



## PICKLEBALL MASTER PLAN FOR THE SEA TO SKY

Over the past 18 months the Whistler Pickleball Association has examined dozens of municipal pickleball court installations and asserts, by the creation of this master plan document, that the development of dedicated public pickleball facilities to be a high-priority responsibility of the RMOW and such facilities shall be retained, operated and maintained as municipal community amenities, contributing to the well-being of all residents. This model is not only consistent with most jurisdictions in the *Lower Mainland* but, in fact, across all of BC and, indeed, the rest of our country.

As our words can only start to build “the bigger picture”, we have included pertinent external references to support our position and supplemental diagrams and photographs to detail the specifications mentioned herein.

### 1. Current RMOW Pickleball Assets:

- 8 Outdoor courts superimposed over tennis courts throughout the community from Cheakamus through to Meadow Park, and
- 6 Indoor courts (2 x 3 courts) with very limited access as they are in gymnasiums as shared assets with School District 48.

### 2. External References:

Joint peer community knowledge and advice, from both Tennis BC and Pickleball BC, strongly advocate for dedicated facilities utilizing different design methodologies.

**From Tennis BC:** “... The dramatic growth of pickleball certainly warrants more public pickleball courts. However, adding pickleball lines to tennis courts is a conflict-laden, “Band-Aid” solution that reduces the enjoyment of both sports. Creating dedicated pickleball centres or hubs by resurfacing existing tennis courts often just creates the need for more tennis courts. We therefore urge municipalities to fully explore the possibility of creating entirely new pickleball hubs before they consider dual purposing or repurposing any tennis courts.”

<https://www.tennisbc.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/02/Pickleball-Courts-2021-Feb-5-v2.pdf>



**From Pickleball BC:** “Tennis BC and Pickleball BC have worked collaboratively over the past year to analyze the issues, research best practices, and produce a recommendation for municipalities across the province. Our joint recommendation is to build dedicated pickleball courts.”

[https://www.pickleballbc.ca/uploads/2/3/2/5/23255642/pbc-tbc\\_joint\\_recommendation\\_21-11-14.pdf](https://www.pickleballbc.ca/uploads/2/3/2/5/23255642/pbc-tbc_joint_recommendation_21-11-14.pdf)



### 3. Dedicated Community Pickleball Amenity Recommendations:

- 1) For the RMOW to create at least 3 outdoor dedicated pickleball *hubs* across the Resort Municipality from Cheakamus, through Creekside to the Village. Each of these *hubs* shall consist of at least 3 courts. Once commissioned, the current multi-purposed tennis infrastructure shall be promptly returned to its original condition for the sole enjoyment of the local tennis community.
- 2) At least one the hubs referenced above shall also include an indoor pickleball facility of at least 8 dedicated courts which can easily be expanded to at least 12 courts. All indoor courts shall have a minimum of 18' ceilings above the entire court surfaces and space-conditioned for year-round use.

### 4. Outdoor Pickleball Hub Site Selection Criteria:

- a) Sound transmission and abatement strategy assessments, we want to be good neighbours.
- b) Wind, wind-blown debris and direct daylight assessments.
- c) Full accessibility by; wheelchair, transit, trail and road including shelters, bike racks and parking.
- d) Washroom/change room facilities.

### 5. Hub Court Layouts and Specifications:

- e) Each court shall measure 34' by 58' permitting 7' but not more than 9' of impediment-free sidelines and backcourts (38' by 62' maximum). See **Figure 1**
- f) The minimum 3-court hubs can be arranged in almost any orientation to better fit smaller sites, such as: all 3 inline, "T" or "L"-shaped. Each fenced court has a footprint of only 2200 sq ft, See **Figure 2**
- g) Each court shall have two means of entrance/egress. Where practical, internal gates shall provide access between courts. See **Photo 1**
- h) Perimeter fencing shall be 10' high at a minimum, intermediate fencing shall be at least 4' high, not exceeding 5 feet. All fencing shall be black in colour and shall include woven wind-proofing media. Concrete (not asphalt) footings required beneath all fencing and swept debris gates shall be installed where item (b) above stipulates. See **Photos 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 & 7**
- i) Socialization amenities such as viewing stands including sunshades and tables with seating for at least 3 people for each court in the hub with wheelchair accessibility at 1 table. See **Photos 8 & 9**
- j) Court surface slope shall be no greater than 1" in height per every 25' feet in length, in any direction, and shall be sport-court coated with white lines and contrasting base colours.
- k) Net posts shall be fitted into sleeves that are fixed in precast concrete blocks, ~16" square by 5' deep. Nets shall have adjustable tensioners with center tie-downs to anchors embedded in the playing surface.

