



**INTERNATIONAL
FEDERATION OF
PICKLEBALL**

**CONSTITUTION
for the
INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION
of
PICKLEBALL
(IFP)**

Preamble

We, the members of the International Federation of Pickleball (IFP), pledge to perpetuate the growth and advancement of the Sport of Pickleball throughout the world. Our goal is to introduce the sport to all global nations throughout the world so that they may embrace pickleball as one of their national sports.

We hereby establish a volunteer organization to promote international play and competition, maintain the global rules for the Sport of Pickleball and provide a worldwide code of conduct with a purpose, core values and a vision for all. We will focus resources on training, teaching, mentoring individuals, promoting and developing the Sport of Pickleball everywhere and to support and establish organizations that perpetuate the Sport.

History of Pickleball

Pickleball is a game for the whole family, young and old. So, it's only fitting that it was invented by a family, too. The game got its start back in 1965, in Bainbridge Island, just a short ferry ride away from Seattle, WA. It is now hailed as the "fastest growing sport in America and now throughout the world. In fact, pickleball can be traced back to three things: summer boredom, missing sports equipment, and a cocker spaniel. When Congressmen Joel Pritchard, William Bell and Barney McCallum came home from a game of golf one day to find their kids bored and restless, they set out to create a game that would engage them through the lazy days of summer.

They wanted to create a game that would be challenging, but still accessible for the whole family. They handed the kids table tennis paddles and a wiffleball, and lowered the net on their badminton court. In the coming days both kids and adults alike fell in love with the game, and as they played the rules evolved (to include the non-volley zone, for instance) and solidified to their present incarnation.

Now that they had a new sport, they realized it needed a name—and that's where the myth of the family's cocker spaniel, Pickles, comes into play. As the kids were playing the new game, Pickles acted just like any dog: He saw a ball, grabbed it and ran away. The kids had to keep yelling at Pickles to give them back their ball. As these things go, the cries of "Pickles, the ball!" became "Pickles, ball!" until finally, everyone was simply playing a friendly game of "pickleball."

Like any good story, there's a lot of speculation around the origin of the name. A more reliable story is that from Joel Pritchard's wife, Joan, started calling the game pickleball because the combination of badminton and tennis reminded her of the pickle boat in crew, where oarsmen are chosen from leftovers of other boats.

Regardless of the origin of its name, pickleball has withstood the test of time. What once started out as a way to silence summertime boredom more than 50 years ago is taking the World by storm! Pickleball may have a funny name and peculiar scoring, but it's fun for the whole family to play and easier to learn than most court sports, thus having a broader appeal to people of all ages and athletic abilities. This is why the sport continues to grow at a feverish pace throughout the World.

Article I

Name

The name of this corporation is International Federation of Pickleball, abbreviated "IFP."

Article II

Offices

The IFP is incorporated in the state of Arizona under Articles of Incorporation as a nonprofit corporation dated April 12, 2016. The principal office of the IFP will be located in the state of Arizona or such other location as the Board of Directors (Board) may select. The IFP may have additional offices at such other locations as the Board may from time to time determine.

Article III

Principles of Operation

The Principles of Operation that are define in IFP Bylaws are acknowledged within the Constitution and will be applied and abided to.

Article IV

Definition

The IFP is a membership organization and will have no capital stock. The IFP does not contemplate pecuniary gain of profit to any person, member, board member, or officer and no part of the earnings of the IFP, if there are any earnings, or the assets of the IFP, will inure to the benefit of any person, member, officer, or board member. The property of the IFP is irrevocably dedicated to athletic, charitable, health, educational purposes and the Sport of Pickleball. Furthermore, in the event of the dissolution or liquidation of this IFP, any and all surplus, capital and assets will be distributed to one or more charitable funds, foundations, corporations or federations selected and chosen by the Board of Directors and conducted solely and exclusively for charitable purposes. It is created to foster and promote the Sport of Pickleball throughout the world. No substantial part of the activities of the IFP will involve carrying on propaganda or otherwise attempting to influence legislation.

Article V

Language

The official language of the IFP will be English. The use of other languages by a speaker is authorized subject to the interpretation into English at that meeting being provided by the speaker at the speaker's cost and that notice is given to the chair of the meeting in advance.

Article VI

Terms

Explanation of Terms

The terms listed below should be used only in the interpretation of this document.

- Constitution means Articles 1 through 19 and any attachments to this document.
- Bylaws means the operating rules for governing the administration of the sport.
- Member means all Member Countries unless defined as a separate type of member country association.
- Member in Good Standing means a member that meets the requirements of membership as defined in the Constitution and Bylaws.
- Notice includes e-mail, fax or mail.
- Rules means the adopted IFP Rules of the sport of pickleball.
- Regulations means the requirements of IFP sanctioning of events or tournaments.
- Words signifying persons include corporations and any other entities or bodies whether incorporated or not.
- Words signifying the masculine gender include the feminine and neuter genders and vice versa.

