



INSTRUCTORS GROUP REPORT

It has been another busy and productive year for our YPA Instructors group, with Pickleball continuing to grow at a rapid pace in the Yukon. The demand for lessons at the Canada Games Centre in Whitehorse remains high, with waitlists for all of our classes. Additionally, Whitehorse community and school clinics are conducted whenever time and instructor availability permit.

A few highlights from this year include:

- Sheila Senger assuming the role of lead instructor for school programs
- Canada 55+ Games team training, including professional clinics with Mark Renneson and regular weekly group training sessions
- Mark Renneson member clinics held in June
- Mark Renneson Level 1 Instructor training in Whitehorse (May/June)
- Mentoring of 5 new Level 1 Instructors
- The Summer Solstice Smash event
- The Christmas Outwit, Outplay, and Outlast event
- 4 participants attending the Level 2 Instructor training in February 2025

All active YPA Instructors have accumulated numerous hours of teaching and are highly competent in delivering our Introduction and Fundamentals programs. Additionally, many Level 1 certified instructors contribute to delivering skills and drills sessions for our Facilitated Round Robins.

GOALS for next year:

- Completion of mentoring for all new Level 1 certified instructors
- Hosting the first Pro-5-day summer camp featuring Mark Renneson for YPA members
- Establishing an honorarium or recognition process for all active Level 1 and Level 2 certified instructors
- Expanding and continuing school programs
- Identifying a group of instructors who will travel to communities to deliver clinics
- Scheduling regular YPA members' skills and drills sessions (including use of the ball machine)

COMMUNITY PROGRAMS:

CANADA GAMES CENTRE

The programs YPA delivers at the Canada Games Centre (CGC) are an integral part of our strategic plan and mission to grow pickleball throughout the Yukon, including in Whitehorse (for the public and other groups), schools, and rural communities. The fees charged by the City of Whitehorse for these programs are kept low to reduce financial barriers for participants.



This is not a revenue-generating initiative for YPA, and all instructors volunteer their time to deliver these programs. YPA receives a small honorarium of \$60 for each 2-hour class.

The CGC raised the fee for the Intro class to \$25 (up from \$15), but YPA still receives \$60 per 2-hour class.

Despite increasing the number of sessions each year, all of our Introduction to Pickleball and Fundamentals programs remain full and have waitlists.

1. Introduction to Pickleball at the CGC

Our 2-hour Introduction to Pickleball course is designed specifically for beginners and is offered in partnership with the CGC. In the past year, YPA successfully led fourteen 2-hour Intro to Pickleball sessions, with four more scheduled for March and April 2025 (for a total of 18 classes).

Note: Last year, YPA delivered 10 sessions, so we are nearly doubling the number of Intro to Pickleball classes this year!

- **Total number of participants:** 144
- **Funds earned for YPA:** \$1,080

The YPA Introduction to Pickleball session is designed so that after completion, many participants are ready to join CGC drop-in programs and/or attend YPA Novice Round Robins.

2. Pickleball Fundamentals at the CGC

The Pickleball Fundamentals program consists of a series of 3 classes where the skills introduced in the Introduction to Pickleball are reinforced. Participants must complete the Introduction class before they can register for Fundamentals.

This year, YPA will deliver 8 Pickleball Fundamentals programs (up from 7 last year). During the summer months, YPA typically does not teach Introduction classes at the CGC. Instructors take a break during this time to focus on YPA members' clinics, the kids' summer camp, and, when possible, lead community clinics.

Eventually, YPA hopes to schedule and offer Introduction sessions independently. However, as participants would need to purchase a YPA/PCO membership first, this would increase the cost of their initial session.

- **Total number of participants:** 64
- **Funds earned for YPA:** \$1,440

3. Community Sessions

YPA also receives requests to deliver introductory sessions for various community groups.



ECO Wellness Group (YG)

In February 2025, YPA instructors led two 2-hour sessions for the ECO Wellness group.

- **Total number of participants:** 16
- **Funds earned for YPA:** \$200

YOUTH PROGRAMS

1. School Clinics

Sheila Senger has taken on the role of lead instructor for school programs. A big thank you to Sheila for her dedication! This position has allowed our instructors group to focus on school programming while delivering consistent content.

School clinics delivered this year include:

- **April 2024 – St. Francis**
 - 1 session, 2 hours, 8 students, no charge
- **December 2024 – Porter Creek High School**
 - 4 sessions, 1.15 hours/session, 37 x 2 students, no charge
- **January 2025 – Takhini Elementary School**
 - 2 sessions, 42 minutes/session, 20 x 2 students, no charge

Scheduled for Spring 2025:

- **March 28, 2025 – St. Francis**
 - 1 session, 2 hours, 8 students, no charge
- **April 2025 – Elijah Smith School**
 - 4 sessions, 1 hour/session, 40 x 2 students, no charge

2. Community Clinic – Girls Running Group

In March 2024, YPA instructors led two 1.5-hour sessions for the Girls Running Group.

- **Total number of participants:** 23
- **Funds earned for YPA:** \$150

3. Summer Racquet Sports Camps

Summer 2024: YPA instructors led pickleball sessions for three groups of young players as part of a Racquet Sports summer camp hosted by Tennis Yukon. Pickleball was one of five different racquet sports offered during the week-long camps.

