DPA Newsletter

June 3, 2026

Welcome to all new members and welcome back to our legacy members! As some of you may know, I have been away for the start of our pickleball season. Upon returning, there are many exciting things that the Board and volunteers have worked on in my absence. I am thankful for all of you that volunteer your time for our club. Thank you!

1. **Volunteers**

A club as large as ours with as many requests for more sessions, services, lessons, etc. as we have needs help. There are so many things we would like to do that become limited as a result of a lack of help. Please consider helping us in the following areas.

a. Dash 'N Smash tournament – June 12-14, 2026 is in need of volunteers in the following areas:
   - June 11 – 3 more helpers to line courts at Chalmers
   - June 12 – 2 more helpsers for initial set-up
   - June 12 – 1 court runner and 1 afternoon parking attendant
   - June 13 – 1 morning parking attendant, 3 court runners in the morning and 4 court runners in the afternoon.
   - You can find each of these assignments on Playtime Schedule where you can sign up or you can call or text Henry at 604-377-9975.

b. Court hosts – we need more court hosts, particularly in the south. A lack of court hosts is preventing us from broadening some of the sessions that are being requested. It's difficult for us to be responsive (which we want to be) when we have a lot of requests but not a lot of people stepping up to help.

Your help is much appreciated. If you want to help but don't know what you might do, drop us a line at info@deltapickleball.org and we can suggest ways that you can participate.

2. **Court Etiquette**

As the courts are becoming more busy and the public is starting to emerge from hibernation to participate as well, I wanted to remind people about court etiquette. As some of you may have noticed, there are some new guidelines posted at the courts and I wanted to ensure that everyone understands how we can help to make interactions at the courts go smoothly.

It is important to work well with the public and other user groups and how we can do this is to follow the posted rules and being mindful of DPA's permit times. As courts are busy now, please be mindful of your session end times and ensure courts are vacated promptly so incoming groups can get started without delay. Our permits are timed and need to be vacated at the end of our sessions regardless of where you are in your game.

A few simple practices go a long way:

a. Finish play and clear courts when your scheduled session ends.
b. Be courteous to incoming groups and help facilitate smooth transitions.
c. Avoid lingering on or around active courts once another group's permit time has begun.
d. Treat fellow players, volunteers, and other user groups with respect at all times.

Through communication, courtesy, and mutual respect, we can ensure everyone feels welcome and that conflicts are avoided before they arise. Thank you for helping uphold the culture that makes our pickleball community something to be proud of.

3. Scheduling

This year was a different animal from what DPA has dealt with in the past as Delta has required us to pay for our permits for the first time. While this might seem like a simple task, getting two organizations to change how they interface and interact with each other is not simple, especially when processes are new to both. Our team has done an excellent job of starting this process.

The other difficult task that our scheduling group has had to do (besides learning what they had to do to create and manage such a large schedule) is to determine what sessions we need, at what times they should occur and with what mix of skills and abilities. Our scheduling team of Jan Peace, Doug Pope and Jun Jer have done well to both get us up and going as well as responding to changes that were needed and feedback from members.

We are not finished that process of refining as the mix of players continues to change and as such, our needs to changes schedules to match. If you see these people (or me) feel free to provide feedback and if motivated, give them a pat on the back for their good work to date.

4. Competitive Play

We continue to have questions from membership regarding concerns a reduction in competitive play. I did write last year about being responsible and accountable for self rating yourself appropriately. This is potentially the most difficult and divisive issue with all pickleball clubs around North America. I have done endless research on the internet and spoken with many lower mainland and island leaders of pickleball clubs and it is clear that this problem is universal. As well, there are no well understood, developed and implemented solutions.

Regardless, we will take action to provide this for those members that are interested. Our approach will likely be multi-faceted. While our primary focus will continue to be to provide opportunities for our membership to play socially, we want to create opportunities for those members looking for more competition. A committee has been struck to determine our approach and I will be communicating our initial approach soon.

Regardless of what approaches are chosen, there will be gates for entry to some competitive sessions and/or mechanisms to allow more competitive play overall. This means that some sessions will not be accessible to some members. We will not get it perfect on the first effort nor perfectly meet the needs of everyone. We will try things, listen to feedback and make changes

if necessary. The goal will be to create some more consistently competitive sessions at various skill levels.

Like with all things, we will need help to implement these initiatives. Competitive sessions will need competent court hosts that legitimately can play at the level of the sessions. If you have provided feedback and want these sessions, please indicate your willingness to help us with these initiatives. Remember that the role of court host for sessions can be shared amongst a few people that attend the session. We are happy to align with teams of 2 or 3 that want to share the role of court host.

5. **Player Development**

We have had a good start to our Player Development calendar in May with Dave and Anne Kennedy providing lessons. We have also started a series on “mentoring” which is less formal than lessons but includes tips to get better and on-court play with higher level players. We are continuing to offer these in June. Scheduled to date are June 11 and June 25 for 2.5-2.75 level players and June 17 and June 27 for 3.0-3.25 level players. You can sign up for these on Playtime Scheduler with June 11 being open now and the rest opening soon. Please sign up for only one mentoring session as we want to ensure that as many people as possible get access to these sessions.

6. **Summary**

I am excited for the upcoming season. Upon my return I attended a session with one of our groups playing next to us. I knew very few people in this session. This was so exciting to introduce myself to so many new members. On behalf of your Board, we will continue to work to serve our membership well. We will continue to try to be clear communicators as to what is going on in our club. We are pleased that you have joined us and welcome any feedback that you have or your indication that you would like to help us at info@deltapickleball.org. As well, I am also happy to hear your feedback at president@deltapickleball.org.

See you out on the courts!

Landon Kitagawa

President, Delta Pickleball Association