

Delta Pickleball Association

DPA Newsletter #7

March 16, 2026

Get ready, get set.....go!

Spring forward! It has been exciting to see and experience the warmer, drier weather out on the courts! Our facilities have been getting busier with this weather. There are still many people away for their winter respites as well as their winter vacations. As people return, courts will undoubtedly become busier. This year will be our first full season with the new facility at Cromie and we are thankful for these great courts.

Please register this year for the club as soon as you can as it is important that you complete your registration. As we have to pay for permits this year, it is important for us to understand how many courts and in what locations we need to procure permits for and early registration really helps us determine that. As well, remember that along with your registration comes insurance from Pickleball Canada which covers you for injuries taking place on the courts. There is value in registering for your membership as soon as possible.

Dash 'N Smash

We are holding our annual Dash 'N Smash sanctioned tournament again this year. The leadership of this tournament has already been busy reserving dates, outlining tasks, and getting court permits. This year our tournament will run from June 12-14, 2026 with a rainout provisional day of June 15. As with previous years, we will be running doubles events in two categories, open and 55+.

If you are a member in good standing of Delta Pickleball, your early registration window opens on April 24, 2026. This allows us to ensure that those within our club that want to enter the tournament can be guaranteed a spot in the tournament. To be provided with your early registration information, please email dashnsmashdesk@gmail.com prior to April 24. Late requests cannot be accepted. For all others, registration will open this year on April 29, 2026.

Most importantly, we need the help of our club to manage and run this tournament. The leadership of this tournament has developed a reputation for running one of the smoothest and best organized tournaments in the province which we would like to continue. We need a lot of volunteers to help us with this. There are all sorts of positions that you can fill that don't require any previous knowledge or experience so please don't be intimidated by this. We can train you on what you need to do. **So don't wait to volunteer.** You can contact our tournament team, led by Henry Lyszczyk at tournaments@deltapickleball.org starting **today**.

Court Hosts

In order for us to manage our playtimes well and to welcome in new players, we need court hosts. They might be the most important role in our club as we depend on them to help us ensure that our sessions are well run, inviting and fun. Court hosts also play an important role for us to get any feedback from our playing groups (of course you can always contact us directly at info@deltapickleball.org).

While we want to hear from volunteer court hosts in the North and the South, historically our most pressing need is in the South in both Ladner and Tsawwassen. If you want to help us this year, please contact Doug Pope, Jun Jer or Jane Peace at info@deltapickleball.org. We need to fill up our host group in the next few weeks as schedules are being created now.

Permits

Unlike previous years, the City has determined that user groups like Delta Pickleball need to pay for permits. We presented a lot of information about other cities and clubs around the Province and after a long series of meetings and negotiations, and with the help of our members speaking up, we were able to reduce the costs to \$1 per court per hour.

We will continue to discuss this issue with them as there is currently a plan to have annual increases in this user fee to which we have indicated that we are against this. Stay tuned.

Safety

Safety is an important thing for all of us within DPA. We want everyone to compete, have fun, be social but just as importantly, be safe and healthy. After all, this is one of our primary goals at DPA. To this end, we worked with the City to ensure that AEDs (Automated External Defibrillator) are located at or proximal to all of our facilities. We are pleased to report that all of our pickleball facilities have AEDs now. We have chatted with the City about potential training for anyone interested in using these devices. Please familiarize with the location of each of the AEDs close to the park you play at. It could save a life!

Your executive at DPA discussed the importance of safety glasses at our last meeting. We agreed that we supported a position of mandatory safety glasses at our sessions. While we will not be enforcing the use of safety glasses at DPA sessions, we hope that our membership chooses to protect themselves with this critical piece of equipment.

Two links that might be interesting for those interested in understanding how we came to our position are listed below.

Article from American Ophthalmological Association

<https://jamanetwork.com/journals/jamaophthalmology/article-abstract/2839640>

You Tube video impact on glasses using ball cannon - start at 43:45

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=K5T8aCQkyDc>

Courts Update

Cromie Park

As mentioned before, we have a full year of using our new facility at Cromie Park in Ladner. Thank you again to our membership responding to the City regarding supporting this initiative. For those that have been out at Cromie recently, you may have noticed that we have two additions to the courts: two additional tournament style temporary nets were purchased and installed by the City. While this was meant to be a test of these nets, the goal is to replace all of the “very temporary” and lighter nets with these at all facilities. If you have not played on them yet, please take the time to try as the reports from membership are that they are virtually the same as playing on fully permanent nets.

Dennison Park

In the fall, there was an initiative to encourage the City to expand the facilities at Dennison with additional courts and lights. Supported by our membership, this was approved by Mayor and Council. In our latest meeting with the Parks staff, they informed us that they will be working on planning the expansion in 2026 with **a budget for construction in 2027!** This is great news for pickleball in Delta!

John Oliver

The City remains committed to do a major upgrade at John Oliver at which they currently plan to have more permanent pickleball courts. After receiving feedback in the Fall from residents, they are adjusting the plans for this park and will come back with some new designs soon.

Reporting Facilities Issues

If you see anything that needs repairing, fixing, etc. at our facilities or any facilities in Delta, please go online and report these items to the City at Delta Connect which you can find online at <https://www.delta.ca/deltaconnect>.

Summary

We have a full slate of events planned for this year. Back again from last year will be some social event evenings, the Dreammaker MLP styled tournament in August and our slate of evening social sessions.

We continue to work with Parks and Recreation and our politicians to improve our infrastructure, processes and facilities to support pickleball. It is one of the most important things we do on our Executive and we need your support by continuing to be a member at Delta Pickleball and responding when we need your help. Our membership has been excellent at supporting our requests for support.

We are looking forward to another great year at Delta Pickleball. Your executive continues to work hard to plan and provide a good slate of sessions and activities for the coming year. Please feel free to approach any of us on the courts to have a chat about pickleball. Looking forward to seeing many of you on the courts!

Regards,

Landon Kitagawa

President, Delta Pickleball Association