- **Week One:** 2 sessions, 1 hour each, for kids ages 6-9 years old



- **Week Two:** 3 sessions, 1 hour each, for kids ages 10-13 years old
- **Week Three:** 3 sessions, 1 hour each, for kids ages 10-13 years old
- **Total participants:** 30
- **Funds earned for YPA:** \$1,080

Summer 2025: This year, there will be four 1-week-long camps exclusively for kids ages 9-13. YPA has committed to all four camps.

- **Total participants (expected):** 40
- **Funds expected:** 4 x \$360 = **\$1,440**

COMMUNITY OUTREACH

Rural Community Clinics

There were no rural community clinics in 2024. However, YPA has received requests for clinics from; Beaver Creek, Mayo, Watson Lake, Teslin, Carmacks.

YPA does not have the instructor capacity (nor interest to travel to rural communities in the winter), to deliver Community clinics at this time.

YPA is hopeful that with the addition of 4 new Level 1 Instructors, this may change.

YPA MEMBER CLINICS

1. Shot Clinics

Our membership has consistently shown strong interest and support for instructor-led skills clinics. Shot Clinics provide both player skill development and instructor skill development. Unfortunately, due to instructor scheduling conflicts, Shot Clinics were not held during the summer of 2024.

2. Facilitated Round Robins

Weekly skill development sessions have been offered as Facilitated Round Robins (RRs), which include 30-40 minutes of drills followed by a round robin. Initially, these sessions were offered for all four skill levels:

- Advanced (3.5)
- Strong-Intermediate (3.0+)
- Intermediate (3.0)
- Novice (2.5)

However, these were adjusted to 3.0 and 2.5 groups, which were well-attended.

While YPA would like to offer more skills and drills sessions, some challenges include:

- Limited court availability
- Instructor interest and availability (due to their busy schedules with CGC and school programs)
- Frustration with issues related to the ball machine



3. Upcoming Skills/Drills Sessions

Beginning this week (March 28) YPA is offering weekly 2-hour skills and drills sessions, organized by skill level, over 4 weeks. These sessions will help gauge interest in future scheduling.

4. Professional Instructor Clinics

Mark Renneson, lead instructor for Pickleball Canada Instructor training, returned to Whitehorse in May 2024 to deliver a variety of sessions:

- **May 31:** Player development session for the Canada 55+ Games team, who trained for the Games in Quebec City in August 2024.
- **June 1:** Level 1 NCCP Instructor training (13 participants)
- **June 2:** YPA members' skill development clinics – 4 sessions

Mark is a highly regarded instructor, and players were pleased with his approach and the delivery of his pickleball sessions.

Instructor Training

1. NCCP Level 1 Certification

In May/June 2024, YPA was fortunate to have Mark Renneson, lead instructor for the National Coaching Certification Program (NCCP) in Canada, return to Whitehorse to deliver a second round of Level 1 training. Thirteen YPA members participated, with 7 completing their Level 1 Certification.

To become an instructor for YPA, instructors must obtain their Level 1 certification and complete 10 hours of mentoring in our Introduction to Pickleball and Pickleball Fundamentals programs. The mentoring process ensures that our beginner programs are delivered in a consistent and comprehensive manner, with all instructors covering the same material in a similar way.

Upon completing the mentoring, instructors receive an exclusive YPA Instructors shirt as a token of appreciation!

Note: Participants who completed their Level 1 certification were reimbursed \$150 (half of the course fee) by the Sport and Recreation Branch of YG, as part of their Coach Development programming.

2. NCCP Level 2 Certification

YPA applied for and received Sport Foundations Funding from the Sport and Recreation Branch to support the next level of training for qualified Level 1 instructors. The minimum requirements for Level 2 certification are: Level 1 certification, active instructing experience, and a verifiable 3.5 skill rating.



Four YPA Level 1 Instructors who met these qualifications and expressed an interest in attending Level 2 training received funding to attend the training in February 2025. The training and assessment process for Level 2 is both rigorous and rewarding!

3. Instructor Development – Training/Practice

Ongoing practice and continued learning are key components of instructor skill development. With 11 active YPA Instructors (+1 additional instructor being mentored), a goal for 2025 is to organize several instructor training sessions to ensure we continue building and refining our skills.

WHAT'S COMING IN 2025!!!!:

➔ Canada Games Centre - Spring 2025

- **March 27, April 2, 9, 25** – Introduction to Pickleball (4 sessions, 2 hours each)
 - **April 10, 17, 24 + May 8, 15, 22** – Pickleball Fundamentals (2 groups, 3 classes each)
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➔ Schools/Community Programs

- **March** – St. Francis School Clinics
 - **April** – Elijah Smith School (4 sessions)
 - **Kids Camps** – 4 sessions scheduled
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➔ YPA Members - Player Development

- 2-hour Skills/Drills for all 4 levels (Advanced, Strong-Intermediate, Intermediate, Novice) with the ball machine.
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➔ Mark Renneson 5-Day Camp - July 2025

We are excited to announce that **Mark Renneson**, lead instructor for Pickleball Canada Instructor Training and owner of Third Shot Sports, will be returning to Whitehorse from **July 7-11, 2025**, to deliver a series of clinics for YPA members.

This will be the **first-ever adult pickleball camp in Whitehorse!** Participants will enjoy:



- **5 days of 2-hour/day morning clinics** with Mark (and a second Pro instructor)
- **Open group play each afternoon**
- Additional activities, including Pre- and Post-Camp socials, and potential Yukon adventures like hiking and biking.

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

And our new Instructors:

Yolaine Pelletier
Lindy-Jo Aston
Gisela Sartori
Anne Milton

Brenda Dion
YPA Instructor Coordinator