

A BRIEF HISTORY OF

PICKLEBALL

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



The first permanent pickleball courts were built

1967

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**

2017

Pickleball Hall of Fame was created.

2016

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

2020

WORLD PICKLEBALL DAY 10.10.20 announced. Annual event

2019

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

WORLD PICKLEBALL GAMES announced.

2022

Pickleball became the **Official Sport of Washington State** when SB5615 was passed

2023

ENGLISH OPEN first tournament outside North America to have over 1000 registered players.