

Election of Abbotsford Pickleball Association Board Members

Information as of April 3, 2025

This year APA will be using a secure online electronic voting system to elect board members. The vote will be monitored by a Voting Committee comprised of two non-board members.

Each eligible APA member will be sent an invitation to vote by email when **voting opens at 12 noon on Monday, April 21**. If you do not see an email from APA in your email box, please check your Spam and Junk folders.

Also, when voting, it is essential that you mark either “Yes” for some or all candidates or “Abstain”. It is vital that voting forms be complete in order to be counted towards our quorum requirements. Note as well, that youth members, those under 18, are not eligible to vote.

The **voting will close at 9 AM on Friday April 25th**. When the vote closes, if there is not a quorum, (minimum of 10% of our membership), an in-person vote will be held during the AGM.

There are eleven (11) board positions available. Note that specific board member portfolios are not being voted upon by APA members; board member responsibilities will be determined at the next APA board meeting.

Four of the current board members are in their first year of a two-year term.		
David Booth	Shawn Wilson	
Gina Spencer	Bob MacMillan	
Three of the current board members have completed the second year of a two-year term or they became a board member by appointment during this past year and wish to let their names stand again.		
Dennis Regnier	Lisa Schlagintweit	Jon Peters
There are four new members who have applied to join the board. The APA Nominating committee has confirmed them to stand for election.		
Elaine Vermette	Nancy Marazzi	
Iqbal Rakhra	Doug Margison	

Following are submissions from candidates.

Nancy Marazzi

I am writing to express my interest in being a board member of the Abbotsford Pickleball Club. I am committed to the sport of pickleball in our community and love what APA is doing to provide opportunities for play in Abbotsford.

A little about myself. I am married with 4 adult children. I do not work outside the home but manage the household and our real estate investments. I have a Bachelor of Arts in education specializing in Physical Education. I was very involved at MEI as a PAC member, volunteer and years of coaching. I was also a teacher on call at MEI for 5 years. I have coached various sports throughout the years but primarily focused on school and club volleyball and have my level 2 volleyball coaching certification.

I was an avid tennis player before I began to play pickleball both recreationally and competitively. I love both sports but really love pickleball for not only its fun and competitive nature but especially for the social and inclusive atmosphere. I admire what Abbotsford Pickleball is doing for our community and admire the people who have spent countless and sometimes thankless hours to make Abbotsford Pickleball the vibrant and supportive community that it is.

As a potential member, I am committed to participating in club events, volunteering at tournaments, and mentoring new players. I am also keen on improving my skills as a player and as a coach and would be interested in getting pickleball coaching certification to contribute to our club as a coach/instructor.

I believe my positive attitude, teamwork skills, and dedication make me a strong candidate for membership. It would be a privilege to be a contributing board member and further develop my love for pickleball within such a wonderful community.

Thank you for considering my application. I look forward to the opportunity to contribute to and grow alongside Abbotsford Pickleball.

Iqbal Rakhra

I am interested in becoming a board member with Abbotsford Pickleball Association. I have a background in competitive badminton for over 20 years and switched over to Pickleball just less than two years. Any chance that I have I can be found at Jubilee Park playing till late at night. I have experience in banking and have done accounting for a large firm in Abbotsford. I believe I will be a great asset to the APA and look forward to assisting in every way to improve the efficiency of the daily functions.

Lisa Schlagintweit

I am a founding member of Abbotsford Pickleball Association. In 2022 a group of us met, to form a non-profit society and to lobby the City of Abbotsford to make Ag-Rec available for Pickleball. When we finally got access to the Ag-Rec we worked on designing an affordable and accessible pickleball program which addressed the challenges players were facing at Jubilee and ARC. Initially we thought that we might have a hundred, or so, members and were taken by complete surprise when our membership hit the 600s in our first year. We have learned a lot about administration and program management over the past year and a half. We are always looking for improvements we can make to the organization and programming of APA and are always looking for feedback from our members.

