

One Federation - Time to Choose

An IPF Op-Ed

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“Trust” is defined as:

- “The firm belief in the reliability, truth, ability, or strength of someone or something.”
- “Reliance on the integrity, strength, ability, surety, etc., of a person or thing; confidence.”

There is only one global, international, pickleball federation – the International Pickleball Federation (IPF) that delivers on its promises. With regularity.

When a multi-point “No-Confidence” letter of alleged “deficiencies” was presented to the former IFP President by former IFP detractors, it was a new IPF that “cured” the deficiencies – with strength, resolve and completeness.

The IPF has worked tirelessly to formulate and put into action a comprehensive plan for the present and future of global pickleball – one where not only the International Olympics is an achievable goal, but one whereby democratically run, independently owned organizations can garner the profits from the global phenomenon of the sport and share them with the players themselves!

When countries from around the world have been presented with our “International Pickleball Consortium” they have without exception reacted positively, even enthusiastically.

But now, the time has come for organizations which have been dual members of not only the IPF but also members of another club - the World Pickleball Federation or “WPF”, a supposedly globally elected organization, which is run by a singular individual - Seymour Rifkind.

Organizations who have been members of both the IPF and the WPF (“dual members”), have been given a deadline to decide which organization they will belong. 30-days following the scheduled WPF AGM, these organizations must decide to which international pickleball organization they will belong – an operational, visionary sports federation or, a one-man apparition – in other words – a ghost.

Why? One word: Trust.

Like all global sports federations, the IPF must schedule programs to support the mission of the federation. This schedule of programs must be linked to resources to accomplish the planned sporting programs. It’s not just a “nicety to know who and what countries are on your team, its being able to trust that your team is there – ready to lean into the tasks at hand and enjoy the fruits of their five-year development plan. It’s a requirement for potential investors and funding entities. Dual-affiliated, organizations that have “no allegiance to either organization” (no

singular trust) will not make investors and funding entities trust that their investment is safe and managed well. There is a “must have” level of trust and commitment that must be made by all parties and organizations.

Let's examine the reality:

On July 28, 2023, the World Pickleball Federation (WPF) notified its members that the scheduled July 30th Annual General Meeting of the Members (AGM) was being postponed, again. The reason cited in the letter to its members was “to provide an opportunity for key players to be represented on the WPF board.” This delay should not really be a surprise, as this same “non-event” has NOT happened for the past five years!

It must be more than a bit embarrassing to even suggest that there will ever be a WPF AGM attended by its members or have a valid announcement, nomination period, or election of officers and directors.

Ghosting country members is obviously a better way to go if you never want to allow countries the right to vote on the leadership of the organization. It is the proverbial way to give members a false sense of trust – announce an AGM (late), don't put forth matters to be voted on or even allow actual elections of the officers and board members, and then, postpone it, AGAIN!

For such an organization to ask for “trust” from its members – well, as the expression goes: “Don't listen to what people say, watch where their feet are going”.

This is why there is only one global, international, pickleball federation – the International Pickleball Federation (IPF). We have consistently delivered on our promises - with regularity.

The World Pickleball Federation (WPF) is a one-man show, begging to be trusted, but is a ghost. The IPF is alive, has an internationally elected Board of Directors, has held two AGM's where member countries have voted on the officers of the federation. The other organization is simply an apparition, a one-man ghost show!

And now, the IPF has delivered on its promises and set up two more organizations with international participants and leaders to make sure that the detailed and democratically themed Pickleball Consortium becomes a reality for all members - continental organizations, countries, and players.

Talk is cheap – look at the feet: The reality of the IPF is that it is poised and powerful. If you are ready to invest and commit significant resources over five years, who would you choose - the International Pickleball Federation (IPF) with loyal member organizations or an apparition/ghost organization? The reliable, *trustworthy* answer is obvious.

Time is nearly up.

Dual member organizations must decide now, or risk being left out of the IPF's five-year programs. The reality of this critical decision is in each dual member's hands. Choose wisely.