

## VRPA February 2018 Newsletter

### Initiatives

Our Beyond Drop-In program (combination of drills and ladder play) on Wednesday afternoons is underway and will continue until the end of March. An evaluation by participants will be conducted but preliminary verbal feedback has been very positive.

In an effort to provide a range of play opportunities, an invitational, indoor league for advanced players is under development and will run April through June at Pearkes. Players at levels 3.75 and above were identified and invited to express interest then a draft to form teams was conducted by team captains.

A score-keeping clinic was quickly fully subscribed and will take place on May 5.

A tournament will be held during the weekend of June 22-24. All aspects of the tournament are under discussion and details will follow as soon as they are available. If you are interested in supporting this initiative through volunteering your organizational, sporting, or promotional skills, please let us know immediately. Many hands, backs, and minds are required to provide such activities.

### Community Advocacy

Thanks to everyone who gave feedback to the City of Victoria regarding Topaz Park redevelopment. We received acknowledgment from both Mayor, Lisa Helps' office and Councillor, Ben Isitt, thanking the VRPA for our letter. The next "check in" is advertised as happening in "Spring" so we're now waiting for the next step in consultation.

The City of Victoria also recently responded to the community feedback in which VRPA participated and regarding appropriate use of a small budget for improvements to racquet/paddle sport courts. In their message, they acknowledged that neither the tennis nor the pickleball community wished to share courts and desired dedicated courts for each sport. Nonetheless, they decided that what can be characterized as a short term solution is lining two of the 3 tennis courts at Todd Park (near MacDonald Park and James Bay Community School) for pickleball.

The new courts at McMinn Park are operational and, despite our wintery weather, have been in use.

### National and Provincial Developments

Pickleball Canada is focused on achieving national sport status for pickleball in order to advance the sport and access funding afforded to national sports. Achieving that status requires that provincial organizations exist. Accordingly, Pickleball BC has formed and is working toward a Memorandum of Understanding with Pickleball Canada. The MoU would create a relationship where local organizations such as the VRPA would join the provincial body and through that, the national body. Stay tuned as more develops.

### International Developments

Balls! The changes seem to be never-ending. Watch the USAPA website for changes in terms of sanctioned and non-sanctioned balls.

### New Rules

After a long period of time the official rules have undergone a significant revision. See the details on the USAPA website. One new rule that has always been good practice and is now mandatory in tournament, is to clearly call the complete score before starting the serve. 6-8-1 before you wind up and not while in the midst of the serve. See the rules changes at: <https://www.usapa.org/docs/ifp/USAPA-Major-Rule-Revisions.pdf>

### PM Plays Pickleball

We can always use more PR and Justin Trudeau provided some by playing pickleball recently. He was quite quick on his feet and appeared to have some good eye/hand coordination. Thank you Prime Minister! [https://youtu.be/JnAWzpJ\\_io](https://youtu.be/JnAWzpJ_io)

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