





Pickleball in Canada has been growing by leaps and bounds over the last few years. As the sport continues to attract new players, the need for high-quality instructors and coaches also grows. That's why *Pickleball Canada* and *Tennis Canada's Tennis Professionals Association* have joined forces to develop and deliver Canada's first ever **National Coach Education Program for Pickleball.**

This comprehensive program offers courses, resources, and professional development opportunities for people who not only love playing Pickleball, but who want to help other people enter the sport and to play it better. This includes local ambassadors committed to growing the game, instructors and coaches tasked with refining skills, and even club managers who need to plan and deliver great Pickleball programming.

Recognized by Canada's *National Coaching Certification Program* (NCCP), we offer instructor certification courses across Canada in order to benefit Pickleball communities in every province and territory. By investing time, effort and resources into coach education, this program actively contributes to the growth of the sport on a national scale while also following important safeguarding best practices as established by the *Coaching Association of Canada*.

Below is an overview of each level of certification.

The first step along the coach education pathway is the program called ***Instructor 1: Introducing Pickleball***. This one-day course is focused on preparing instructors so that they can ensure that a new player's first experience with Pickleball is safe, inclusive and incredibly fun. Participants will learn to manage groups, organize play and focus on key fundamentals so that new players are set up for success and go home sharing a passion for Pickleball.

Instructor 2: Developing Recreational Players is focused on supporting instructors who can help existing Pickleball players to play the game better. With an increased focus on intermediate tactics and technique, this course takes place over two-days and prepares instructors to develop in their players a wide range of key skills that they will need as they advance.

Club Pro 1: Introduction to Coaching Competitive Players is a multi-day course which emphasizes further developing players who are interested in competition. In addition to understanding more advanced tactics and technical skills, attention is also paid to the specific needs of competitive players in both a doubles and singles context. Beyond these on-court competencies, participants will also develop important skills related to player and program management.

Club Pro 2 increases the focus on the management side pickleball. Well-suited for professionals who are, or who aspire to be, involved in the planning, development and execution of a multi-faceted pickleball program, this course provides an extensive look into the elements that contribute to successful, high-quality programs for a wide range of players.



Coach 1: Coaching Competitive Players takes a detailed look at advanced coaching principles related to player performance. Participants will use this multi-day course to plan, deliver and refine an extended training program for competitive athletes.

Taken as a whole, this first-of-its-kind program in Canada provides meaningful opportunities and resources for anyone who is interested in the coaching side of Pickleball. Whether it is as an instructor who is welcoming new players to the sport, a club professional giving group and private lessons, or a coach who is focused on high performance competition, our coach education program has something for you.

More information about our current Level 1 and Level 2 courses:

Instructor 1: Introducing Pickleball

- 8 hours (one day) on-court + 3 hour virtual training
- NCCP MED training included
- Pre-course preparation required
- In-course evaluations
- \$289 + applicable taxes

Course Structure:



Instructor 2: Developing Recreational Players

- Must be Level 1 Certified
- Must hold Tournament Rating of 3.5 or higher according to pickleballbrackets.com or submit a Playing Skill demonstration video. Example found [here](#).
- 16 hours (two days) of on-court course time
- Online pre-course work required to be completed before on-court dates
- In-course evaluations
- \$399 + applicable taxes



Recognition of competence

Overview

Pickleball Canada and the Tennis Professionals Association, in partnership with the Coaching Association of Canada, uses a Competency Based Coaching Education and Certification System. As such, it respects and recognizes instructors with significant pickleball coaching experience.

Equivalency

Equivalency allows experienced coaches to earn *Instructor 1: Introducing Pickleball* certification while bypassing *some* elements of the course. While there is still considerable work to do (including online modules and safeguarding requirements), those granted equivalency will not be required to attend the in-person training and evaluation that is typically part of the course. Equivalency is granted in rare cases and the pre-requisites and process are outlined below.

Recognition of competence – Instructor 1 Equivalency

Updated March 2022

The following provides information about the minimum requirements and process for experienced individuals to apply for equivalency for the course *Instructor 1: Introducing Pickleball*.

Minimum Criteria for Consideration

1. Evidence of 1000+ hours of *pickleball* coaching/instructing experience (e.g. 20hrs/week for one year). Examples of evidence include:
 - written confirmation from current or past employer(s);
 - other documentation showing past clinics/lessons/camps etc..
2. An official playing skill level of 4.0 or higher from pickleballbrackets.com
3. A letter from both PCO and the candidate's Provincial/Territorial Association confirming that the candidate is in good standing.

Application Process for Equivalency Consideration

Submit a written request to Mark Renneson, *Head of Pickleball Coach Education* for the TPA. Please email mrenneson@tenniscanada.com with subject line "equivalency request".

In this email, the candidate must include the following:

- Evidence of 1000+ hours of *pickleball* coaching/instructing experience.
- Documentation showing a tournament rating of 4.0 or higher from pickleballbrackets.com.
- A letter indicating good standing with PCO and their Provincial/Territorial Association.



Results of Request

If your request is granted, the candidate will be sent the next steps to complete the Equivalency Process. They will have three (3) months to complete the following:

- Complete a background check (online).
- Complete Respect in Sport for Activity Leaders (online).
- Complete the NCCP's Making Ethical Decision training(online).
- Complete the NCCP's Making Ethical Decision evaluation (online).
- Complete the NCCP's Emergency Action Plan module (online).
- Review the Instructor 1 Pre-Course Material (online).
- Complete the Equivalency Exam (online).
- Submit a processing fee of \$125+hst

Note: If these steps are not completed within three (3) months, the opportunity to attain Equivalency will be rescinded. The candidate would need to re-apply for consideration and would be required to complete all of the steps, including pay a new processing fee.

Rationale for Recognition of Competence Criteria

1000+ hours of pickleball coaching experience. Those who are involved with pickleball instruction have learned many lessons. They have had to work with groups and consider things like how to organize people, how to communicate effectively and how to be a leader on the court -- all of which are key components of the course *Instructor 1: Introducing Pickleball*. A person who has spent 1000 or more hours coaching in a pickleball-specific context likely has the level of expertise developed in the course and required to pass the practical evaluation.

An official rating of 4.0 or above. While an instructor need not be an expert player, having a high skill level tends to make coaching easier as it allows players to demonstrate skills effectively and devote more attention to their players.

A letter of being in good standing. Those who are considered for Equivalency ought to have shown themselves to be professional in their comportment in pickleball; it is important that they be respected by their provincial/territorial organization and Pickleball Canada.