I came to Pickleball from tennis. When I needed to hang up my racquet, I was so thrilled to find a second wind with a paddle in my hand. I am trained as a Community Planner and know the power of recreation in building healthy communities. We have seen firsthand how Pickleball has brought people together and has forged friendships, sporting alliances, travel groups and even marriages!

In the next two years I would like to work to further improve our program design and management. I hope that the APA can offer quality play opportunities for beginners as well as intermediate and advanced players. We are a volunteer dependent program, and I will do all I can to support the hard work of our volunteers. At the same time, I will work with the City of Abbotsford and other private organizations to identify opportunities for developing a pickleball dedicated facility with a tournament grade playing surface.

Doug Margison

I would be interested in securing a position on the Abbotsford Pickleball Club Board for the upcoming year.

I have been playing Pickleball for approximately 7 years now and during that time the sport has grown immensely. I believe that my experience in playing, hosting, working on skills training with new and lower intermediate players, working on tournament committees and playing in a number of sanctioned and unsanctioned tournaments may help provide much insight into working with the club to enhance and grow our programs.

Elaine Vermette

In response to APA'S call out for nominations for new board members, I wish to put my name forward for consideration. I have been passionate about the sport ever since I first picked up a paddle in California five years ago. I have been involved in local recreational and tournament play as well as during our travels to other provinces and abroad. As I had been involved in many sports in my earlier years, I was drawn to the competitiveness spirit of the sport and the health aspect of play. What took me by surprise, in a positive way, was that playing pickleball provides someone instant access to an active community with the opportunity to forge relationships with like-minded folks. Bonus!

My work background as HR Manager and Program Director has developed various skill sets which might be beneficial in the role of Board Member. I have been heavily involved in program development and operations for a national staffing team. This included a heavy component of resource management, analyzing operations, making recommendations for possible improvements, implementing solutions and troubleshooting unresolved issues. I have worked closely and collaboratively with a diverse group of individuals across the country, always keeping the common goals of the organization in sight. I believe that those experiences would transfer well in assisting the APA board in continuing to develop its offerings, responsive to the current and future membership needs. Thank you for your consideration.

Dennis Regnier

Member of APA Board since June 2024, Chair, Player Development Committee, Public Relations Contact

Experience and relevant information: Have been playing Pickleball since 2008. Participated in many tournaments, have won medals at 3.0 and 3.5 levels. Founding member of the Sunshine Coast Pickleball Club 2009 and remain a member. Took Part 1 of Level 1 Referee Training. Have assisted in 4 tournaments as host, check in, referee and assistant Tournament Director and general go-for. Have instructed over 100 new players in the past year. Retired after 37 years working as Registered Psychiatric Nurse. Held supervisory and management positions for many years in at least 4 hospitals in Kamloops, Coquitlam, Gibsons and Sechelt. Moved to Abbotsford in January 2023. I have given many hours to APA in assisting with the day to day operation and activities of club and maintaining public relations, instructing, advising and participating. I am willing to continue in my current roles with APA as well as others that may arise. Thank you for your consideration.

Jon Peters

I've been an active member of the Abbotsford Pickleball Association (APA) since its founding in fall 2023, first stepping onto the court at Jubilee Park when a friend convinced me to try pickleball. Since then, I've been captivated by the sport's mix of strategy, athleticism, and community. Over this time, I've thrown myself into the game, frequently competing in local tournaments with a passion that keeps me coming back.

Beyond the courts, I'm a proud parent raising two young children, balancing family life with my love for pickleball. Professionally, I'm the founder and managing director of a firm specializing in engineering and support for large industrial projects, a role that has sharpened my leadership, problem-solving, and strategic planning skills—qualities I bring to my engagement with APA. Since joining last year, I've served as a board member, taking on significant responsibilities, and have co-led a committee to plan a dedicated indoor facility for our club, working to secure a space we can call our own.

I'm honored to be part of this board slate and look forward to contributing to APA's continued success while upholding the spirit that drew me in at Jubilee Park.