

A BRIEF HISTORY OF

PICKLEBALL

Pickleball is the fastest growing sport in the world. Here's a brief history of the game.



1967 The first permanent pickleball courts were built

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

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 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.

2023 **ASIAN GAMES** Pickleball accepted as an exhibition sport

Pickleball accepted as an exhibition sport at the **World Maccabi Games**

2025 **Merger** of Int'l Pickleball Federation & World Pickleball Federation to be voted on 14th June 2025.
Pickleball included in **Maccabi Games**

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

