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| **Pickleball Hamilton March 2021 Newsletter** Spring is just around the corner! It has been a long winter and it’s been hard not being able to see friends and play pickleball. We have lots of new and important information in this newsletter including a bombshell decision by the City of Hamilton relating to Hill Park so please read carefully!  |

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|  **Winter 2020/21 Season** Despite our best efforts to facilitate indoor play at either Legion Branch 163 or Saltfleet Arena, we unfortunately have had to cancel our Winter 2020/21 Season due to COVID restrictions. If you were registered, you should have received an email regarding refunds and/or deferrals. Please email jkawamoto@pickleballhamilton.com if you did not receive your email.   |

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|  **Hill Park – OPEN Early For Play!** Thank you to Matt Cunningham, Ray Munro, Matthew Kawamoto, Linda Kawamoto and Haig Saadetian for the hours spent shovelling the snow off the courts and setting up the nets. We have opened up five of the existing six courts for SINGLES ONLY (+ cohabitant doubles) **for current members only** (members from Summer 2020 and those registered for the cancelled Winter 2020/21 season) until our summer season officially starts. We hope you all can make use of periods of good weather whilst always being careful and play only when the court conditions allow safe play.  |

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| **Hill Park – New Courts Update** We are hoping for construction for the new six courts to be completed by June. Until that time, the existing Hill Park six courts will be exclusively Pickleball Hamilton courts.Once the new six courts are completed, Pickleball Hamilton will move to the new courts. On Monday February 1st, the City unfortunately decided, with no prior indication nor consultation with Pickleball Hamilton, to make the old six courts open for members of the public with recreation memberships to pre-book in 1-hour time slots, due to the limited indoor facilities available during COVID.This was a blow to our plans and we are still reacting to the news and having dialogue with the City about securing the use of all twelve courts for special events/tournaments. These discussions need to be solidified in our Lease agreement and our goal at present is to work with the City to ensure the right solution is arrived at for all parties with vested interest in Pickleball at Hill Park.We understand that this news may prompt some members to evaluate whether or not joining Pickleball Hamilton is beneficial for them. We plan to address some questions through a FAQ and responses to our Members. Arguably the most important question is “Why join Pickleball Hamilton”? See the next section for the answer!   |

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|   **Why Join Pickleball Hamilton?** Most importantly, by joining Pickleball Hamilton, you join a wonderful group of people playing pickleball at all levels in the City of Hamilton and surrounding area and can help promote the sport just by participating! There are many other reasons to join, including: * Enjoy free play every day 7am-10pm!
* INCLUSIVE to all!
* Access SignUpGenius to book an assortment of great play opportunities that you want including:
	+ Ladder play
	+ Lessons
	+ Skills and drills
	+ Partner play
	+ Challenge play
	+ Level play
	+ Round robin play
	+ Bring your own group opportunities
* Participate in Pickleball Hamilton social events such as Pub Night, themed and fun local play, and other get-togethers.
* FREE introductory sessions for new members/beginners!
* Reduced rates for clinics.
* Reduced rates on Lessons from two of the top players in Ontario: Matt and Jessica Kawamoto.
* Exclusive access to participate in fun club tournaments
* Participation in inter-club challenge matches.
* NEW for 2021 – your membership includes membership of Pickleball Association of Ontario (PAO) and Pickleball Canada Organization (PCO).

We are also planning on NEW PROGRAMMING once the summer season starts up: * **Bi-Monthly Tournaments utilizing the 12 Courts** – We had fantastic feedback from members regarding our organized fun and competitive Tournaments last Summer. Well, this Summer we plan on having bi-monthly tournaments and as we will have 12 courts, we aim to make them bigger and better!
* **Youth (High School)** are welcome to come and play as members or guests on Sunday evenings from 6 to 8 pm.  We have paddles should any youth want to try out the sport. Invite your children, grandchildren and friends
* **Para Pickleball** players are welcome to our courts. Please WELCOME, introduce yourself and play with any players in wheelchairs. Hybrid pickleball is when wheelchair and standing players are on the same court. You can have 1 to 4 wheelchair players on a court. Important rule adaptions are that wheelchair players can let the ball bounce twice and their front wheels can be in the kitchen at anytime. To see the full list of rules for wheelchair pickleball, go to <https://usapickleball.org/play/wheelchair-pickleball/>.
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| **SAVE THE DATES** We are already planning several events for our summer season! Save the dates for the following 12-court events:* Saturday, June 5 - National Health and Fitness Day
* Tuesday, June 8 - ParticipACTION (rain date June 15)
* Thursday, July 1 - Canada Day
* Sunday, October 10 - World Pickleball Day
* Saturday October 30 – Halloween & President vs. Vice-President tournament (rain date October 31)
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| **New Registration Information** Our summer season will begin on April 17, 2021. Similar COVID protocols to last summer will be in place again this year (i.e. use of SignUpGenius for booking/tracing, implementation of court monitors, sanitization, etc).Registration will open April 14, 2021. We will be implementing a new registration system this year, with more information to come in the next newsletter.  |

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| **How Pickleball Really Got Its Name** Many people often wonder where this fantastic game got its name - see page 38 in the Pickleball Magazine here: <https://view.joomag.com/pickleball-magazine-6-1/0366462001611335898?short&>   |

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| **Pickleball Rule Changes For 2021** USAPA has released a new version of the pickleball rulebook for 2021. Three of the major changes are: 1. **LET BALLS**  Net balls are all live balls.   Balls hitting the horizontal bar of the net system (if it has one) will
2. **Bounce drop serves are allowed.** Now, you can legally drop and let the ball bounce and then swing through. You cannot throw it down and you cannot toss it. You have to drop it, and then you can come around and swing through it. The rules about the belly button or the waist no longer apply when you are doing the drop serve.
3. You now can ask a referee if you are in the correct position.

See the full set of rules at <https://usapickleball.org/what-is-pickleball/ifp-official-rules/>   |

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| **HARP**There is another pickleball group in Hamilton called HARP (Hamilton Association of Recreational Pickleball). If you would like to be on their email list, please contact Romeo Cercone at romeo.cercone@gmail.com.   |

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| Hoping to see everyone in on the courts.Sincerely,Linda KawamotoPresident, Pickleball Hamilton Association  |

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| **Pickleball Hamilton is dedicated to introducing, teaching and growing the game within the Greater Hamilton Community.    We are passionate about --and committed to--providing inclusive, varied and accessible programming in a well-maintained and safe environment.**  |

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