

INSTRUCTORS GROUP REPORT

It has been another very busy year for our YPA Instructors group.

Pickleball continues to grow at a fast rate in the Yukon. The demand for lessons at the Canada Games Centre in Whitehorse continues with waitlists for all of our classes. Community and School Clinics are conducted when time and instructor availability permits.

Last year YPA had to prioritize where to put our instructors and decided on:

- beginner courses through the Canada Games Centre (CGC),
- YPA members skills/drills sessions,
- community outreach
- school clinics

Most YPA Instructors now have many hours of instructing completed and are competent at delivering our Introduction and Fundamentals programs. In addition, most Instructors help to deliver the skills and drills sessions for our Facilitated Round Robins.

BEGINNER COURSES:

Introduction to Pickleball at the CGC

Our 2-hour Introduction to Pickleball course is designed for beginners and is offered in partnership with the CGC. We have been leading 2-3 sessions each season and from April 2023 to March 2024 we have led 10 introduction classes (80 people). They are always full and consistently have a long waitlist. CGC costs have been kept low at \$15 for a 2-hour session.

After completion of the Introduction session, many participants are able to join into the CC drop-in programs and/or attend the YPA Novice RR's.

Typically, over the summer, YPA does not teach Introductions classes for the CGC. The instructors take a bit of a break and their time is focused on the YPA members clinics, the kids summer camp and when possible, will lead community clinics. Last summer, we were aware of a number of community members who were very disappointed to learn they would have to wait until the Fall to take an introductory session- in response, YPA held one Introduction to Pickleball session at Elijah Smith School. There were 12 participants. Participants were required to purchase a YPA membership (for insurance) and YPA charged a small fee of \$5 for this session.

Eventually YPA would like to schedule and offer Introduction sessions ourselves, but as participants would need to first purchase a YPA/PC membership; this increases the costs for their first session.

Youth Introduction to Pickleball at the CGC

Fall 2023- In collaboration with the CGC Youth programs coordinator, YPA instructors led Introduction to Pickleball sessions for youth. There were two groups (ages 10 - 13 yrs. old), each group had 3 classes of 1 hour per class. The kids who participated enjoyed the sessions and wanted to see additional classes added.



Pickleball Fundamentals at the CGC

Pickleball Fundamentals is a series of 3 classes where skills introduced in Introduction to Pickleball are reinforced. Participants must first complete the Introduction class in order to register for Fundamentals.

Since April 2023: YPA has delivered 6 Pickleball Fundamentals sessions at the CGC, with one more scheduled for April 2024.

YPA MEMBER CLINICS

Shot Clinics:

Our membership has consistently shown interest and support of our instructor led skills clinics. Shot Clinics are always full. Shot Clinics offer player skill development as well as providing Instructor skill development.

From April 2023 to December 2023, YPA Instructors have led weekly/twice monthly skills and drills sessions at Takhini School, as well as Skills and Drills sessions outdoor at Mt Mac.

Some sessions included the use of our ball machine and proved to be popular. Unfortunately, we had some mechanical issues with the ball machine (battery and electrical) that limited its use. These have now been resolved. The issue now is gym space and our limited programming time to allow scheduling specifically for ball machine drills.

Facilitated Round Robins:

During the Fall of 2023, YPA offered a Facilitated Novice RR and feedback from participants was positive. YPA then expanded the skill sessions to include a weekly 2 hours session, alternating between Intermediate level and Novice levels. Skill development has now progressed to weekly Facilitated RRs for all four skill levels; Advanced, Strong-Int, Intermediate and Novice. These sessions continue to be well attended.

COMMUNITY OUTREACH

As part of the YPA's goal to promote pickleball to all ages throughout the Territory, YPA works in collaboration with the CGC in Whitehorse, schools and rural communities to provide opportunities to share the game of pickleball with as many Yukoners as we can.

Yukon Pickleball Day Sunday May 7, 2023

YPA partnered with the CGC to host our second annual **YUKON PICKLEBALL DAY** on May 7th, 2023. The purpose of this event was to showcase pickleball to the community and to demonstrate how pickleball is a sport for all ages!

Four sessions were held including a

- Family "See it, Try it",
- an Educators Clinic,
- a Youth "See it, Try it", and,
- a Corporate Challenge event.



All events were full (we included adults in the Youth session when registrations for this demographic were low).

The Corporate Challenge was open to 12 doubles teams and this event proved to be very successful.

YPA thanks all of the instructors and helpers (Colleen, Hector, Walter, Brenda, Bryan, Sheila, Gord, Kat, Paul, Sue S, Anne-Marie, Shannon, Karen L, Gisela, Caroline, Karen R, Don E) for all of their volunteer time

City of Whitehorse- Finance department- clinic- Introduction to Pickleball

April 2023- By request, YPA led Introduction to Pickleball session for staff from COW Finance Department. The session was attended by 10 participants.

