

A BRIEF HISTORY OF
PICKLEBALL



Pickleball is the fastest growing sport in the world.

1965
Pickleball was invented in Bainbridge Island, Seattle, Washington, USA by Joel Pritchard, Barney McCallum & Bill Bell

1967
The first permanent pickleball courts were built

Pickleball grows in the Pacific Northwest region

1975
The National Observer published an article about pickleball

1976
The first pickleball tournament was held in Tukwila, Washington

1984 **U.S.A.P.A** formed.
1989 Sid Williams first President.
Rule Book published for first time.

The Villages, Florida built permanent pickleball courts

2002
The first **National Championships** were hosted by the Villages, Florida

2007
Pickleball introduced to **India**

2011-2019
Pickleball clubs setup in the UK, Spain, China, Thailand, Japan, Finland, Holland, France and many other countries. Tournaments were set up in Europe: Spain, UK, Holland, Finland, Italy, Germany, France, to name a few. Southern Hemisphere also introduced tournaments - India, Singapore, Thailand. Australia, Taiwan.

2012
First pickleball Canada National tournament held in British Columbia

2015
First pickleball teaching organisation created - **IPTPA**

2016
First Issue of **Pickleball Magazine** was published Jan 2016.

2017
Pickleball Hall of Fame was created.

2019
APP Tour launched first USA sanctioned tour for professionals and amateurs; Pickleball Tournaments.com listed 748 tournaments!

2020
WORLD PICKLEBALL DAY 10.10.20 announced. Annual event
WORLD PICKLEBALL GAMES announced. Covid delayed..

2022
Pickleball became the **Official Sport of Washington State** when SB5615 was passed.
Pickleball accepted as an exhibition sport at the **World Maccabi Games**

2023
ASIAN GAMES Pickleball accepted as an exhibition sport

2025
Unification of Int'l Pickleball Federation & World Pickleball Federation unanimous Yes vote 14th June 2025.

2024
1st **European Championships** held with 24 participating countries. **England** won.