Article VII

Non-Discrimination and Ethical Commitment

The IFP will allow no political, religious, racial, national origin, or gender (including sexual orientation) discrimination to affect its decisions or actions. People who deal with the Federation or share in its activities in any capacity commit themselves by their actions to behave in a considerate and ethical manner.

Article VIII

Autonomy of Member Associations

The IFP allows its members complete autonomy in their own territory. It will have no part in purely national issues unless such issues affect the international image of the sport, the uniform application of one set of Rules, or in some way affect the future Olympic status of the sport.

Article IX

Logo

The Logo of the IFP and other registered trademarks is determined from time to time by the Board, which is empowered to register the Logo and the name of the IFP as trademarks. The Bainbridge Cup Logo is a registered trademark of the IFP for their premier pickleball events. The Board of Directors will administer the use of their Logo's.

Article X

Authorizing Authority

The President has the approval and is the authorized signatories for contracts and legal documents with the approval of the Board of Directors.

Article XI

Purpose

This is a non-profit organization for sports, training, educational and other purposes designed to foster the development and growth of the sport of pickleball throughout the world. The IFP offers all who desire to join in membership for the advancement of pickleball an opportunity to participate and contribute to that growth. These purposes are fulfilled through the aims and objectives of the IFP.

Article XII

Aims and Objectives

- Promoting, developing and popularizing the sport of pickleball throughout the world.
- Governing and administering the sport of pickleball in a nondiscriminatory way.
- Strengthening the bonds of friendship among Members and enabling mutual recognition in their dealings with each other.
- Governing the sport, from an international aspect, in all countries and continents.
- Maintaining and publishing the decisive text on the Bylaws, Rules and Regulations, introducing such changes as are desirable, doing all that is necessary to uphold them and to achieve uniform interpretation.
- Promoting the highest degree of sportsmanship and integrity among the players.
- Organizing, conducting and presenting international events and tournaments at the highest level.
- Establishing and conducting training centers of excellence giving opportunity to all promising players to achieve their maximum level of potential.
- Encouraging and developing the sport with differently-abled people.
- Employing the funds of the IFP to achieve development and growth of the sport consistent with these purposes and objectives.
- Engaging in other acts or activities including commercial ventures that confer direct benefits on the sport of pickleball.
- Encouraging the formation of new Member Country Associations.
- Settling disputes between Members to the best of its abilities and authority.
- Upholding the purposes and objectives on which the IFP is founded, taking such measures as may appear expedient for advancing the interests of pickleball from an international point of view, and generally doing all such things as are incidental or conducive to the above objectives.

ARTICLE XIII

Member Country Criteria

The following criteria is the bases of establishing the category in which member country maybe designated as.

- Be recognized by the majority of pickleball players, clubs and associations in its country as the definitive national pickleball body of that country and be registered as a sports association with the appropriate ministry or department of that country, if applicable.
- Satisfy the IFP Board of Directors that the applicant is or will be recognized as the governing body of sport in the country.
- Represent the territory of a country that is recognized as such and recognized as an independent and sovereign state by the international community.
- Ascribe to rules, aims and objectives that are consistent with those of the IFP.
- Be a legally registered body or able to satisfy the IFP that it has the legal and administrative ability to administer the sport to an acceptable standard.
- Agree to accept as binding and final the decisions of the competent authorities within the IFP.
- Promote the constitutional aims and objectives within the affiliated clubs and associations and their members.
- Adopt Articles of Incorporation, Constitution, Bylaws and similar official documents governing the conduct and operation of the sport within that country.
- If the country where the association is located has an administrative office overseeing sports, be registered with that office as the pickleball representative of that country.

The IFP Board of Directors reserve the right to change the criteria requirements, but will also honor and grandfather all current member country in their designated category if the country is in good stands with all IFP requirement and regulations.

ARTICLE XIV

Member Countries

The IFP will recognize and approve countries in the following three categories:

1. As Full Member Countries
2. As Associate Member Countries
3. As Affiliate Member Countries under the umbrella of the Continental Federations.

Full Member Countries are countries that have meet all of the above criteria requirements and is recognized as that countries definitive national pickleball body of that country. Have provide documentation or have been register as the governing body for the sport of pickleball within their country. Has established a strong membership base that supports objectives and goals of the IFP and the Sport of Pickleball. Have paid dues or supported the IFP through financial contributions. Have filed all required documentation required by the IFP to meet the criteria of a full member country. Full Member countries are authorized and will have the opportunity to be elected to the IFP Board of Directors.

Associate Member Countries are countries that have meet many of the above criteria requirements but not all of them. Associate Member countries are encouraged and supported by the IFP to continue to meet the requirements to become a full member country.

Affiliate Member Countries are countries that have not or cannot meet many of the requirements, but the IFP has a policy of leaving no country behind and will approve their country as an IFP member country under the umbrella of one of the five the Continental Federations. These Continental Federation are designed to help new countries grow and develop the sport of pickleball within their country. The goal of all Continental Federations is the support that is needed to become an Associate Member Country with the eventual goal to become a Full Member Country.

