Hello,

We want to inform everyone in our club about some pending changes to the club structure that are necessary to avoid significant expenses and paperwork (things like taxes, insurance and legal fees).

First, operationally you will not see many differences from how our club runs now.  The changes we intend to make will align us with La Pine Park & Recreation District (LPRD) and should help us avoid Federal and State tax filing requirements while also keeping the club under the liability insurance umbrella that LPRD already has.

***What will change:***

1) Our Board Members will be relabeled as a “committee of volunteer members”.

2) Our bank account will be reduced and probably eventually eliminated as we move our monies into the LPRD and LPRD Foundation accounts.

a)    The money remains dedicated to our pickleball activities but this helps take us off of the Federal and State tax radar and allows us to remain a true non-profit entity. We will have ready access to our money up to a limit for day-to-day club expenses.

b)    Incoming money to our club (dues, tournament fees, etc.) will come into LPRD and LPRD Foundation instead of La Pine Pickleball Club. It will only be accessed by LPPC.

3) Our club by-laws will go away. We will use updated “Club Rules and Court Etiquette” during playtime, and LPRD will be the ultimate authority for the club.

***Why are these changes necessary?***

At inception, the club was operating under the umbrella of LPRD. However, with the growth of the club, the election of its own board, and with the club handling its own finances, we have unintentionally moved out of that umbrella and effectively become our own separate entity. As a standalone organization, we have unknowingly been out of compliance with Federal and State of Oregon filing requirements. Furthermore, we have no insurance in place to cover various types of liability to which we might be exposed.

That’s the main gist of things, but if you’re still reading at this point and want more information, here you go:

·      If we wanted our club to be a separate entity from LPRD going forward, there may be significant effort and costs associated with getting caught up on tax filings and regaining our tax-exempt status. We would also need to purchase our own liability insurance and directors and officers insurance. These insurances together would take up approx. one-third to one-half of the money we take in each year in membership fees. We feel this money could be put to much better uses such as the long-term maintenance and improvement of our courts.

·      We want to let the club know that we’ve discussed this change with several past board members to make sure we aren’t undoing something that was done intentionally. They have agreed that there was never an intent to make LPPC separate from LPRD to the point we wouldn’t be covered by their tax-exempt status and liability insurance, and they also believe that realigning under LPRD makes sense.

·      LPRD has neither the staffing nor the desire to try to run our club day-to-day. Therefore, while we will no longer officially have a board, we will continue to provide volunteers who will help lead our club activities, manage and organize our play, and be point-of-contact to LPRD. Initially, this committee of volunteers will be made up of the members of our current board. Next year we will work on addressing how and when changeovers on the committee will happen.

·      Timing-wise, we will be working to make financial changes as soon as possible. Much of this will be fairly transparent to our members, but will include changing the Paypal links on our website and tournament system and eventually to whom checks should be written.

·      Things that won’t change:

o   All members will continue to need to sign a new LPRD waiver of liability each year.

o   Court Reserve will continue to be our court time signup tool.

o   Our members will continue to organize and run our annual Frontier Days tournament.

o   How much fun we have playing pickleball!

Thank you for reading this far, and if you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to reach out to any of us,

-LPPC Board (aka “Committee of Volunteers”)

<https://lapinepickleball.com>