

2025 NBPC Directors Report

April 20, 2025

Your board has been very busy during the off season preparing for this year's play. Here is a report on some of what we've been up to:

GROUP NAMES: The club will continue to have four tiers of Groups, but the Groups have been re-named to (instead of Groups 1 through 4) Rec-1, Rec-2, Comp-1, and Comp-4 respectively (and these new Group names are meant to reflect that the first two Groups are primarily recreational while the upper two Groups have an increasingly greater focus on competitive play).

SCHEDULE: As you will have noticed, the club's play schedule contains some new types of sessions, and these have been introduced in an attempt to improve the participation levels, and to offer more choices, based on membership feedback. Also, as some club members are still working, or have other daytime commitments, the club has secured an additional evening play slot. Our schedule now has evening playing slots available on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays. These sessions have been set up to give evening playing opportunities to all four of our playing groups. Like last year, your exec will monitor the use of all time slots, and will adjust the court assignments based on actual usage over time.

TYPES OF PLAY:

Open Play: We are once again scheduling Open Play sessions, which are available for sign-up by any club member regardless of their own group assignment. Open Play is being tried again in an effort to increase the sense of community within the club and to broaden the individual player experience. To foster this during Open Play, we are going to use a "Paddles Up" player-rotation format known as "4 on, 4 off, two racks", sometimes called "Gold and Silver". Under this system, after each game, winners split and put their paddles in the queue for the next "winners" game, and losers split and put their paddles in the queue for the next "losers" game. This system typically results in each player playing with and against a large number of different players, many of whom will be at a similar skill-level.

Ladies Play: Also new for 2025 is the introduction of a Ladies only session. Ladies play is open to female members from all Groups. The participants themselves will get to decide on-court whether they wish to play a round robin format or some variant of Queen's Court. For the men out there, if this is something you'd like to see for men too, please let us know so that, as the schedule evolves, we can try to accommodate you.

Doubles and Mixed Doubles: Also new for 2025 are Doubles play sessions. These will be similar to last year's Mixed Doubles but with a twist. Doubles Play might appeal to opposite-sex couples who wish to play together, or to same-sex teams that want to gain practice before participating in tournament events. These sessions are open to all members. The Court Coordinators, in consultation with the signed-up members, will decide whether on-court play will be in a round robin or some variant of Queen's Court. We have also retained Mixed Doubles sessions, which are also open to members of all groups. On-court play will use Queens Court rules to balance off the spread in on-court skill levels.

Reservable: Also new for 2025 is the introduction of Reservable court sessions. The aim behind allowing reservable courts is to again increase court usage by providing opportunities for members, who wish to play with particular other members, to book courts. Any member can book a court for a group of any size, but a member can only book once per week. In introducing Reservable play, it is hoped that some members, who also play at other venues, will be able to bring their play back to the Nanoose Courts and improve our courts' utilization. As a board, we are aware there may be downsides to allowing reservable courts, so we will be monitoring this closely for any adverse side effects.

CHALLENGE-UP: The Executive has recently undertaken a review of the club's Challenge-Up Process, which has resulted in the following changes (all of which are effective immediately):

- Firstly, the requirement for a Pre-Challenge Qualifier has been suspended at this time, but this may be re-introduced in the future.
- Secondly, the concept of an optional “Trial Session” has been added, where a player who is considering “challenging-up” to a higher Group can request a trial session in one of the Group’s play sessions, to get an idea of whether playing in that Group would be a better fit.
- Thirdly, a “Recognized Rating” Exception has been added, where the Challenge-Up Committee will accept recent DUPR ratings (or similar institutional skill ratings) for players wishing to move to a higher group without the necessity of a formal challenge-up.

The other aspects of the Club’s Challenge-Up Process will remain in place, namely the normal process of participating in a Challenge-Up Session, where the challenger needs to score at least 28 points in total in his or her best 4 consecutive games.

- Finally, an “Opt-Down Policy” has been added, which provides that, if, at some point, a player in a particular Group finds that he or she is consistently losing most of his or her games by lopsided margins, then that player should request a move down to the next Group.

Details regarding the Club’s revised Challenge-Up Process can be found on the Club’s website.

TOURNAMENTS: The NBPC is planning on organizing two fun-style tournaments in 2025, one in June and the other in August. We have dropped our competitive mid-season tournament due to the lower level of participation of club members and also due to the sheer workload involved in organizing such an event.

CALL FOR VOLUNTEERS: This brings me to a really important topic. Our club needs more volunteers to organize and deliver the two planned tournaments this year, and also for a number of other club roles, whether as court coordinators or as members of one of the club’s various committees. Please make a point of putting your name down for one of the volunteer roles for the tournaments or for some other club role, and I note that there is a handy sign-up sheet at the side table. Our club can only deliver activities and events with help from the membership. So please have a look at the sign-up sheet, and please join in!

WEBSITE: The Club’s Website, nanoosepicklebayclub@gmail.com, has had considerable work done to it recently. We are striving to make it the best source for the most current and relevant information for you, such as details about the different types of play sessions, the challenge-up process, the club’s various committees, club policies, and much, much more, including a photos gallery. Currently Scott Perrin and Wayne Overton are managing the site together, and they have done an excellent job.

BALL MACHINE: The club expects there to be more use of our ball machine in 2025. For those of you wanting to improve your pickleball skills, please remember that the machine is available and can be used by any member during club playing times. The only stipulation is that the member must first watch a specific video on the use, care and maintenance of this particular ball machine. We know Wade Dawe will be using it during his skills and drills sessions, and Court Coordinators may also wish to put it to use during regular sessions when there is an uneven number of players.

In summary, the Board has been busy focusing on various ways to improve things for all club members, and this should lead to our 2025 season being another great year.