### 6. Optional Hub Features:

- l) 1 windsock per outdoor court hub, centrally located. See **Photo 10**
- m) User controllable, overhead court surface down-lighting for one court per hub. See **Photo 11**
- n) Half court practice wall with lines and fencing. See **Photos 12 & 13**
- o) One court per hub, superimposed with "Junior" or "Red" tennis (18'x36') court lines with light blue lines and line breaks where intersection would occur with the dominant white pickleball court lines.

### 7. Pickleball Facilities Programming, Events and Pricing

- a) The facilities described herein shall be enjoyed by the entire Whistler community where local, not-for-profit organizations may book up to 3, two-hour periods per day, 7 days per week, without charge, for

the enjoyment of their respective members and guests for purposes of conducting introductory sessions, improvement clinics, socials, and/or tournaments.

- b) Whistler Adaptive Sports and all community schools, including School District 48, the Whistler Waldorf and École La Passerelle shall also have liberal, bookable access to the pickleball facilities, both outdoor and indoor.
- c) On occasion, it is anticipated that regional, provincial, national and even international pickleball events, including tournaments, will be hosted on and within these community amenities.
- d) Associated costs for use of the indoor facility shall be no greater than the mean value of similar services provided by Lower Mainland municipalities.

## **8. Whistler Pickleball Association: Purpose, Objectivity and Membership Summary**

The Whistler Pickleball Association was incorporated in 2019 in British Columbia as a not-for-profit Society, objective and independent of any other entity or organization, fully funded by its valued members.

**Purpose:** The mission of the Whistler Pickleball Association (WPA) is to facilitate the growth of Pickleball in Whistler and surrounding areas for the enjoyment, health and social engagement for all players by offering organized introductory sessions, instructional clinics, recreational and competitive play in a safe, respectful and inclusive environment.

Since its inception in 2019, the WPA's volunteer ambassadors and certified instructors have had first-hand instructional interactions totaling well over four thousand person-contact hours with more than one thousand Whistlerites. This includes the entire school populations, both staff and students of the two SD48 Whistler Elementary Schools. In February of this year, at request of the Pemberton Recreation Department, our volunteer activities expanded to both the local senior community and elementary school children of Pemberton as well.

**Objectivity:** The WPA Board of Directors strives to reduce and eliminate all instances of conflict of interest by being aware, prudent and forthcoming about potential conflicts of interest. The WPA's Officers have completed a Declaration Form where the disclosure of any real or perceived conflicts that they might have can be reported. This declaration also ensures that they will not engage in any business or transaction or have a financial or other personal interests and that their volunteer involvement is as altruistic as possible.

**Our Members:** Range in age from their early twenties to their late seventies with an average age in the late fifties, approximately two thirds are women. Over ninety six percent have Whistler mailing addresses.

Our Constitution, Bylaws, Policies, Strategic Plan, AGM Presentations and Minutes thereof available at:

<https://secure.pickleballcanada.org/club/whistler-pickleball-association/1499/>



## **9. For Our Valued Pemberton Neighbours**

We suggest the creation of two dedicated 3-court Pickleball *hubs* within the Pemberton Valley, one near to downtown and the other in the Sunstone development. One of these two hubs is to include an additional minimum 4 court dedicated indoor facility, with all the requisite specifications contained earlier in this document.