ARTICLE XV

Continental Federations

The IFP has approved the development of Continental Federations for Africa, Asia, Europe, Oceania and the Americas in accordance with the divisions recognized by the International Olympic Committee. The formation of Continental Federations will be authorized by the IFP Board of Directors when there are sufficient Affiliate Member Associations to justify their formation

ARTICLE XVI

Admission to Membership

Requirements

In order to become a member of the Federation, a pickleball association or a country will make formal application to the Board of Directors or a person so delegated. The application will contain sufficient information to start the full application process. After application is reviewed more information will be requested to help determine the category which the country would be approve for. Application contact information will be available on the IFP web site.

Admission Process

The IFP membership committee under the direction of the Director of IFP Membership will review all documentation. The committee will submit application with recommendations to the IFP Board of Directors for approval and acceptance as a member country.

- In the absence of the receipt of a disapproving objection from the Member Associations, the Board of Directors will have the power to elect the applicant as a Member Association. Such election will be reported to all other Members as soon as possible.
- Application for membership from an Associate Member can be approved by Board of Directors on terms and conditions that it may approve.

Special Circumstances

Should an issue of a country's application arise the Board of Directors will place it on the agenda for next board meeting for view. When the Board of Directors is of the opinion that exceptional circumstance exists, it may then elect to approve membership into the IFP. The Board of Directors may make such special memberships conditional on terms it deems fit and benefit to the IFP.

Jurisdictional Disputes

The organization claiming jurisdiction will submit to the Board of Directors a statement setting out its claim over the disputed territory. The Board of Directors will assign committee to investigate the claim and provide recommendation. The committee will be an impartial committee. The report will be submitted to board for their review and will determine the appropriate body to represent the territory or country for representation and admission to the IFP

ARTICLE XVII

Continuous Member Requirements

General Requirements

Every membership organization will provide a completed administrative information form to the Board of Directors or its designated representative no later than April 30 in each year. This information is required for administration and publication. The information will include the names, addresses, phone numbers and email addresses of the Member principal officers affiliated with the organization with a signed statement that the information provided is accurate.

Every membership organization will appoint the member(s) of that organization to be their representative to the IFP and its Board of Directors. These member country representative(s) are responsible for IFP communication, meetings and, when applicable, representing their respective country at the IFP Board of Directors meetings or other meetings that maybe called by the Board of Directors. The appointment(s) must be submitted under the general requirements above.

Membership Status

In order to retain its membership status, all Member Countries and Continental Federations will at all times fulfill all the conditions necessary for admission and promptly advise IFP of any material change in its status.

Any membership status actions will be notified to the Board of Directors and may be reviewed and changed.

Retirement

Any Member Country and Continental Federations wishing to terminate membership from the Federation must give notice in writing to the IFP Board of Directors. Members will be promptly notified of any retirement and or suspension action.

The Board of Directors has the power to suspend the membership of a Member and Continental Federations which, in the opinion of Board, acts directly against the purposes, objectives and interests of the Federation.

The Board of Directors may remove a suspension at any time. If, and so long as, a Member is suspended, such Member will be deprived of all rights of membership and will not be eligible to participate in any playing event promoted or sanctioned by the International Federation of Pickleball.

Expulsion

If by a majority vote the IFP Board of Directors it decides that a Member Association should be expelled from the IFP, such member will cease forthwith to be a member of the IFP. The Board of Directors will subsequently notify the member concerned. Expulsion of the Member will not result in penalizing the players who were represented by that association.

ARTICLE XVII **Notice of Meetings**

Notice of Meeting for Members

A notice of the time, place, and purpose of any meeting of the Member meeting of the IFP will be sent electronically not less than 30 days before any Member meeting. This meeting may also include membership as described in bylaws article VII. The Board of Directors determines and will inform whom the attendees are for all meeting. All notices will be directed to the e-mail addresses appearing in the records of the IFP. All Member meetings are called at the sole discretion of the Board.

The bylaws contain Article VII Meeting of the Membership which maybe applicable to Members meeting under the constitution.

ARTICLE XVIII **Amendments**

The Board of Directors will have power, on behalf of the IFP, to make amendments to the Bylaws, Constitution, and Regulations. Any amendment made to any of these documents will take effect on the designated date approved by the Board of Directors.

ARTICLE XIX **Rules of the Sport of Pickleball**

The IFP has adopted and supports the current rules of the Sport of Pickleball. The current rules are identified as the IFP 2020 Official Rulebook revised 2020. Amendments to the 2020 Official Rulebook will be revised yearly and the IFP will establish an IFP rules committee for this propose. The official interpretation of the Official Rulebook will always be that on the English language version and be applied as correct rule(s). It is a membership requirement that all members and member countries support and abide

the IFP Official Rulebook. Members that fail to support and abide by the IFP Official Rulebook may have cause for suspension or expulsion.

ARTICLE XX

The Bylaws, Constitution and Resolutions

The IFP is governed by the Board of Director and has adopted the Bylaws, Constitution and Resolutions as the guiding documents. The board shall follow these documents and make amendments to them as needed to help the organization to be the governing body and world leader for the Sport of Pickleball.

APPROVED by the BOARD OF DIRECTORS and made effective as of January 30, 2020

Pat Murphy, President

