VANCOUVER PICKLEBALL ASSOCIATION

VPA CONNECTION

MEMBER UPDATE | NOVEMBER 2026

MORE COURTS. MORE PLAY. MORE COMMUNITY.

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Moving Forward Together

As we head into November, VPA is building momentum toward some exciting goals for Vancouver pickleball.

From our recent Plan & Play retreat and civic election advocacy to planning our first VPA tournament and neighbourhood court improvements, there's plenty happening behind the scenes.

This month, we're sharing our progress, opportunities to get involved, and what we learned from your feedback about fall and winter play.

PLAN & PLAY

Turning Ideas Into Action

19 VPA members and volunteers gathered at **The Nest Sports** on September 30



On September 30, 19 VPA members and volunteers gathered at The Nest Sports for our Plan & Play retreat.

Together, we explored some of VPA's biggest opportunities and challenges:

1. Improving neighbourhood pickleball courts
2. Advancing year-round indoor pickleball facilities
3. Strengthening advocacy and partnerships
4. Expanding recreational and competitive opportunities
5. Building our volunteer network

The retreat reinforced something important: Vancouver has an enthusiastic pickleball community with people willing to contribute their time, ideas and expertise.

Our next step is turning those conversations into manageable projects with clear priorities and volunteer leadership.

We're especially excited to begin building neighbourhood court improvement teams, starting at Jericho Beach.

MORE VOLUNTEERS MEAN MORE POSSIBILITIES FOR VANCOUVER PICKLEBALL.

CIVIC ELECTION UPDATE

Keeping Pickleball on the Agenda

Vancouver's October 17 civic election was an important opportunity to raise awareness about pickleball's growing infrastructure needs.

Ahead of the election, VPA reached out to Park Board candidates to learn where they stood on court development, recreational access and investment in pickleball facilities.

3	6	4
commissioners signed	priorities committed	COPE to connect with

THE PLEDGE INCLUDES

- The Vancouver Tennis & Pickleball Centre (VTPC)
- Equal treatment of pickleball alongside other court sports
- Recognizing existing temporary courts as permanent
- Working directly with the VPA on court improvements

Building a Better Future for Pickleball in Vancouver

The election results give us reason to be cautiously optimistic about the next four years for pickleball in Vancouver. All three elected Green Party commissioners signed the VPA Pickleball Pledge, committing their support to all six of our priorities, including the Vancouver Tennis & Pickleball Centre (VTPC), equal treatment of pickleball alongside other court sports, recognizing existing temporary courts as permanent, and working directly with the VPA on court improvements.

While we weren't able to connect with the four elected COPE commissioners before the election, we now have a clear opportunity to introduce them to our priorities and build support.

> **We put pickleball on the election agenda.**

Perhaps just as important as the election results is the work the VPA has done to get us here. We contacted every Park Board candidate, sought meetings, conducted surveys, developed a six-point pledge and made sure candidates understood the needs and priorities of Vancouver's pickleball community.

One party and several candidates explicitly mentioned pickleball support in their platforms and social media. We established a written record of individual commitments that we can now use to hold commissioners accountable.

This work gives us a much stronger starting point than simply hoping that elected officials will recognize the needs of our sport.

We expect that the relationships we've started building, the commitments we've secured and the visibility we've created will translate into more constructive discussions, better access to courts and meaningful progress on the VTPC.

There is still work ahead, but we believe we've laid some important groundwork for a better future for pickleball in Vancouver.

Our commitment remains the same: working collaboratively with elected officials and Park Board staff to advance more and better pickleball opportunities across Vancouver.

COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS

Sponsorship Spotlight — SQRL

Supporting local businesses and organizations that support pickleball is one more way to strengthen our community.

We're pleased to highlight SQRL as part of our growing network of VPA supporters. Help lost paddles, water bottles, and gear find their way home with a simple scan.



FOR NEW MEMBERS

FREE STARTER KIT

Claim Your FREE Starter Kit. The link will be in your welcome email after registration.

Limited to the first 100 new members, while supplies last.

Already a member? Give back to VPA! Purchase SQRL Labels through our link, and 25% of your purchase goes back to supporting VPA!

BUY SQRL LABELS

We encourage members to support the businesses that support our sport.

MEMBERSHIP MILESTONE

Help Us Reach 1,500 Members!

1,423

members and growing!

GOAL: 1,500+ BY DECEMBER 31

VPA is approaching an exciting membership milestone, and we have our sights set on exceeding **1,500 members by December 31**. That's just a few more members from our October count!

Every additional member strengthens our voice when advocating for court improvements, new facilities and better access to pickleball across Vancouver.

And here's the bonus: The first 100 new VPA members receive a FREE SQRL Smart Name Label Starter Kit as part of VPA's new Smart Lost & Found System, powered by our partner SQRL!