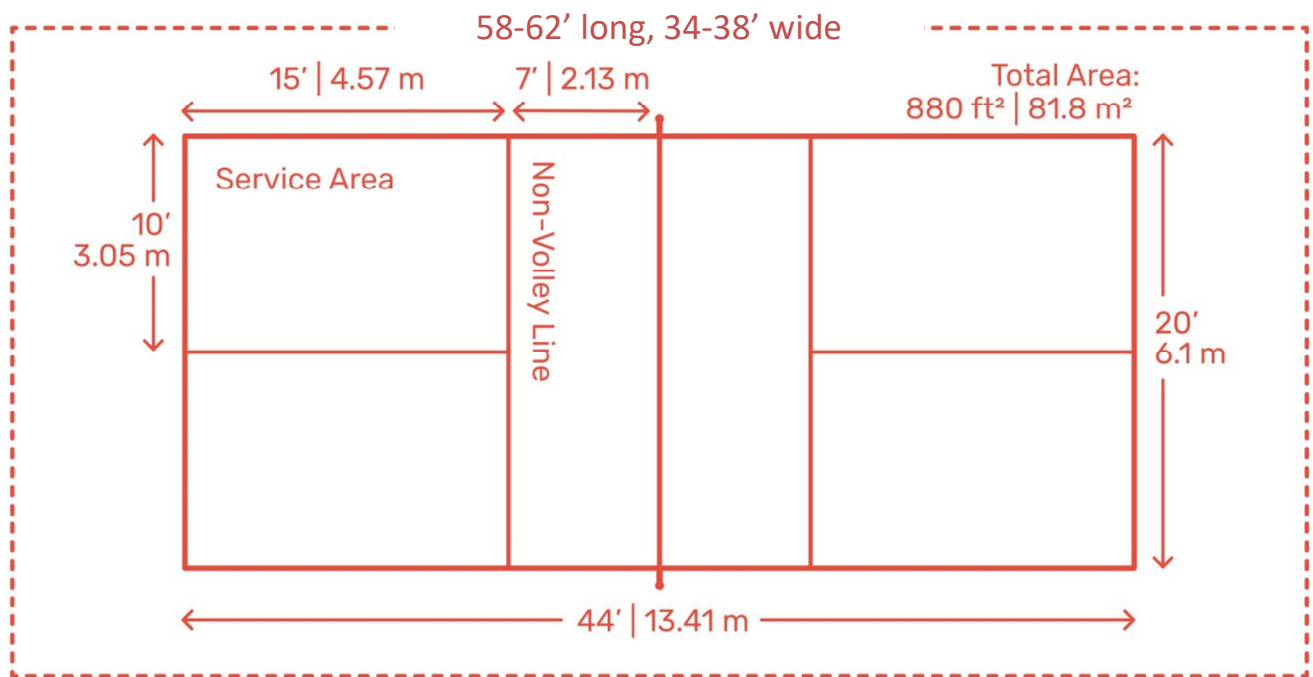
## 10. Working Together, Moving Forward

We are committed to further our collaborative efforts with both the RMOW and the Village of Pemberton toward the realization of the community pickleball amenities detailed herein. We are always approachable and ready to share the groundwork that culminated with the compilation of the master plan and to work through the challenges that may lie ahead as we move forward, together.

The Whistler Pickleball Association is committed to all of our Sea to Sky communities in advancing Pickleball as both a recreational activity and an all-inclusive sport to be embraced and enjoyed for generations to come.

## 11. Figures and Photos:

**Figure 1, Pickleball Court Dimensions**



**Figure 2, Possible 3-Court Orientation Combinations**



**Photo 1, Pickleball Hub Showing Perimeter Access Gates and Intermediate Passages between Courts**



**Photo 2, Entrance and Egress Gates with Intermediate Fencing in Delta BC**



**Photo 3, Featuring Pickleball Hub Amenity with Minimum 10' High Perimeter Fencing in Delta BC**



**Photo 4, Swept Debris Removal Gate**



**Photo 5, Concrete Fence Footings**



**Photo 6, Rigid Windscreen Inserts in Perimeter and Intermediate Fencing**



**Photo 7, Windscreen Fence Insert Details**



**Photo 8, Shaded Tables with Seating**



**Photo 9, Shaded Grandstand with Safety Fence**





**Photo 10, Windssock**



**Photo 11, Pole-mounted High-efficiency Downlighting, Kamloops**



**Photo 12 Outdoor Half-court Practice Area**



**Photo 13 Indoor Half-court Practice Area**

