



## **Summer 2020 Update**

Dear Ken Hurshowy,

### **President's Message**

Welcome to the Summer installment of the Pickleball Alberta News. I trust you have all made the best of the weather and the "2020" summer season. In this edition we look at the many different events, initiatives and notices that are occurring across the province. We also highlight the fine young player Brady Hurshowy from St. Albert.

### **Pickleball Alberta AGM**

Pickleball Alberta will be having its AGM on September 26<sup>th</sup> this year by video conference. You will be receiving by email an invitation with the details in the next couple of weeks.

If you would like to consider running for a Board position please email me. We are always looking for good people that want to add to and support our sport.

### **Strategic Plan to be Released for the 2020 AGM**

The comprehensive Strategic Plan has been finalized and Marcel is currently having it put into print. This is a major step forward for the game of pickleball in Alberta as a recognized sport and becoming eligible for government funding.

### **Pickleball Canada (PCO)**

PCO is moving forward on a number of major initiatives with two in particular currently in the spotlight. The first being strategizing and considering the best path to take that can get pickleball to having a national certified coaching program (NCCP). This is a critical component of becoming a nationally recognized sport by the Federal government. The amount of work for this seems endless, but well worth the while. There will not be a decision in the next five years that will have a bigger impact on our game.

The other major initiative is a new technology platform, or also called National System. The National System will include membership registration, league play, tournament play, youth development along with other facets of the game. We look forward to seeing a presentation in the fall on its progress. After the presentation

Pickleball Alberta board will be considering the possibility on whether we will move to the PCO National System or stay with the PAWA system we currently use for 2021.

PCO will be sending out a newsletter called "The Scoop". This will be sent out to all members in September. Watch for it soon in your Inbox.

## **New Board Members**

Over the summer the Pickleball Alberta has had two great additions to our Directors team.

### **Brad Hurshowy – Youth Director**

Email: [youth@pickleballalberta.org](mailto:youth@pickleballalberta.org)

Brad is a recreational athlete who is committed to maintaining physical fitness, exercising seven days a week. Participates in fun and organized pickleball events. Dedicated to helping others reach their goals. Superior communication skills, including working in radio & TV (630 CHED, Global TV) and giving speeches around the city on financial fitness and health & wealth. Focused on being an ethical team player who brings home the fun through training and dedication.

### **Danica Wu – Communications Director**

Email: [communications@pickleballalberta.org](mailto:communications@pickleballalberta.org)

Dani is a semi-retired Professional and National Team Soccer Player who started playing pickleball just under a year ago. As reluctant as she was to get on the courts with her parents, she soon became an addict and played every day, if not twice a day.

She is a strong advocate for inclusion and maintaining an active lifestyle and looks forward to bringing her youth and female perspective to the board to help grow the great sport of pickleball in Alberta.

## **Officiating Clinics Under Way across Alberta**

Pickleball Alberta has set a goal of getting **100** referees certified for the Nationals in 2021.

Referee clinics have been completed at the Edmonton Pickleball Club, Red Deer Pickleball Club and Parkland Pickleheads in Spruce Grove. Clinic dates are being set for Calgary, High River, Medicine Hat and Lethbridge.

For the 2020 and 2021 years, Pickleball Alberta is looking at appreciation polo referee shirts for each individual that achieves their Level 1 or Level 2 status. This will give our referees a professional image for our future tournaments and in particular the 2021 Canadian National Championship in Red Deer.

The first set of officials achieving their Level 1 and Level 2 officiating status and are currently being submitted to Pickleball Canada.

Congratulations to:

Name	Level	Club
Deborah Henwood	2	Parkland Pickleheads
Yvan Boutin	2	Parkland Pickleheads
Gail Hipperson	1	Parkland Pickleheads
Gail Henning	1	Parkland Pickleheads
Dwight Chalifour	1	Parkland Pickleheads
Kirk Jensen	1	Parkland Pickleheads
Keith Matwichuk	1	Parkland Pickleheads
Helen Parent	1	Parkland Pickleheads
Connie Trynchy	1	Parkland Pickleheads

At the officiating clinics, I do not see many high-level players attending. With that I challenge the high-level players to get their officiating status Level 1. It is a way for you to give back to the tournaments you participate in and enjoy. You are already halfway there as with your tournament experience, you know the majority of the rules, and you know what a good referee is and isn't.

To get started down the officiating path you can start the process and find the requirements for each level at the link:

[https://pickleballcanada.org/officiating\\_program\\_process.php](https://pickleballcanada.org/officiating_program_process.php)

When asked for an access code enter AB2020.

### **Pickleball in the News across Alberta!**

Pickleball is now the farthest thing from the best kept secret. Over the past couple of months media has had three different segments done on the game and the growth of the sport.

