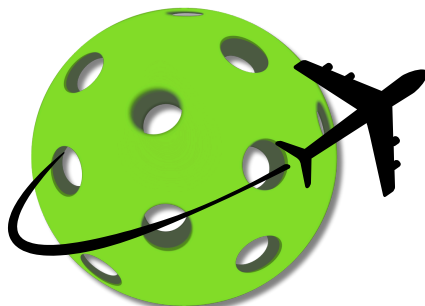
# VPA & THE INTERNATIONAL STAGE

## ***Vancouver is making contributions at the global level to advance our remarkable sport!***

Three members of the Vancouver Pickleball Association have jumped into leadership roles at the continental and global levels to help develop pickleball beyond the city of Vancouver.

Andre Plourde has recently joined the [Pickleball Federation of the Americas](#) as a member of its board of directors. His colleagues on the PFA Board are from Brazil, Costa Rica, Curaçao, Peru, United States and Venezuela. Along with Andre, Leigh Bradwell from Ontario is the other Canadian representative.

VPA's Sharon Hoy is contributing to the advancement of the [Pickleball](#)



[Schools](#) initiative of the PFA. The curriculum and lesson plans that Sharon developed for EVES will be shared with interested schools across the Americas and internationally.

Tony Casey is a director and board member of the five-continent [Global Pickleball Federation](#). Cynthia Clark of Alberta is the 2nd representative from Canada. Tony was a founding director of the Pickleball Federation of the Americas.

If you would like to get involved in making a difference in pickleball growth around the world, email the [VPA](#).



Photo courtesy: Andre Plourde



Photo courtesy: Sharon Hoy



Photo courtesy: Tony Casey



## Have Your Say!

Are there any overlooked spaces that you think have the potential to be a dedicated indoor facility in Vancouver?



International Village Mall

*Patrice, VPA member for 17 months*



Tennis court with no net at UBC, close to the Wreck Beach steps

*Brandon, VPA member for 6 months*



Tennis courts on top of the carpark in False Creek at Moberly Rd.

*Lou, VPA member for 18 months*

## SPONSOR SHOUT-OUT

The VPA is thrilled to renew [Treloar Physiotherapy](#) and [Shift](#) as two of our Gold Sponsors for 2024. Thank you for your support!



## MEMBER NEWS

Congratulations to VPA members who won medals in Nov, Dec, Jan and Feb at tournaments in BC, WA and HI: Bob H., Brenna I., Brett G., Colin O., Jackie S., Jamal H., Julie L., Katherine A., Karen W., Kelsey G., Lou B., Ross C., Shellen C., Soo-Mi C. and Sven T. All results at [pickleballbrackets.com](http://pickleballbrackets.com).



Photo courtesy: Lou Bryce

## NEW NETS

Small steps! The Vancouver Park Board replaced the VPA-supplied nets at the temporary/ permanent pop-up courts at Jericho Beach in February.



Photo credit: Janet Martini

# THE INSIDE DROP: INDOOR IN VANCOUVER

*If you've tried to register for a pickleball program or court rental in a Vancouver community centre, you already know that there's a need for more winter playing options. But why is it taking so long for new venues to open up?*

*In this issue we speak to VPA member, Chris White of [iPOP](#), to get the inside drop on what it takes to open an indoor facility in Vancouver.*

**VPA: Chris, how long have you been working on developing a dedicated indoor pickleball facility in the city?**

**Chris White (CW):** I've been looking for a site for the last 18 months.

**VPA: Wow! Why is it taking so long? Is it Vancouver's real estate cost?**

**CW:** Cost is definitely a factor but what I'm finding is that configuration is a bigger issue. We can get around the cost factor if we can fit the right number of courts to make the financials work. But a lot of the locations I've looked at can't accommodate 8 pickleball courts PLUS the space needed around each court. And it's not just square footage. The location of columns or other support

structures in the space is a huge consideration.

**VPA: How much space does each court need?**

**CW:** You gotta think deep serves, angles, ATPs. Minimum for each court is 2,000 square feet. Ideally, we are looking for 20,000 to 38,000 square feet to accommodate 8 courts. We use a software program which we input the configuration, column location, etc. and it generates the potential court layouts so we know if a site could work.

**VPA: Are there any other considerations?**

**CW:** Quite a few! We need to consider the ceiling height. To accommodate your lob shot, we need at least 20 feet of head room. For the City, there needs to be sufficient parking for expected average usage level OR proximity to alternative transportation options (Skytrain, bike racks) which could give us an exemption for the parking regulations. And washrooms... many industrial spaces we've looked at don't have the necessary washroom capacity for a commercial venture.



