



**March 10th 2026 Board Meeting Minutes
6:00pm – 6:30pm PDT (now permanent)**

Agenda

Blair Morton		Sharon MacDonald	
Doug McKay		Holger Schwichtenberg	
Rick Folk		David Snell	
Susan Inkman		Heather Hood	Absent
Rajat Verma			
Robin D’Abreo	Absent		

Agenda:

1. Quorum
2. Call to Order 6pm
3. Agenda Confirmation
4. Approval of Feb 10th, AGM and Special Board 24th Meeting Minutes
5. President’s Report
6. 2026 Budget Discussion and Approval
7. Update on Provincials – Rick
8. Other Business
8. Next regular Board meeting – April 14th **6 pm PST**
9. Motion To Adjourn

Zoom Link: [hGps://us06web.zoom.us/j/85469342948](https://us06web.zoom.us/j/85469342948)

Meeting Minutes

Quick recap

The Pickleball BC Association (PBCA) Board Meeting focused on approving the 2026 budget and discussing referee funding initiatives. The Board approved a \$12,000 referee fund for Sanctioned tournaments by matching PCO's \$500 subsidy per tournament, with plans to consider a membership fee increase next year to fully fund referee coverage at all Sanctioned tournaments.

The President David Snell provided updates on the 2026 Provincials tournament planning, including the \$10,000 PCO subsidy approval and venue construction progress at The Nest (host club), expected to be completed by May 15th.

The Board also discussed implementing AI tools like ChatGPT or Gemini to reduce administrative workload, approved a \$32,000 website redesign budget, and considered creating a provincial referee fund to ensure all games at sanctioned tournaments are fully refereed.

Next steps

- Suzi: Follow up with Pickleball Canada contacts (e.g. Elizabeth or Barry) regarding the status and payment of the \$15,000 AYPBC program funds and send a reminder if needed.
- Mel: Post the approved minutes (including AGM and special board meeting minutes) on the PBCA website.
- Rajat: Prepare a submission/article on DUPR issues and the extension for the upcoming Newsletter, to be included in the Coach's Corner section.
- David and Suzi: Complete and circulate the updated AYPBC budget by tomorrow.
- Sharon: Send out the official call for referees for the provincials to certified and Level 2 referees in BC, and then to Alberta if needed.
- David, Sharon, Rick, and Robin: Begin planning the 2026 Provincial Team selection process, including consideration of holding a special event at the provincials and using the \$500 per player budgeted for this purpose.

- Blair: Participate in upcoming discussions with Barry and David regarding private club Affiliate/Associate agreements.
- David: Share details of the new PCO insurance bulletin covering for-profit and private clubs with the board once released.
- Suzi: Update the budget to reflect the increase of the Sanctioned tournament referee program from \$5,000 to \$12,000, specifying funds must be used for referees and match PCO's \$500 subsidy.
- All board members: Consider and prepare to discuss at the next meeting a potential \$2.50 membership fee increase to support a referee fund for fully refereed Sanctioned tournaments.
- Suzi (as Treasurer): Develop logistics/administration for potential future referee fund disbursement (to be discussed at next meeting).
- Rick: Forward construction update and pictures for the provincials venue to interested board members upon request.
- David: Add discussion of potential \$2.50 membership fee increase to the agenda for the next board meeting (April 14th).

Summary

PBCA Board Meeting Updates and Call To Order

The Board meeting was called to order with a quorum present. David, as president of PBCA and as outlined in the Bylaws, acted as Chair and declared the meeting properly constituted. The Board discussed the implementation of daylight saving time and its potential impact on morning activities, with some members expressing concerns about the darker winter mornings. They also noted the use of AI Companion for recording the meeting and creating minutes, which would reduce the chair's workload for Board meetings, AGMs, and Special Board meetings.

