

# A BRIEF HISTORY OF PICKLEBALL

Pickleball is the fastest growing sport in the world.



Unified  
World  
Pickleball  
Federation

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

1976

The first pickleball tournament was held in Tukwila, Washington

1975

The National Observer published an article about pickleball

1989

The Villages, Florida built permanent pickleball courts

1984 U.S.A.P.A formed.

Sid Williams first President.

Rule Book published for first time.

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

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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..

2023

ASIAN GAMES Pickleball accepted

as an exhibition sport

2024

1st European Championships held

with 24 participating

countries. England won.

Unification of Int'l Pickleball Federation

& World Pickleball Federation

unanimous Yes vote 14<sup>th</sup> June 2025.

