

# Hosting Pickleball Canada National, Open and Regional Championships



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As Canada emerges from COVID-19 pandemic restrictions, our thoughts eagerly turn to playing pickleball and competing in tournaments. Pickleball Canada volunteers have been busy working to prepare for this happy day. Please read this entire message for an update on several competition-related topics:

## **1. Expression of Interest in Hosting PCO National, Open and Regional Championships**

Pickleball Canada (PCO) is seeking expressions of interest from clubs or groups of clubs who want to work together to host a National, Open or Regional Championship in the next five years. Championships will alternate annually between East and West with the Manitoba/Ontario border being the dividing line. The Open and National Championships will occur annually on opposite sides of the country. E.g. if the 2022 National Championship is held in the East, the Open Championship will be held in the West.

Interested parties must be able to meet the following tournament requirements:

- § minimum of 20 courts (some exceptions possible),
- § minimum of 3 days of play,
- § all matches must be officiated,
- § Pickleball Brackets must be used for the tournament software,
- § dates of a National, Regional, Open, or Provincial/Territorial event must not conflict with any other National or Open event held in the same year.

Prospective hosts should check with the local government Sport Tourism contacts as they often will provide guidance and monetary support for these events.

Ideally, Provincial/Territorial events will be held in May/June, Regionals in July, and Nationals would be held in late August/September. This will allow time to identify players qualified to compete in the Regional and National Championships based on results from the Provincial and Regional Championships.

Interested parties will be provided with access to the appropriate bid books once they have been updated.

We would greatly appreciate it if this information were distributed to your provincial and territorial member clubs for response as soon as possible. The deadline for Expressions of Interest for 2022 events is **July 30, 2021**.

Expressions of interest and questions can be sent by email to PCO Director, [Deanna Hanes](#). Be sure to indicate which year(s) you are interested in hosting.

## **2. Recommended Wording for Waivers for Tournament Athletes**

While restrictions are being eased, it appears the COVID-19 pandemic will still be present for several more months. Assumption of Risk and Waivers are good risk mitigation strategies; along with clear documentation regarding what you are doing to create a safe environment.

The attached waiver (below) was created last summer with the assistance of the Sport Law Group prior to the only PCO sanctioned tournament held in 2020. Pickleball Canada recommends you adopt similar waiver wording for any tournaments held until the pandemic has been declared over.

## **3. Updates to Tournament Sanctioning**

The Pickleball Canada [Sanctioned Tournaments webpages](#) have been updated with changes approved by the Board in May, 2021.

Adjustments include providing clarity regarding the various Tier levels and their impact on the Canadian Tournament Player Ratings, and a new requirement that PTSOs must provide written approval for sanctioned tournaments in their provinces/territories.

When applying for tournament sanctioning, Tournament Directors are required to confirm that they will follow COVID-19 risk reduction guidelines that are prescribed by local, provincial and federal authorities.

## **4. Pickleball Brackets & Ratings**

Pickleball Canada entered into an agreement in April, 2021, with [Pickleball Brackets](#) (PB) to provide ratings, tournament, and league/ladder software. The PB software is very user-friendly and transparent with a robust Elo calculation engine.

PCO affiliated clubs have access to preferred pricing; and games recorded through Pickleball Brackets will be processed through its ratings engine to provide player ratings at both the club and tournament level. It will also support the establishment of Canadian Tournament Player ratings (CTPRs) in 2022. Tournament data collected for the remainder of 2021 will be recorded as Pickleball Brackets tournament ratings and used as the basis for the initial CTPRs when implemented. Once implemented, only PCO sanctioned tournaments will update CTPRS while all tournaments (large, small, sanctioned and unsanctioned) will continue to be included in Pickleball Brackets 'world-wide' tournament ratings.

The current tournament setup fee, payable to Pickleball Brackets, is \$13.70 CAD plus a \$1.91 CAD charge per participant, which can be added to the player entry fees at checkout. There are no additional costs for updating the PB tournament ratings, seeding, messaging players, etc. Pricing will be adjusted quarterly for currency fluctuations, and the up to date rates are available [here](#).

