



Newsletter – May 2022

A very big welcome to our many new members. We look forward to seeing you on the courts.

Here are the latest updates on what's been happening over the past few months.

Beginner Lessons

Beginner lessons at North Saanich Middle School are finished until next September. They were oversubscribed and very successful. Thanks to Roger Fox and his team of volunteers. We are looking for a volunteer to coordinate the lessons for September/October. There will be many people available to assist with this job. We need to know by the end of month. Please email us at sanpenpickle@gmail.com if you are interested.

Open House

SPPA is hosting an open house at Brentwood Hall on June 4 from 2:00 to 4:00. This is for any community members wanting to know more about the sport and a chance to give it a try. Thanks to Rosemary Harrison and John Forte for organizing. Please spread the word. More information is available at: [Home | SPPA](#) (saanichpeninsulapickleballassociation.com)

Municipal Facility Information

The hours will remain the same at Wain Park courts. North Saanich staff are refining cost estimates for timed locks to curb out of hours play. In the long term, they are also investigating other locations for courts. The mayor thanked the public for their letters. There was much discussion at the council meeting regarding the personal nature of a few letters and they ask players to respect neighbours.

The Airport Authority did not approve the use of Rotary Park for pickleball courts.

We are currently investigating courts at Blue Heron Park. This is a proposal from several years ago that is being revived due to the difficulty in locating courts next to housing. We will continue liaison with the community groups involved and keep members informed as it progresses. So far it is very hopeful.

We approached Stelly's School about using their tennis courts for pickleball. They wanted upwards of \$10,000 for play in the summer months only. Also, there was no option to lower the tennis nets. The SPPA executive voted against this proposal.

The Peninsula Recreation Commission has completed their five year strategic plan. Here is the section on pickleball:

Pickleball

Play a leadership role in helping to better understand indoor and outdoor pickleball needs and determine the best future course(s) of action.

A7: Conduct a pickleball strategy to further explore and understand participation levels, trends, and future infrastructure needs (and the best approaches for meeting these needs). ST

- Pickleball is an emerging sport and there are indications of demand for more infrastructure to support the sports growth in popularity.
- Further clarity is needed to understand the best locations for pickleball courts, the pros and cons of dedicated vs multi-use courts, the scale of court facilities needed, and the responsibility for providing

Pickleball Recycling

Pickleballs cannot go in the blue box for recycling. There have been some creative uses for broken pickleballs over the years. Some people use them to line the bottom of large planters. I have listed another solution below. If there is a volunteer to organize a collection and drop off please email us at sanpenpickle@gmail.com.

Hard / rigid plastics (pickleballs, etc.) and other materials can be dropped off once a month at various locations throughout the region (Reynolds Secondary to name just one). Done by a private recycling company, a small charge applies: as of Jan. 2022: \$8. for a large bag / 38" x 48" (this would hold dozens of balls). For drop off locations and days / times check with: [PMD Recycling Solutions](#) / Phone: 250-893-8383.

Sincerely,

SPPA Executive

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<https://www.saanichpeninsulapickleballassociation.com>