Tony Tighe, the President of the Calgary Pickleball Club and members of the club were interviewed on CTV News Calgary about the sport and its growing popularity. [https://globalnews.ca/news/7304901/volleyball-pickleball-facility-south-edmonton/?fbclid=IwAR0YxknhuYfwTrDGesuCH3Bk4H5qoTQlsSeB44il4rJbW-AtftdsWM-\\_lv8](https://globalnews.ca/news/7304901/volleyball-pickleball-facility-south-edmonton/?fbclid=IwAR0YxknhuYfwTrDGesuCH3Bk4H5qoTQlsSeB44il4rJbW-AtftdsWM-_lv8) ;

Kirk Jensen, the VP of Sport Development and Competitions for PCO was interviewed by CBC Radio on the topic of pickleball being set up and played in the bubbles of the two hub cities of Edmonton and Toronto. To listen to the interview, press the link below and then click on the download button.  
<https://share.getcloudapp.com/E0uzDD6Z>

The Center Club is a new facility in Edmonton that will be a volleyball/pickleball facility with 17 pickleball courts. For a glimpse at the new facility click on the link below.

[https://globalnews.ca/news/7304901/volleyball-pickleball-facility-south-edmonton/?fbclid=IwAR0YxknhuYfwTrDGesuCH3Bk4H5qoTQlsSeB44il4rJbW-AtftdsWM-\\_lv8](https://globalnews.ca/news/7304901/volleyball-pickleball-facility-south-edmonton/?fbclid=IwAR0YxknhuYfwTrDGesuCH3Bk4H5qoTQlsSeB44il4rJbW-AtftdsWM-_lv8)

If pickleball is in the news in your community let us know. We would be happy to spread the good word!

### **Faces around the Court:**

Talking to individuals of interest and who have and are making an impact on our game. This month we visit with **Brady Hurshowy**. Brady is the youngest competitive pickleball players in Alberta at the youthful age of 12.

Brady began playing three years ago at the Servus Center in St. Albert. His first memory is playing there with his Dad (Brad) and some locals using old plastic racquets that the facility supplied. Pickleball runs deep in the family with his Uncle Jamie, Aunt Tara, Uncle Jerry and Grandfather Ken Hurshowy. Ken being a keen player and a key individual to the start up of the Edmonton Pickleball Club and the refurbishing of the Royal Gardens. When Brady was asked how he could do against his Grandpa Ken he said "I could take him in singles!"

The first tournament Brady played in was at The Paddle Room (now called The Pickleball Hub). There he played mixed doubles with Helen McLeod from the Edmonton Pickleball Club. He went on in subsequent tournaments to win one gold, one silver, and one two bronze medals. The gold he won was with Logan Cassidy, another up and coming youth player at 14 years of age. Brady also received an Honorary medal at the EPC "Battle of the Paddle" tournament in 2019. He and his partner were the only youth players.

### **Fast Facts at the Net:**

- Club: The Pickleball Hub – because there are no restrictions on kid's play.
- Current Club Level 3.0
- Paddle: Encore Blade by Engage
- Preferred Ball: Onix indoor ball
- Favorite shot: Forehand topspin.
- Favorite players: Men's: Dad Ladies: Helen
- Most Memorable Moment: Playing in the Calgary Cancer Charity tournament. The reason being, he got to travel a long a distance to play and got to stay in a hotel.
- Favorite place to play: The Pickleball Hub
- One thing would like to see in PB: More kids playing and a youth only tournament.
- Goal: To win a 3.5 gold in men's doubles.

Major youth initiatives are being developed by Pickleball Canada and Pickleball Alberta. The sustainability and continued growth of our game will come through our youth programs. Show me a successful sport, and I'll show you a successful youth program.

### **Competitions**

As of the end of August all sanctioned tournaments in the province have been officially cancelled. There have been some member cohort club tournaments this

summer across the province that have given some competitively starved souls some relief.

### **Provincial Power Rankings**

With normal tournament play being suspended across the province, the rankings will remain frozen until tournaments start back up. For the last rankings refer to the February 2020 update.

Into the future if your club is putting on a clinic or tournament, please let us know so we can include it in our monthly updates.

Email [president@pickleballalberta.org](mailto:president@pickleballalberta.org) providing the location, date, time, levels, and whether it's sanctioned.

### **Match Point**

It has been one of the most interesting summers across the province with extreme weather patterns coming and going into a region with very little notice. That said, it has also been one of the best we have had for weather in recent memory. Not as much rain, not as much wind, and no smoke! It has allowed for us to get out and be active in many ways, including pickleball.

I have to commend all the clubs and members for following the health guidelines and keeping the world in check within our sport. As we finished up our outdoor season let's make sure to not get complacent and continue to observe local guidance.

From a 2,000 foot view, and involved with the sport on a number of different levels, pickleball can be seen steadily growing on the international, national, provincial and local levels. The government bodies are now seeing us as a sport to be reckoned with. The media has embraced the sport and continues to have incredibly positive clips and editorials on our game. We are in a great time for our sport as it begins to mature and become mainstream in our society. I look forward to watching the level to which our game grows over the next 24 months. I believe we will witness it become recognized as one of the great sport and social activities in our society!

Have a great start to the Fall season!

Zero Zero Two!

Kirk Jensen  
President  
Alberta Pickleball

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