For the Fire Department, the location needs to meet current fire codes. Many of the buildings I've looked at don't meet the current fire code, so we'd need to invest in significant upgrades. And for iPOP, wheelchair access is often not available which means the space doesn't align with our corporate values regarding inclusivity.

**VPA: Are there any other challenges?**

**CW:** One thing that's surprised us is the accuracy of available building blueprints. I can't tell you how many times I've looked at a building's blueprints but when I've visited the site, there's more/less columns, access points, bathrooms, etc.

**VPA: So how do you make a decision about a venue?**

**CW:** I visit the site, I research the location using available data such as traffic counts for the surrounding roadways and demographics such as population and income level, I look at the building blueprints, I use the software to develop a potential court layout and our team discusses whether we think the location will be supported by the pickleball community.

**VPA: So, what's next for iPOP?**

**CW:** We've found a location in South Vancouver that ticks many of the boxes. We've applied for a site-specific exemption to allow a commercial

**RUMOUR HAS IT.....**

**iPOP**

Location: South Vancouver

Status: Pending, site exemption required

**Canada Post Building**

Location: Downtown

Status: Unknown

**Fairgrounds**

Location: Pacific Centre

Status: Cancelled

**Pacific Pickleball**

Location: South Richmond

Status: Court surface laid; nets in place

**Belvedere Club**

Location: Richmond

Status: Court surface laid, nets in place

venture in the area. We've also launched a petition that asks pickleball players to express their support for an indoor facility. We plan on using the response from the petition to bolster our request for a zoning amendment.

*We wish VPA member, Chris White, and iPOP, all the best in their efforts to open Vancouver's first dedicated indoor pickleball facility. If you haven't expressed your support yet, you can sign the petition [here](#). (2,814 signatures so far).*

# EAST VANCOUVER ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS PROJECT



*Tony Casey  
Sharon Hoy*



**More and more kids are having fun playing pickleball in Vancouver schools!**

An early 2024 celebration of pickleball took place at Macquinna Elementary School in the Hastings-Sunset neighbourhood. This special event happened during the week of January 29th from 9:00am to 3:00pm for five consecutive days.

225 Macquinna students from kindergarten through to grade 7 hopped onto the gymnasium floor and discovered the game of pickleball.

Along with teacher and EVES leader Raja Sabbagha (and other teachers and support workers at Macquinna) a keen team of coaches & volunteers delivered the pickleball



program. EVES coaches Cyndi Boado, Jamal Harb, Sharon Hoy and volunteers Coral Koke, Reg Dhaliwal and Gerry Chow formed the instructional team.

Each of the 225 students received three sessions.

Various activities and skill development work were adapted for the primary and intermediate students. Practicing grips, forehands & backhands, doing target practice using happy face flags, hoola hoops, balloons and foam balls were part of the introductory sessions.

Primary students played a game of pickleball spaghetti & meatballs! Intermediate students worked on the ready position, footwork, forehand/backhand dinks and serving.

The feedback was very positive. The kids and teachers had fun. An evaluation indicated that





## ABOUT EVES

*Initiated in late 2022, EVES is creating more pickleball opportunities through the engagement & commitment of enthusiastic classroom teachers, physical education specialists and school administrators. With the support of the VPA, the goal of EVES is to embed pickleball within Vancouver schools in a way that it will grow, develop and be sustained over the long term. Educators in East Vancouver schools have been provided with EVES instruction, lesson plans, tools & resource materials and equipment. And school officials are promoting pickleball and providing space in the school calendar for their students to experience the joy of pickleball.*

the sessions were well designed and delivered.

All went well. Macquinna Elementary School may be on the path to become an enthusiastic “pickleball school”.

EVES continues to have enormous potential to introduce many students to pickleball in East Vancouver and later to other parts of the City of Vancouver.

Since the Fall of 2022:

- 25 schools and 84 teachers have joined the EVES Project and actively participated in professional development programs and game-playing on gymnasium floors. As a result of the instructional sessions led by the EVES coaches & volunteers, students are now being taught to play by their teachers.
- Over 450 students from age five through 13 have enthusiastically played the game in their schools and special events such as the SLAMBoree.

If you are interested in joining the EVES leadership team or volunteering in some way, please email the [VPA](#).



Photo courtesy: Sharon Hoy

# COMPETITION “CENTRAL”

*The Central Okanagan is the place to be in 2024 if you're serious about competing!*

The Vernon Pickleball Association (VPA) has been selected to host the 2024 Pickleball Canada **Western Regional Championship**, which will run July 25 – July 28, 2024. The tournament will be played on 12 indoor and 12 outdoor courts with more than 600 players from all over Western Canada expected to be in attendance. The tournament will follow Pickleball Canada's sanctioning criteria and Franklin will be the official ball.



