



**1. Membership Renewal:** Unless you joined the YPA after September 1, (or have renewed your membership after September 1) your membership will expire on December 31. You can renew now. We have now created the Whitehorse Pickleball Club. So, this year, when you renew, please select **Whitehorse Pickleball Club**.

**2. Weekly Registration Start Time:** Registration start time for court bookings will change in the new year. You may register starting at 7 pm on Sundays.

**3. Weekly Registration Restrictions:** For January, a maximum of 3 early bookings is allowed. **An early booking is one made between 7 pm Sunday and 7 pm Tuesday.** Starting in February, the Sunday tiered round robins will be replaced by Pickleball Brackets ladder leagues. Thus, three Sunday bookings available on our webpage: 8:30-10:30, 10:30-12:30, and 12:30-2:30 will be eliminated. Since there will be fewer booking options via our webpage, starting in February, a maximum of 2 early bookings will be allowed. After 7 pm on Tuesdays, feel free to book more times if any still are available.

**4. Pickleball Brackets (PB) Ladder Leagues:** We hired Carly Penfold to assist us in getting the leagues started. We will be creating 3 separate leagues, called tier 1, tier 2, and tier 3. We had not appreciated that PB requires everyone who has registered to play that day to show up at the start and be "signed in". Only then does the PB program create the game rosters for that day. It was not reasonable to require everyone playing at 10:30 or at 12:30, to show up at 8:30 to sign in. Hence the need to create three separate leagues starting at the three different times. Please check out the information available by clicking on the Pickleball Brackets FAQs button on our webpage.

**Volunteers:** We are seeking at least 2 members to be "league managers" and two members for each of the three leagues to be "hosts". Carly will train the managers and hosts. The primary role of a host is to check in the players when they arrive on game day, and to lock in the set of games once the start time arrives. Although players may need some support for the first couple of weeks, (a secondary role of hosts), the intention is that players, after each game, will submit their scores electronically to PB. Thus, players will need to have a phone or tablet with data, to submit their scores. We currently have 1 volunteer for league manager, one host for 3.0, and one host for 2.5. If you wish to volunteer, please contact Jim at [jgilpin@northwestel.net](mailto:jgilpin@northwestel.net)

**5. January Schedule:** In the new year we have been allotted fewer court times. This was not our wish.

Tuesdays: 6-8 pm at HVES, and 8-10 pm at Yukon U. (starting Jan. 7)

Fridays: Elijah Smith 5-9 pm (starting Jan. 10)

Saturdays: 10-12 at HVES, 2-8 pm at Takhini (starting Jan. 11)

Sundays: 8:30-4:30 at Takhini (starting Jan. 12)

On Saturday at Takhini, we will continue with an open RR from 2-4 pm. From 4-6 pm will be a facilitated RR, alternating weekly between one intended for 3.0 players and one intended for 2.5 players. We will continue with the tiered RRs for the three available Sundays in January (Jan. 12, 19, 26). See details of the court allocations (i.e. RRs, group bookings) on the January calendar.

**6. February Schedule:** The major change is that the three ladder leagues will start February 2. Details on how to create a DUPR rating, create a profile in PB, register for the leagues, and “opt-in” to play on a particular Sunday will be provided in other documents. These leagues will occur on Sundays, with tier 1 running from 8:30-10:30, tier 2 from 10:30 to 12:30 and tier 3 from 12:30 to 2:30. Registering for the leagues and opting in to play is done via Pickleball Brackets, not via our webpage.

**6. Sunday December 15 Christmas Tournament/Social:** This event was a big hit. Thanks to all the organizers, volunteers, and those who brought food and goodies. We were able to accommodate only 48 players. Spaces filled up quickly. Given that we now have over 200 members, the board recognizes that a future event needs to be able to accommodate more of our members.

**7. Winter Pass** The winter pass is now available and can be purchased for \$40 at our webpage. This will entitle YPA members with a 2025 membership access to all our indoor venues. The school gyms are available until early June.

**8. Memberships:** Our membership continues to grow. We now have 203 active members, with 103 of them having renewed for 2025. Pickleball Canada recently looked at the growth across the country by jurisdiction. Overall, in Canada, growth from Nov. 2023 and 2024 was 27%. In Yukon it was 21%

**9. Dedicated Outdoor Courts:** City Parks has taken the initiative and has identified four potential sites for dedicated outdoor courts. They are:

- West of the Mountain View Drive roundabout
- On the opposite side of the highway from the KK Traylor Park (and somewhat back from the highway right of way.
- Between the Dog Parking Lot and Sumanik Drive (into the ski chalet)
- On the opposite side of the highway from the south end of Crestview

As well, the City now has a line item in their current budget for pickleball courts. This is a first, after seven years of discussions regarding dedicated pickleball courts. The line item is in appendix B-which means it requires external funding.

If funding is available the budget shows \$15,000 for 2025 and \$600,000 for 2026. We assume that the 2025 money is for a suitability study of the four proposed sites, and that the 2026 money is for construction of 6 dedicated pickleball courts.

There is a public meeting on January 13 at City Hall to provide comments to the proposed budget. Most delegates will likely come asking for either more funds, or to be included in the budget if their interest was not. Just a suggestion: what about a delegation of pickleball members going to that meeting to say thanks?

**10. Members' Q and A and input meeting: Thursday, January 9<sup>th</sup>, 7-8:30 pm**

We wish to try a new option for communicating with and getting input and suggestions from our members. We are hosting a meeting on January 9 at the Sport Yukon lobby.

If you have any questions about any of the YPA programs or activities and have ideas to share please plan to attend this meeting!