JOIN THE SARNIA LAMBTON PICKLEBALL CLUB (SLPC)

Canada has more than 30,000 sport and recreation organizations with more than 95% participation at the community level. Community sport is the heartbeat of the community, we need to continue to grow pickleball in the same manner. It needs to be a safe and positive experience for all participants. SLPC needs to lead the way in providing a quality experience to every participant. Something that individually we simply cannot achieve but collectively we will grow exponentially.

The long-term Development of Community Pickleballs needs 3 things: Good Programs, Delivered by a Good Group, and Good Locations.

Only an organized Pickleball Club can ensure that the sport meets the diverse needs of participants. From simple organized play to competitive league play.

**ON A BASIC LEVEL**

Joining Pickleball Ontario aligns us with their initiatives and goals to grow the game nationally.

Our primary short-term goal is to obtain management of a dedicated prime pickleball location for SLPC use prior to the start of the 2024 season. In order to do this, initially we need to sign up a minimum of 100 members at a $70 Club Commitment Fee with $50 being earmarked to the City of Sarnia to be offered to take the place of the funds gathered by Strangway (May 2024-October 2024). You have the opportunity to be a founding member of the proposed Sarnia Lambton Pickleball Club.

As a Pickleball Ontario affiliated club, your membership fee includes membership to Pickleball Ontario ($10) and Pickleball Canada ($10). With that comes personal injury insurance and access to all tournaments as well as all the other programming organized by Pickleball Ontario and Canada. (Coaching & Referee Programs)

* **Personal Satisfaction**from knowing that you have helped the growth of Pickleball in Sarnia Lambton and across Canada. Because you love pickleball, your membership increases the number of collective voices that are committed to the growth of Pickleball and supports the development of facilities for recreational and tournament players locally and across the country.
* **Opportunity to Participate** in shaping the direction of local pickleball activities and pickleball facilities through a democratic process. Our not-for-profit club will be governed by a board of volunteer directors that will be elected by its membership once the initial club is set up. Pickleball for the members as decided by them!

SLPC will be a supportive member of both **Pickleball Ontario** and **Pickleball Canada** and will foster further alliances with local public and private partners to facilitate the growth of the game, with a primary goal of obtaining management of dedicated prime locations and building 8 new in-door courts at a prime location. We will also look, find or establish additional dedicated outdoor and indoor club facilities in Sarnia Lambton. Membership to the in-door facility, once constructed, will be offered to those who joined the club on a first come first serve basis.

As with other communities we have researched, we feel membership will grow to high levels.

Our goals, initiatives, and fee structure will be dependent on numbers registering and the outcome of our discussions/agreements with City/County Staff and Council.

**Our Initiatives:** (without limiting any other actions that may support growth of pickleball locally)

* Attain status for SLPC as an affiliated club with Pickleball Ontario and Pickleball Canada
* Secure access to dedicated prime pickleball locations locally
* Seek to establish positive, complimentary relationships with existing volunteer-run pickleball activities in outlining communities (including Port Huron).
* Promote the development of new local pickleball venues, both indoor and outdoor
* Enhance public awareness and introduce new players to the game
* Conduct programs to encourage youth participation.
* Conduct programs structured for players who seek to improve themselves through organized play in a recreational environment and/or in a competitive environment.
* Facilitate opportunities for those who seek to become pickleball instructors, referees and coaches.

Initial Interest of Membership fees would go to short-term goals:

* Addition of a proper level of play at the hub. The money you spend to play 2 days a week for 2 hours with Strangway would more than cover the sur-charge part of your membership with SLPC
* Organize league play
* Organize the same type of play in-door at existing locations around the city.
* (Acquire access to in-door facilities to create organized play and leagues)
* Obtain first aid kits & and ice packs. Obtain whiteboards/markers for the next paddle up play

and Paddle holders. Obtain squeegees and cordless leaf blowers

* Paint lines for more grip and no ball skipping
* Host Tournaments

**Long Term goals:**

* In-door courts for year-round play – 8 at Blackwell Park
* Out-door lights for extended summer play
* Acquire and develop more facilities to play
* Cover courts at Blackwell Park with canopy

**Club Member Commitments:**

While we are in the process of finalizing documents/structure with Pickleball Ontario we are looking for commitment numbers to obtain approx numbers interested by Monday 13 November 2023 via the SLPC email sarnialambtonpickleball@gmail.com or verbally to founding members: Mike Van Hemmen, Mike Barron, John Boomsma, Aldo Adamo, or Dave Mitton.

If you have any questions you can use the same email listed above or contact the founding members listed. Stay tuned for more upcoming official club announcements as we progress.