



Battlefords Pickleball Club

Newsletter: February 2022

Mandate

The purpose of the Battlefords Pickleball Club is to facilitate the development and promote the growth of pickleball as a fun, healthy sport, and social activity in the Battlefords area.

BPC Board

We are pleased that members have volunteered to become Directors.

The Board Members are:

Debbie Iwanchuk, President
Adele Perrett, Secretary
Carol Oke, Treasurer (member participate)
Amy Williams, Director at Large

Rob Squair, Director at Large
Vanitha Moodley, Director at Large
Zelda Marshall, Director at Large
Anne Bernier, Director at Large

Membership

Our membership is growing!

Thank you to all the players who renewed their membership through Pickleball Canada for the 2022 calendar year. Due to Learn to Play (LTP) clinics held in November 2021, we are experiencing more players to our drop-in sessions and resulting new memberships in the sport we all love. That interest continues for LTP sessions and has resulted in an additional clinic planned for February 12, 2022.

Due to ongoing Covid travel restrictions and many members choosing not to travel this winter, our club has seen an increase in play for most scheduled drop-in sessions, particularly the Monday, Wednesday, and Friday times. Many new players are turning out to play on these mornings creating an average of 20-30+ players utilizing typically 5 nets. This has resulted in participants having to sit out or wait to play which is a new concept for us. Also, with the mix of skill levels, it has been suggested during higher attendance, experienced members promote certain nets be designated for level play. That will be left up to members to determine each time, as numbers will be difficult to predict. If anyone has an alternative suggestion they would like to make, please feel free to raise with any of the Board members. All ideas and perspectives are welcome.

Drop-in Times:

Our club is fortunate in that we have the NationsWEST Fieldhouse for almost daily play. We thank Michelle Horncastle, Manager and her team for their continued cooperation and support.

There has been a change in the time schedule (Jan. – May 2022) so please see below for times and definitions of play. NationsWEST Field House requires players to abide by the city of North Battleford public facility COVID-19 protocols.

Monday/Wednesday:

Social Play – 9:30 – 11:30 am

Tuesday:

Competitive Play – 1:00 – 3:00 pm

Thursday:

Level Play: - 9:30 – 11:30 am

Competitive Play – 1:00 – 3:00 pm

Fridays:

Level Play – 9:30 – 11:30 am, 1:00 – 3:00 pm

Social Play: Intended for players wanting to have a fun, social recreational experience. Players are encouraged to develop and use all their skills; however, aggressive overhead smashes and spin shots should be reserved for competitive play. Play should be challenging for players, but not overwhelming.

Competitive Play: Intended for strong, experienced players who have a thorough understanding of pickleball strategies and can consistently use a variety of shots including overheads, fast paced ground strokes, approach shots, volleys third shot drops and lobs. Players should be comfortable with aggressive net play and have directional control and depth on both forehand and backhand shots.

Level Play: All levels are encouraged to participate. Games should be set up for same skill level play. For example, one net may be used for social play, another for intermediate play and a third for advanced play. If there are not enough people in each level, players are asked to play with other skill levels and to show courtesy when playing against both weaker and stronger players.

For information purposes, players may call ahead to reception and book courts outside of the above hours (calling ahead to ensure courts are available for play) or, rent a court(s) for a fee (check with field house reception for current rates/hour) which would guarantee play.

Note: Drop-in sessions may be pre-empted for City of North Battleford rentals and events.

Court Rentals- NationsWEST Field House

Court 1& 2 will continue to be rented on Friday evenings 7:00 – 9:00 PM for all of Feb. up to and including March 4, 2022. The intention is that Court 2 will accommodate new members and players who have completed the Learn to Play sessions in November and February.

Outdoor Court – windscreen replacement

The City of North Battleford Parks and Recreation Management has confirmed that replacement of windscreens at the outdoor Tennis/Pickleball courts has been budget approved. It is uncertain when these replacement screens will appear, but let's hope for 2022 outdoor season. Many members have also inquired if lighting for evening play will be provided at some point in time. Other than the tennis community taking the lead on this improvement, tennis members have shared that the City of NB Parks and Recreation preferred to pursue this initiative versus user groups. We will keep you posted if we hear more.

New Horizons Grant

The New Horizon's grant has increased our visibility throughout the Battlefords with the New Horizon team planning development clinics, socials and extra court rentals for the membership and the general public. The response has been very positive to all initiatives and the development clinics offered in Nov. 2021 and again Feb. 4/5/6 have been very popular and successful with 60+ participants. Cost for these clinics has been nominal and the instruction provided by In a Pickle has been superior.

Our Mixer held on Jan. 22, 2022, was a huge hit. The word is out! Pickleball is a fun, exciting way to exercise and socialize. Thank you to Amy, Karen, Anne, Zelda, Judy and Debbie who helped organize, coordinate and set up this event.

Please check your email for posters about clinics and any future events. These mass emails are sent to members so please invite friends to try pickleball for themselves. We know they'll love it!

Other Grants

Our club has been successful in applying for and receiving grant monies from Pickleball Saskatchewan, the City of North Battleford and Discovery Coop. Our club has purchased new net poles (12), balls, and sanitizers. Future purchases are planned for additional equipment, advertising material, first aid supplies and cart improvement.

Senior Summer Games (SSFA) – Pickleball June 14-16, Prince Albert, SK

The main objective of the SSFA 55+ games is to promote active living, wellness, and participation of adults 55 years of age and older. There are 15 events planned for the 55+ games of which Pickleball is one event. This year participants will compete in provincial games in Prince Albert, SK (no district playoff competitions are to be held) and participants can qualify for the national games. On a first come first served basis, players registered their names through Amy Williams, volunteer Board Member who assisted our club in submitting names of our members who intend to play within specified levels and age group categories. We wish our participating members good luck, good times and a safe positive SSFA experience.

BPC Board

We will have a few Board of Director terms expire in 2022, plus we have one vacancy to fill. We ask all members to please consider volunteering for this role and make your interest known to any Board Member. You can also let us know your interest by emailing battlefordspbclub@gmail.com . Our annual general meeting will be held in April/May 2022 where positions are confirmed.



Pickleball Mixer January 22, 2022





<https://www.pickleballsaskatchewan.ca>



<https://pickleballcanada.org>

