



The IPF/WPF Merger Progress Update

from the United Transition Team 2.2.25

Following the historic announcement of the merger between the International Pickleball Federation (IPF) and the World Pickleball Federation (WPF), the United Transition Board has been meeting frequently to advance the integration process. With representatives from both federations and the guidance of an IOC consultant, the Board has approached this process with openness, collaboration, and a shared focus on creating a stronger, unified future for pickleball.

Key updates on the merger include:

1. **Unified Governance Structure and Compliance**

Substantial progress has been made in drafting unified bylaws for the new organization, ensuring that they meet International Olympic Committee (IOC) requirements from the outset. These bylaws aim to support the growth of pickleball while upholding democratic principles, including a “One Country, One Vote” system that ensures fair representation for all member nations.

2. **International Incorporation**

Recognizing the international nature of the new entity, the Transition Board has selected Lucerne, Switzerland, as the organization’s legal base. This decision aligns the federation with other leading international sports bodies headquartered near the IOC, reflecting the global vision of the unified entity. It also marks a strategic shift from the previous US-based structures of both federations.

3. **Leadership Continuity for Stability**

To ensure stability and demonstrate unity, the current presidents of both federations have agreed to serve together for up to an additional year at the helm of the new organization. Their collective leadership will provide continuity and build on the global relationships and networks they have cultivated on behalf of the sport.

4. **Membership Alignment**

A thorough review of member countries from both federations has been conducted. A streamlined process has been proposed to establish a single representative voice from each country, a critical step to ensure swift

acceptance by the IOC. Mechanisms are being developed to minimize conflict and facilitate collaboration among national bodies within member countries.

5. Asset Integration

The tangible and intangible assets of both organizations—including physical and intellectual property—are being inventoried and reviewed for seamless integration into the new entity. This comprehensive process will provide a strong foundation for the unified federation.

6. Momentum Toward Olympic Recognition

The Transition Board’s work is guided by a shared long-term goal: achieving Olympic recognition for pickleball. Operational, Administrative and Consulting Committees have been identified as has a structure that enables an Executive Committee to ensure progress is made.

7. Next Steps

Both federations will call Special General Meetings for their respective members to vote on the proposed merger. Upon approval, preparations will begin for the first joint Annual General Meeting (AGM) of the unified organization. Timelines for these events and other milestones will be announced in due course.

While questions and complexities are an inevitable part of this transformative process, the Transition Board remains committed to transparency and collaboration, ensuring that the interests of players, fans, and administrators worldwide are represented.

This unification represents not only a merging of organizations but a uniting of the global pickleball family. Together, we are building a more connected and vibrant future for the sport we all love. “For the Good of Pickleball.”