Photo credit: Mario Bottazzini

The **West Draft Qualifier** for the 2024 [Canadian National Pickleball League](#) will be held at the Marshall Fields venue on March 23rd and 24th in Vernon, BC. The Qualifier is open to residents of YT, NWT, BC, AB, SK.

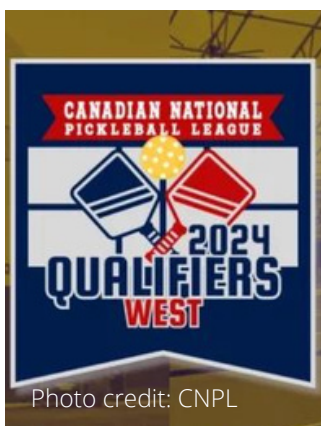


Photo credit: CNPL

## Upcoming Tournaments

**WRC Winter Classic**, Mar 1 -3, Whistler

**Battle of the Paddle 2024**, Apr 19-21, Coquitlam

**Pickleball BC - PADS Charity**, Apr 20, North Vancouver

**WRC Canada Classic**, Jun 28 - 30, Whistler

**2024 Douglas Park Charity Tournament**, Jul 4 - 7, Langley

**Shake & Bake**, Jul 12 - 14, Burnaby

**Youth Summer Slam 2024**, Jul 18, Surrey

**Mid-Summer Slam 2024**, Jul 19 - 21, Surrey

**2024 Western Regional Championships**, Jul 25 - 28, Vernon

**WRC Summer Classic**, Aug 16 - 18, Whistler

For more information or to register visit: [pickleballbrackets.com](https://pickleballbrackets.com)





*"For more than 25 years the Wellness Show has been bringing new approaches to nutrition, fitness, physical and emotional well-being to help Vancouverites achieve their most holistic, healthiest selves".*



**THE  
WELLNESS  
SHOW**

For the second year, this seemed like the ideal place to introduce Vancouverites to North America's fastest-growing sport. 36 Pickleball BC members turned out to support Pickleball BC's efforts to introduce Wellness Show attendees at the Vancouver Convention Centre on February 3 and 4. "Supporting this type of effort is critical to growing the game in our city," said Janet Martini, Secretary, VPA.

*Thank you to our members who came out to help at the Wellness Show:*

*Anne M., Cheryl C., Chris K, Cindy L., Erin P., Haely L., Hoy S., Indra B., Janet M., Judy H., Kelly J., Lauren T., Louise M., Margaret F., Paul S., Vincent T and Vivian L.*

The growing popularity of the sport was apparent in the number of attendees who visited the booth (220). Pickleball BC set up a court in the exhibition hall and provided paddles and balls to allow attendees - adults and kids - to try the game they'd heard so much about. "I've seen this on TV and in the news and thought it looked like fun," said one attendee.

The volunteers (including some certified coaches) answered attendees' questions, including where they could drop in and play and how easy/difficult the game is. All the interest just goes to show the increase in the popularity of this game!





In collaboration with PADS and Burnaby Pickleball Association, IPOP presents

## Pickleball Tournament

**Date:** Sunday April 21st

**Location:** Riverway Outdoor Covered Sports Box.

**Time:** TBD

**Price:** TBD

(All profits going to PADS!)

**Sign up here for updates!**



ipop.fun | @ipopfun





# 2024 RULE CHANGES

Walt  
Woo



As we turn over a new year, it's just a distant memory now where those annoying spin serves were outlawed and you're no longer allowed to wear fluorescent green! These are the highlights of rule changes that were passed for 2024:

**1) Draping Net Rule** – for those nets that touch the ground – rule (2.C.6) called for a replay when a ball goes over the net and hits a net that is draped on the ground (does not apply on a serve) but only if the referee determined that the ball was affected by the draped net.

**2) Correcting Server, Receiver and Player Position Errors (4.B.9)** – Faults for incorrect server, incorrect receiver and player position errors are eliminated. The referee will now correct any such player errors before calling the score.

**3) Catch or Carry Ball on the Paddle Rule (7.L)** now makes catching or carrying a ball on the paddle a fault without having to determine that the catch or carry was deliberately done.

## 4) Conceding a Rally Rule

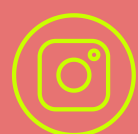
**(13.E.5)** calls for a replay when a player overrules to their detriment a line judge's "out" call as "in". The player or team may not choose to concede the rally to their opponent if they determine they would have been unable to return the ball.

