

Pickleball is consolidated

Noosa Today Article by Ron Lane 21 July 2020



Randal Hunt, Vicki Crawford, John Murphy and Christine Murphy

The first major step in consolidating a new sport is of course to build a good solid foundation, set the base and write the mission statement. On January of this year the base was set when the Pickleball Australia Association (PAA) was established and its Mission Statement announced. It is a not for profit organisation focused on nurturing the growth and development of pickleball Australia wide.

It was on February 13 this year, that Noosa Pickleball first talked with Noosa Today regarding their requirements: despite the virus things have really started to move. For Noosa, the sport is definitely up and running with games organised according to the necessary health regulations.

In March Pickleball Association of Queensland (PAQ), became a founding State Member of Pickleball Australia Association (PAA), when they became affiliated with the national body. As a result of this they are now, "... very quickly building our membership."

With the emphases of the older group keeping fit (men and women) in today's situation, this could definitely be the perfect answer.

Unfortunately, as with many other sports in Australia, the National championships for 2020 have been cancelled; at present the possibility of a date in 2021 in Newcastle NSW, is being discussed. Regarding the Qld. titles it is hoped that the present date, late November early December 2020, will be achieved. Also, a Brisbane Open Doubles tournament set down for 25/26 September, is on the hope list. Not to be out done, a Noosa tournament set for the near future, is definitely on the drawing board.

The Noosa club arranged Sunday Picket ball at the Noosa Tennis Club, as soon as Covid restrictions allowed outdoor play. These games are proving popular and have generated lots of interest from the tennis players. NPC has provided paddles, balls, and nets for the tennis club to offer anyone that wants to try playing the game. For more information about the game [visit-www.noosapickleballclub.com](http://www.noosapickleballclub.com)

Regard the growth of the sport, a flyer just released states: If the growth of membership at club, state and national level continues at the present rate, pickleball player numbers, will begin to reflect that of other well- established sports, in 2-3 years. If the growth reflects that of pickleball in other countries, the target of 5000 players by 2023 will be easily achieved.

For those wishing to play in Noosa the place to go is the Noosa Leisure Centre.