Summer Racquet Sports Camp-2023

YPA instructors led pickleball sessions for 2 groups of young players as part a Racquet Sports summer camp hosted by Tennis Yukon. Pickleball was one of 5 different racquet sports offered during the week-long camps.

Week one- 3 sessions of 1 hour per session- kids 6-9 years old, and,

Week two- 3 sessions of 1 hour per session-kids 10-13 years old.

Schools

School clinics were held at St Francis of Assisi schools for two different grades.

March 2023- A 2-hour introduction to pickleball session was held for one grade 10 class, with 11 students. Following the clinic the teacher reported that the school held their 1st Annual PE 10 Pickleball Championships.

April 2023- An Introductions to Pickleball session was held for 1 hour for a Life skills class of 7 students.

Requests have also come from Holy Family School and Christ the King School to deliver clinics. However, these classes are very large (22-33 students), and 30 min gym times. As time permits, YPA will work with schools to determine the best way to assist with introducing and developing pickleball in the schools.

Rural Community Clinics

There were no rural community clinics in 2023.



Recreation And Parks Association of Yukon (RPAY) Conference- Carmacks October 2023

Recreation Directors in Yukon gather yearly for their annual professional development conference. This year the conference was held in Carmacks. Brenda and Bryan attended on behalf of YPA to speak (and provide a power point presentation) about the Yukon Pickleball Association, what we do, and what we can do for communities to help introduce the game in their communities.

In addition, Brenda and Bryan delivered the YPA Introductory Clinic for Recreation Directors and provided copies of our lesson plan. YPA saw this as a great opportunity to promote the growth of pickleball in the communities.

Instructor Training

Instructor training sessions were held as needed for Instructors to review and refine various session plans. New lesson plans were created for youth sessions, and some Introduction sessions were modified to allow for differences in time available (1 hour session, 1.5-hour session).

WHATS COMING IN 2024!!!!:

➔ Canada Games Centre-Spring 2024

- April 4, 11, 18- Introduction to Pickleball- 3 sessions (2 hour each)
- May 8, 15, 22 -Pickleball Fundamentals- 1 group (3 classes)

➔ YUKON PICKLEBALL DAY TBD 2024

Details are currently being discussed. The YPA Board is very busy and we are not sure if we can fit this in! If we do, we will need help from our members so please think about joining us with this community event!!

➔ SCHOOLS/COMMUNITY

- March 12- IRON women- girls running camp- Introduction to Pickleball 2 groups (x 1.5 hours)
- April 5- St Francis of Assisi school -GRADE 10 CLINIC

➔ YPA MEMBERS-PLAYER DEVELOPMENT

- Continue weekly Facilitated Round Robins for all 4 levels (Advanced, Strong-Intermediate, Intermediate, Novice) with drills



➔ MARK RENNESON SESSIONS-2024

- Mark Rennesson, lead Instructor for Pickleball Canada Instructor training will be returning to Whitehorse May 31- June 2, 2024 for a variety of sessions.
 - **May 31**- player development session for the Canada 55+ Games team going to the Games in Quebec City in August 2024.
 - **June 1**- Level 1 NCCP Instructor training
 - **June 2**- YPA members skill development clinics

➔ SUMMER RACQUET SPORTS CAMP

- YPA instructors are scheduled to deliver summer camps for kids during the Racquet Sports Camp.
 - Week 1- 2 sessions (1.5 hours each)-kids 6-8 yrs
 - Week 2- 3 sessions (1.5 hours each)-kids 9-12 yrs

➔ CANADA 55+ GAMES TEAM YUKON

A goal of the YPA is to “Facilitate player growth and development opportunities” (Strategic plan 2023-2027) and this includes supporting players who wish to attend Provincial/National/Canada 55+ Games competitions. It is exciting that 27 pickleball players will represent Team Yukon at the Canada 55+ Games in Quebec City in August 2024. YPA will assist with arranging a meeting for players to discuss training plans.

Brenda Dion
YPA Instructor Coordinator

On behalf of all of the YPA membership, YPA extends a big **thank you** to the instructors who VOLUNTEER so much of their time to player development!!!!:

Walter Brennan
Hector Campbell
Colleen Clark
Gord Clark
Bryan Craven
Brenda Dion
Jim Gilpin
Sheila Senger

Funds earned (2023-2024): \$2,010

Introduction to PB	10 X \$50 = \$500
Fundamentals	6 X \$150 = \$900
Youth Introduction	3 X \$50 = \$150
School clinics	2 X \$50 = \$100
Summer Camp	2 X \$180 = \$360