

# **Pickleball Sports Gambling**

## **An IPF Op-Ed**

**By**  
**Arvind Prabhoo, President IPF**

A recent development has emerged where the Professional Pickleball Association (PPA) has sanctioned the legalization of betting in ten states. While gambling on sports is not a new concept and has been associated with various professional sports globally, it's worth noting that horse racing historically dominated the gambling scene. Many sports have become focal points for both legal and illegal betting.

Throughout the history of professional sports, sports betting has sparked controversy and led to several scandals. Instances have involved athletes who were enticed to deliberately lose matches or, in some cases, to keep the game's outcome within a certain margin.

The International Pickleball Federation (IPF), as a responsible international entity, has adopted a firm stance against any form of speculative activity, including betting, related to events organized at any level under its umbrella or by its member countries. This policy is diligently adhered to by its member country associations as well. Betting has the potential to tarnish the reputations of players and organizers alike, while also negatively impacting the lives of individuals who develop addictive behaviors related to gambling.

The IPF is dedicated to expanding the reach of pickleball across various segments of society and geographical areas. Furthermore, the IPF is actively engaged in creating content for online streaming platforms such as Netflix. The IPF's governing board is committed to upholding ethical and transparent governance. Every possible effort is being made to fulfill the requirements necessary to achieve the coveted Olympic status for pickleball. The sport's popularity, combined with the integrity and honesty of its administrators, contributes to its credibility, dependability, and integrity.

With its extensive knowledge and perspective, the IPF strongly opposes the recent decision to legalize and permit gambling in pickleball within ten states (in the USA and Canada) through the Professional Pickleball Association.

Efforts will be diligently undertaken to voice opposition to this decision.