

DPA Newsletter #2

November 15, 2024



Board Update - Greetings from your Board of the DPA! Despite it being DPA's "off-season", there is no rest for your Board. For those that put themselves forward for service, many did so without really knowing what our Board does and what is required to run our "little club" of 850 members (2024). So, I thought that I would share a little bit of what DPA is about and what it takes to operate it.

Mission, Vision, Purpose – Key to what we do is our statements of Mission, Vision, and Purpose (MVP). In a concise set of statements, the MVP defines DPA, what it stands for and what its purpose is. These statements drive all of our Board discussions, planning and decision making. Our MVP is:

Mission Statement - *To inspire and enable the growth of pickleball across Delta, fostering an inclusive and respectful environment where players of all ages and abilities can thrive through safe, healthy, and enjoyable play.*

Vision Statement - *To be the leading advocate for pickleball in Delta by promoting the sport, developing player skills, and partnering with the City to ensure accessible, well-maintained facilities that support recreational and competitive play for all.*

Purpose Statement - *Our purpose is to cultivate a welcoming and engaging pickleball community, providing structured opportunities for players to enjoy the sport, enhance their skills, and build social connections while promoting the physical, mental, and social benefits of pickleball in Delta.*

Did you know about these things? Some of the key implications of taking on an MVP like this are:

- DPA organizes and runs more than 2000 sessions for its members over four facilities;
- DPA organizes sessions, recruits coaches and mentors to deliver a valued pickleball curriculum.
- DPA works with the city to operate and maintain all of our courts in Delta. I have heard from many people who comment on the high quality of courts that we all enjoy (and hopefully appreciate) in our community. We also stock and maintain the equipment boxes. People that travel around the lower mainland or the island understand what great facilities we have!
- DPA advocates actively for both more capacity for DPA but also an expansion of court facilities. This means regularly engaging with City bureaucrats and discussing with Council to educate them and encourage them to support our sport of pickleball. With the needs of more than 100 community organizations and those of Delta overall, this is a huge task!
- This is very important work and without DPA's continued advocacy for pickleball in our community, our sport will be pushed to the backburner and our growth will stagnate. Mayor Harvie has previously expressed his dis-like of pickleball and has been quick to move against us such as his actions concerning banning pickleball from the Lacrosse box. In

addition, he has repeatedly told us that “there is no funding for pickleball in the 5 year plan”. Please consider the importance of this work and the importance of us having good membership numbers to support our requests for more and better facilities. We need you to continue to advocate with us such as participating in our letter writing campaign last fall and providing feedback through all stages of the Budget 2025 process.

In addition last year, the previous Board ran four tournaments (one sanctioned) and multiple social sessions and play days. We hope to fine tune our efforts this year to match up with the feedback we have heard from our members. This could mean different offerings, sessions and events. This also means that we will need your help. Please consider how your skills and abilities could help our club meet our MVP.

What is Pickleball 2.0? – When you mention your passion for pickleball to your non-pickl’ing friends, what do they say? What is their knowledge about the game? For most people, they know two facts about pickleball: first is that it is a fast growing sport; and second is that it is NOISY! While these things are both true, they don’t really define pickleball and why people are so drawn to it.

Your Board has to overcome this narrow definition of pickleball within our community. In order to do this, we have chosen to focus more on what we call “Pickleball 2.0” which is a more thorough definition of pickleball. For us, pickleball is:

- A fast paced, court oriented game that is accessible to people of all ages and levels of physical and athletic ability;
- Social. Those that play pickleball get off the couch, move away from the tv, separate themselves from their refrigerator or snack cabinet and engage with others on the pickleball courts. How often does your pickleball pastime extend to court socials, coffee time, a drink at a local watering hole or other “outside of pickleball” activities and get togethers?
- A sport that provides exercise and thus physical health;
- An activity that forces you to think, problem solve and challenge yourself while at the same time being social and with other people. This promotes and encourages positive mental health;
- A sport where the court facilities are amongst the best used (and I would argue taken care of) facilities in our community. With pickleball courts being relatively inexpensive to build and taking up a very small footprint, pickleball courts represent a very cost effective investment for the City of Delta that yields great returns.
- An activity that helps the City of Delta Parks and Recreation meet their mandates as defined on their [website](#). ***“Pickleball promotes an interest in healthy lifestyles for people of all ages and abilities through recreational activities”***. As a sport and as a club, we are in alignment with the Mission for Parks and Recreation activity and more importantly, spending.

We would encourage you to take up the banner of Pickleball 2.0 when you speak about pickleball and our club. We would encourage you to help us focus more on these facts about pickleball in your discussions to ensure that the public’s perception of pickleball is balanced and correct. Is pickleball fast growing and somewhat noisy? Of course it is! But, it is also much more. Thank you in advance for sharing this message when you are able.

Volunteers needed – Please begin considering how you can help us. We are working on our club calendar over the winter which will determine our needs for volunteers. Remember that we are a volunteer run club and need help. While your 10 Board members can be good organizers and hard workers (which they have already shown themselves to be), they cannot run the club without YOU! For sure we will need court hosts, people to help us monitor our court facilities, coach and mentor, and help out with events. These specifics will come out in the new year but don't let that stop you from putting your name forward. Contact any Board member or send your ideas to help to info@deltapickleball.org.

Summary – I hope that your winter pickleball season is going well. I know that some of you have started heading out to sunnier vistas with many planning to travel in the new year. Pickleball is a social sport and it is great that many of you get the opportunity to meet new PB peeps as well as spend vacation time with DPA folks. Your Board is hard at work focused on creating a club calendar for the coming season. See you out on the courts!

Landon Kitagawa

President, Delta Pickleball Association