Of these 4 rule changes, #2 and #3 will have a bigger impact for everyday recreation games- #2, especially for those teams that employ stacking strategies, as you can no longer lose points for being in the incorrect position.

It is interesting to note that proposed rule changes that failed were for rally scoring and a mandatory drop serve (over the volley). So as we get comfortable with these new changes, it looks like some bigger changes may still be in the works. Happy 2024 Picklers!!!

For more information, see: [USAPA 2024 Official Rulebook](#).

Connect with the VPA





## DESTINATION PICKLEBALL: LOS BARRILES, MEXICO

*We've been hearing from more and more of our members about their pickleball travel adventures. We thought we'd share some of them with you each month to inspire your next travel adventure.*

Photo credit: Colleen Chapman



**Recommended by:**

Colleen Chapman, VPA member

**Location:**

Los Barriles is located in the Mexican state of Baja California Sur. WestJet and Air Canada offer direct service to Los Cabos International Airport (approximately 1 hr drive).

**When to go:**

December, January or February when the evenings are cooler.

**Where to stay:**

- Resorts - Pickleball is included at several resorts.
- Airbnb and VRBO offer many great options that are within easy driving distance to courts.

**Party size:**

Depends! You can go on your own and play at Tres Palapas (drop-in play available) or go with a group of 3 others and try out the other playing options (court rentals).



Photo credit: Colleen Chapman







Photo credit: Colleen Chapman



### **Where to play:**

- Resorts - several offer all-inclusive playing options.
- Courts open to the public - Tres Palapas has 10 courts at US\$20 per person per day, 8 am to 6 pm.
- Hotel Playa del Sol

### **Where to eat:**

Airbnb and VRBO accommodations come with kitchen facilities and/or chefs so cooking/eating in is easy. Groceries can be delivered. There are lots of great restaurants in the area. Other pickleball players are a great source of information.

### **For non-picklers:**

Snorkelling, whale-watching and swimming with sea lions as well as waterfalls are some of the activities that are available.

*Share your pickleball travel adventures with VPA members. Don't worry, we'll do the writing, you just need to tell us your story!*

# FROM THE BOARDROOM

*The VPA's Board meets once a month. Here's what we've been up to in the last two months.*

## Advocating for more playing opportunities

- Taking a leaf out of Burnaby's book, Board members visited five lacrosse boxes across Vancouver to see if any of the current facilities could be new outdoor locations for pickleball in winter or summer. Unfortunately, none of the locations seem to be suitable.
- Two Board members met with the Park Board to start the conversation for Public Private Partnership possibilities for new pickleball court development. The Park Board representatives indicated an openness to the VPA submitting an "unsolicited proposal" should we find a sponsor or sponsors willing to fund the court development. We are actively looking for suitable sponsors.
- A sub-committee was struck to plan event programming for VPA slots in the Curling Rink this summer.

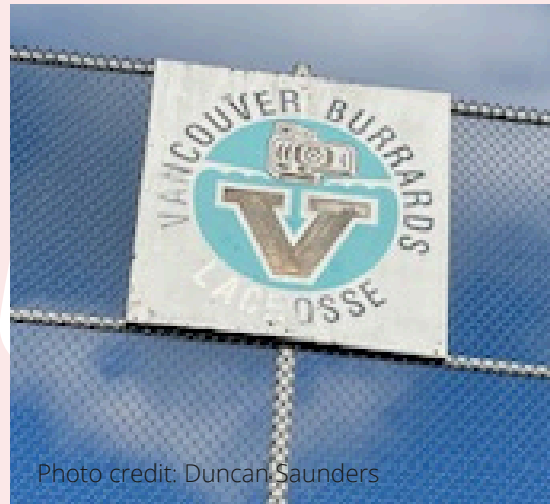


Photo credit: Duncan Saunders

## Supporting community play

- After a long and exhaustive search for indoor locations, the VPA secured the gym at Sexsmith Secondary for Rainbow Pickleball and hosted registration to continue this initiative for Winter 2024.

## Providing playing equipment

- Mount Pleasant Community Centre purchased their own nets. The VPA was pleased to pass on the nets previously provided for use at Mt Pleasant to the Hastings Community Centre.

The **VanCity Pickler** is the Vancouver Pickleball Association's bi-monthly newsletter publication:

***Building and keeping our community connected***

Have an idea for a future edition? Have a question? Email: [newsletter@vancouverpickleball.ca](mailto:newsletter@vancouverpickleball.ca)