



The New Online Registration System

While the new online registration system has been met with some resistance from a few, we already have over 100 signed on. Thank you to those members who have taken the time to complete the online form as this new system will help the Club move forward in reducing the administration burden in handling roughly 200 member registrations in a short time. Members will really begin to see the benefits when they register again next year, as all they will need to do is pay for their membership without filling in another registration form.

Our new online system is a secured system that is being used by other clubs and sports organizations, without incident, for over 100,000 users altogether. The Club will not share the information collected with anyone, except names and emails shared with Pickleball BC and Pickleball Canada.

We are a small, close-knit community of players who know each other and socialize together both on and off the courts. When one of our players gets injured, we have mailed a get well card. The Club Directors have found that email and full name are not enough for a cohesive, active group such as ours.

With respect to the level of information being collected, the Club needs this information for a number of reasons:

1. By having good, electronic record keeping that does not duplicate names, the Club will be able to demonstrate to the City and the District that our Pickleball Club is well-organized and follows what other sports clubs do. They give other organizations what they want because those organizations can show that they have the numbers and the organizational structure to warrant support.
2. Names and email addresses are fine for communication, but do not provide documentation that the City and District will eventually ask for. They won't be asking for names; they will want addresses and numbers to demonstrate where pickleball players reside (the City and District are very concerned that they support their residents and want to know that the numbers support that). The online registration system is a simple, easy way for the Club to provide this without sharing personal information. In addition, if we need to send a cheque to a member to reimburse them for expenses, or a refund on something, this system allows us to select that single member without searching through the entire membership list.
3. Birthdates and gender are collected by every other sport organization. The Club will be able to use this information to breakdown demographics of our members. This is important for showing (at least for now), that pickleball is enjoyed by active seniors who need better facilities. The Club can also use this information as we grow larger to set up age-group play, gender play, league play, tournaments, etc.
4. Level of play or experience is important for the Club to be able to demonstrate to the Rec Commission that they should support us by giving us more level play so everyone can have more fun. It also helps us in making sure that people who enter a Club sponsored tournament do so at the appropriate level.

5. Asking for volunteer choices will make running Club events much easier for finding volunteers. These tasks need to be shared by the Club as a whole, and not always be undertaken by the same volunteers each time the Club hosts an event.

Ultimately, we hope to persuade the City and District that we are a well-run organization and sport that needs better and unique outdoor facilities; we need data to do that. Eventually, that might also mean a fully dedicated indoor facility that could be run for pickleball the same as is done for the NV Tennis Centre.

NOTE: Tennis can show they have over 2000 members and that doesn't include people who play tennis at their neighbourhood courts. They get what they ask for because they have a long history of working with the City and the District and can demonstrate they represent a large number; we are working towards that.