

Election of Abbotsford Pickleball Association Board Members

Vote #3 - Information as of April 30, 2025

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, Roger Melnychuk and Dan Reimer.

Each eligible APA member will be sent an invitation to vote by email when **voting opens at 11 AM on Wednesday, April 30**. If you do not see an email from APA in your email box, please check your Spam and Junk folders.

When voting, please check the box for up to seven of the nine candidates, or Abstain if you wish to vote for none. Abstaining counts towards our quorum requirements and is an important vote also. Note that youth members (5), those under 18, are not eligible to vote.

The **voting will close at 11:00 AM on Friday May 2**. When the vote closes, if there is not a quorum, (minimum of 10% of our membership 65/651 eligible voters), an in-person vote will be held during the reconvened AGM May 3.

There are eleven (11) board positions, seven (7) positions are being voted for on this ballot, there are nine (9) candidates in the running.

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.

The following four board members are not on the ballot this year as they are starting into the second year of a two year term.		
David Booth	Shawn Wilson	
Gina Spencer	Bob MacMillan	
The following three are incumbent candidates.		
Dennis Regnier	Lisa Schlagintweit	Jon Peters
The following six are first time candidates.		
Elaine Vermette	Nancy Marazzi	
Jon Clark	Raghbir Badhan	
Iqbal Rakhra	Doug Margison	

Following are submissions from candidates.

Nancy Marazzi (first time candidate)

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.

Raghbir Badhan (first time candidate)

I am writing to express my interest in joining the Board and contributing to the continued growth and success of our racquet sports community. Over the past 15 years, I have been actively involved with Squash BC in numerous capacities, helping to promote and develop the sport at both grassroots and provincial levels.

Raghibir Badhan (first time candidate) continued

My experience includes:

President, Fraser Valley Squash (2012–2016)

Fraser Valley League Organizer (10+ years)

Zone 3, 4 & 5 Representative

Organizer of weekly Drills & Skills sessions (Tue–Thu)

Chairperson, Canadian Junior Nationals – Abbotsford (2015)

Committee Member, Canadian Junior Nationals – Richmond (2017)

Technical Organizer & Live Broadcaster – Junior Nationals

Member, Olympic Bid Committee

Organizer – School Squash Outreach Programs

National Tournament Participant & Advocate

In addition to these formal roles, I've volunteered in various capacities to support player development, community engagement, and tournament logistics.

More recently, I've become a familiar face in Abbotsford's growing pickleball community. Through regular play with both high- and low-ranked players, I've gained valuable insight into the game, its player needs, and the potential for structured development in our region. I genuinely enjoy the sport and see a great opportunity to apply my experience in sport administration, community outreach, and athlete development to help shape a stronger future for pickleball in Abbotsford.

I would be happy to support or lead initiatives in the following areas:

Public Relations

Sport Development

Coaching & Player Development

Junior Development

Community Outreach

Sponsorship & Fundraising

Refereeing & Rules

Leagues & tournaments

I am passionate about racquet sports and would be honoured to contribute to the Board's vision and direction. Thank you for considering my application.

Thanks, Raghibir

Jon Clark (first time candidate)

I joined the APA in December 2023 with my wife Krissy Savoy (former Host Coordinator) and started playing in January 2024. In the beginning my pickleball journey was initially a little overwhelming but the help I received from fellow players was invaluable. I would be honored to become a board member and would like to contribute to actively supporting and guiding new members in any way that might be required, ensuring they feel welcomed and empowered as they integrate into our community.

Reasons for wanting to become a director: All the growth in our membership has given us a diverse range of player skill levels, so it's crucial for our Board to represent this diversity. I'm eager to be involved in determining the types of sessions we can offer, ensuring they cater to all members' needs and encourage greater engagement. Furthermore, I'm dedicated to developing a Code of Conduct for the APA to safeguard members from bullying and harassment. It's important that APA continues to foster an inviting, respectful, safe, friendly, and sportsmanlike environment where all members, regardless of their level of play feel welcomed and valued.

What I hope to contribute to the APA: I want to set up clear bylaws, policies, and procedures, in order to protect all our valued members and the Board. This will hopefully let members just come play pickleball and enjoy themselves. In my career, I have embraced many different perspectives and worked with a multicultural background. I believe this aligns with where the APA strives to be. I would love to see the APA reach out to Special Olympics to join our community or help set up a team. I would also be open to other committees / positions for which the Board feels I would be well suited.

Attributes: I hold NCCP Coaching Certificates in Softball & Soccer from my time coaching with Special Olympics NB. I have three (3) years as Recording Secretary for the Union of Taxation Employees Local 20029. I'm currently the Vice President for this Union, and the Chairperson of the Bylaws Committee. I currently serve on or have served on numerous committees, both through my employer and the union. I am bilingual in French as certified by the Government of Canada. I hosted and/or cohosted on multiple occasions for

the APA. I have also enjoyed volunteering during the Fall Classic tournament in December 2024.

Thank you for your consideration.

Jon Clark

Lisa Schlagintweit (incumbent)

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.

Elaine Vermette (first time candidate)

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.

Iqbal Rakhra (first time candidate)

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.

Dennis Regnier (incumbent)

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.

Doug Margison (first time candidate)

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.

Jon Peters (incumbent)

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.