Board Meeting Budget and Updates

The board meeting covered several key updates and approvals. David announced that Heather was absent due to her father's illness, while Robin was attending Nationals with his volleyball team. The Board unanimously approved the 2026 budget with minor changes, and Rajat pointed out a correction needed for the February 10th meeting minutes. David reported that the provincials application

for a \$10,000 PCO subsidy had been approved, with funds to be received by The Nest before the tournament and refunded afterward. The Board was reminded of an upcoming Board dinner on July 26th, and Ryan was confirmed as the tournament director for the Provincials.

Tournament and Provincial Planning Updates

David and Sharon discussed the upcoming tournament, including the need for approximately 50 referees, with plans to recruit from BC and Alberta if necessary. David shared updates from a recent meeting with provincial Presidents, including the due date for the Canadian Commission on Safe Sport report and the approval of bylaw changes at the PCO Special General Meeting. They also discussed the tournament committee's decision to defend their trophy at the PTC Provincial Team event at Nationals, with plans to attend in Toronto. David and Sharon agreed to start planning for the Provincial Team event in 2026 and discussed Pickleball Canada's interest in expanding and administering their AYPBC youth program next school year.

PCO Invoice and Program Expansion Updates

David discussed the status of an invoice that Suzi had sent, but payment was not yet received by the bank. He suggested Suzi contact Elizabeth for assistance. David also mentioned that Barry would be checking into the matter. They talked about the success of their AYPBC program, which is being considered for expansion across Canada. David mentioned that Barry had assigned Elizabeth and Terri to the project. They discussed ongoing private club discussions, with Barry planning to talk to each province independently. David invited Blair to be involved in these discussions. They also touched on the upcoming PCO Insurance Bulletin, which would confirm coverage for for-profit and private clubs. David concluded by thanking his nominees for a recent award ceremony and mentioning the success of their new website and newsletter.

Budget and Newsletter Planning Discussion

David and Rajat discussed including a DUPR submission in the newsletter, with Rajat agreeing to look into it for the Coach's Corner section. David mentioned the need to find value-add projects for the remaining funds and suggested discussing the membership fee for next year. The conversation ended with a brief update on

the new website and budget, which had been updated to include additional software costs.

Website Budget and Tools Discussion

The meeting focused on 2026 Budget discussions, particularly regarding website hosting and software costs. David explained that the website redesign increased the budget, covering hosting fees and a new CMS system, with training included. Rajat inquired about the CMS system, and David confirmed it would be WordPress, for which Rajat offered to provide support. The group also discussed productivity tools, with David advocating for AI tools like ChatGPT and Gemini, which he found effective in saving time, and he decided to test these tools instead of hiring an assistant originally budgeted for \$24,000 annually.

AI Tools and Contract Updates

David discussed the potential use of AI tools like ChatGPT and Anthropic's Claude for tasks such as newsletters, agendas, and strategic planning, with Rajat recommending it as a cost-effective option. The group agreed to try Anthropic's service, which offers a free tier and paid plans starting at \$28 per month. David also proposed implementing DocuSign to streamline the contract signing process, which was approved by the group. Additionally, he requested an increase in Mel's contract for the year to account for his increased work on the new website, and mentioned setting aside budget for new board member apparel.

Provincial Tournament Budget Approval

The board approved a budget for hosting the provincial pickleball tournament, including medals and a booth budget. They agreed to increase the TRAP program budget to account for the five-day event duration, with Sharon proposing stricter requirements for accommodation. The board discussed potential membership fee increases, with Sharon proposing an increase per member to create a provincial referee fund, which would help tournament directors afford consistent referee coverage.

Referee Funding and Facility Updates

The board discussed increasing funding for tournament referees, with David proposing an increase for this year to match PCO's \$500 subsidy per Sanctioned

tournament, and potentially raising fees next year to fully fund refereeing all games at Sanctioned tournaments. The group agreed to consider the fee increase at their next meeting, with Suzi emphasizing they should use existing budget funds rather than raising fees immediately. Rick reported that the Nest facility construction would be complete by May 15th, allowing for the provincials to proceed as planned.

Motion To Adjourn

As there was no other business tabled for discussion, Holger presented a Motion to Adjourn which was approved unanimously at 7:06 pm.

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