Renew now! Encourage a friend, playing partner or someone new to pickleball to join our growing community.

JOIN VPA

More Members = More Courts. More Play. More Community.

GET INVOLVED

Help Shape Vancouver Pickleball's Future

VPA is a volunteer-driven organization, and we're looking for people who would like to help bring some exciting initiatives to life.

PAID OPPORTUNITY

Tournament Director Wanted — June 2027

1ST	JUN	PAID
VPA-hosted tournament	2027 event date	director role

VPA is planning its first association-hosted pickleball tournament for June 2027 at Queen Elizabeth Park.

We're seeking an experienced Tournament Director to help guide planning and deliver a successful event for Vancouver's pickleball community.

This is a **paid opportunity**, with compensation to be discussed based on experience and tournament responsibilities.

If you have tournament management experience, or know someone who does, we'd love to hear from you.

EXPRESS INTEREST

INVESTING IN OUR COURTS

Introducing the VPA Court Improvement Fund

One of VPA's priorities is to create a sustainable way to support neighbourhood pickleball court improvements across Vancouver.

We're introducing the establishment of a **VPA Court Improvement Fund**, with an opportunity for members to make a voluntary contribution.

The intention is to build a dedicated source of support for eligible neighbourhood court improvement projects, starting with Jericho Beach.

THE IDEA, IN THREE STEPS

1. Opportunity to contribute
2. VPA builds a dedicated source of support
3. Eligible neighbourhood court projects benefit, starting with Jericho Beach

Even modest contributions, combined across our growing membership, could make a meaningful difference.

CONTRIBUTE TO THE FUND

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Jericho Beach Pickleball Court Improvement Project

8–12	2027
month commitment	target year

We're moving forward with plans to improve the eight pickleball courts at Jericho Beach.

The proposed improvements include court resurfacing, more reliable net infrastructure and court separation barriers to create a better playing experience.

VPA is working with the Vancouver Park Board to clarify project requirements, funding and next steps, with a goal of advancing improvements in 2027.

We're now seeking VPA members who live near and/or regularly play at Jericho Beach to become involved in the improvement project.

Volunteers can contribute through fundraising, planning, community outreach, communications and other project activities. The anticipated commitment is approximately 8–12 months.

It's an opportunity to make a lasting difference at a neighbourhood court you love.

LEARN MORE & VOLUNTEER

YOU TOLD US

Where Will You Play This Fall & Winter?

In our September VPA Connection, we asked members where they planned to play during the colder months and what influenced their choices. Thank you to everyone who shared their experiences!

We received **26 valid responses**, offering useful insight into the opportunities and challenges facing Vancouver players.

WHAT MEMBERS TOLD US

Court access was the biggest concern 62%

Travel distance was a challenge 31%

Here's what we heard:

- Members plan to use a combination of community centres, private indoor venues and outdoor courts.
- Popularly mentioned options included Creekside, Zero Zero, iPOP, Jericho Beach, Queen Elizabeth Park and other neighbourhood facilities.
- Suitable playing times, playing conditions and opportunities for comparable skill-level play also influenced choices.

Some members plan to continue playing outdoors throughout the winter, while others are travelling outside Vancouver for reliable indoor court time.

What does this tell us?

Vancouver needs more accessible, quality year-round pickleball opportunities.

Your feedback helps strengthen VPA's advocacy for increased indoor capacity, better programming and continued facility development. We'll continue using member feedback to guide our priorities and conversations with recreation partners.

NOVEMBER MEMBER QUESTION

What would encourage you to become more involved in Vancouver's pickleball community in 2027?

- More VPA-organized recreational play and social events
- Leagues, round robins and tournaments
- Opportunities to volunteer on court improvement projects
- Beginner programs, clinics and skill development
- Opportunities to connect with players in my neighbourhood
- I'm happy just playing and supporting VPA through membership
- Other (please specify)

SHARE YOUR ANSWER

Thank You for Being Part of VPA

Whether you play casually, compete regularly, volunteer, advocate for better facilities or simply support VPA through your membership, you're helping move pickleball forward in Vancouver.

Our progress is built on the collective efforts of our members, volunteers, partners and community supporters.

Thank you for being part of it.

See you on the courts!

VANCOUVER PICKLEBALL ASSOCIATION BOARD

Susan Willett — President
Shawn Griffin — Vice President
Randy Egan — Treasurer
Tracy Whitmore — Secretary
Victoria Ueland — Social Media Manager
Sophia Liang — Sponsorship
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More Courts. More Play. More Community.

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Thank you to Rackets & Runners for supporting the Vancouver Pickleball Association and our growing community.

VPA MEMBER PERK

Get 10% off your next purchase as a VPA Member.

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