## 5. Officiating

Adjustments to referee best practices may need to be made to respect local and provincial/territorial public health measures. For example, where it is mandated that equipment not be shared, or must be sanitized between uses, the referee will not give the winning player his/her pencil to sign the scoresheet. Instead, the player can be given an opportunity to visually confirm the recorded score is correct and the referee will initial the scoresheet. Another example is with respect to paddle checks. This can be visual only at this time to avoid touching players' equipment.

More guidance will be provided by the National Officiating Committee following their July meeting.

I apologize for the length of this message and thank you for reading all the way to the end. Please do share it widely and feel free to contact me with any questions you have.

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# Waiver – Release Agreement

**Assumption of Risks and Indemnity Agreement for Participation in the**\_\_tournament name\_\_ **pickleball tournament** (hereinafter referred to as the “Release Agreement”)

## **Please read carefully!**

By agreeing to this document, you will waive or give up certain legal rights, including the right to sue or claim compensation following transmission of a communicable disease or an accident against the following:

\_\_\_\_\_ *name of club, name of city, name of PTSO* \_\_\_\_\_, Pickleball Canada, and their respective directors, officers, employees, instructors, agents, representatives, volunteers, independent contractors, subcontractors, sponsors, successors and assigns (hereinafter collectively referred to as the “Releasees”).

## **ASSUMPTION OF RISKS**

I am aware that participating in the sport of pickleball involves many risks, dangers and hazards including, but not limited to the transmission of a communicable disease, including but not limited to COVID-19; collision with other persons or objects; being struck by a paddle; being hit by a ball; the risk of stroke, heart attack or other similar life threatening conditions caused by physical exertion; the risk of personal injury including, but not limited to, strains, sprains, fractures, brain injury, spinal cord injury including paraplegia or quadriplegia, or death; loss of balance or control; slips, trips and falls; negligent first aid; failure to act safely or within one’s own ability; negligence of other persons; and, negligence on the part of the releasees. I understand that negligence includes failure on the part of the releasees to take reasonable steps to safeguard or protect me from the risks, dangers and hazards referred to above. I freely accept and fully assume all such risks, dangers and hazards and the possibility of personal injury, death, or property damage or loss resulting therefrom.

## **RELEASE OF LIABILITY, WAIVER OF CLAIMS AND INDEMNITY AGREEMENT**

In consideration of the Releasees accepting my registration for Participation in the \_\_*tournament name*\_\_ and permitting my use of the facilities and premises provided by the Releasees (hereinafter “the premises”), I hereby agree as follows:

1. To waive any and all claims that I have or may in the future have against the releasees, and to release the releasees from any and all liability for any loss, damage, expense or injury including death that I may suffer, or that my next of kin may suffer, as a result of my participation in the sport of pickleball including, but not limited to, my use of the premises due to any cause whatsoever, including negligence, breach of contract, or breach of any statutory or other duty of care, including any duty of care owed under any provincial occupiers’ liability legislation on the part of the releasees. I understand that negligence includes the failure on part of the releasees to take reasonable steps to safeguard or protect me from the risks, dangers and hazards referred to above.
2. To hold harmless and indemnify the releasees from any and all liability for any damage to property of or personal injury to any third party, resulting from my use of or presence on the premises;
3. This Release Agreement shall be effective and binding upon my heirs, next of kin, executors, administrators, assigns and representatives, in the event of my death or

incapacity;

4. This Release Agreement and any rights, duties and obligations as between the parties to this Release Agreement shall be governed by and interpreted solely in accordance with the laws of the Province of \_\_\_\_\_.
5. Any litigation involving the parties to this Release Agreement shall be brought solely within the Province of \_\_\_\_\_ and shall be within the exclusive jurisdiction of the Courts of the Province of \_\_\_\_\_.

In entering into this Release agreement, I am not relying upon any oral or written representations or statements made by the Releasees with respect to the safety of pickleball other than what is set forth in this Agreement.

I have read and understand this release agreement and I am aware that by agreeing I am waiving certain legal rights which I or my heirs, next of kin, executors, administrators, assigns and representatives may have against the releasees.

Printed Name

Signature

Date