

PRESS RELEASE

30 April 2023



Election and Annual General Meeting

Chevy Chase, Maryland, USA – April 30, 2023 – A transitional Annual General Meeting (AGM) was held over a three-day-period, April 24 through April 26, 2023, in order to accommodate the multiple international time zones of 37 member countries. The countries in attendance included: Argentina, Aruba, Austria, Bermuda, Cameroon, Canada, Chile, China, Colombia, Costa Rica, Ghana, Guam, Guatemala, Hong Kong, India, Indonesia, Iran, Ireland, Italy, Kenya, Luxembourg, Malaysia, Mexico, Nicaragua, Peru, Philippines, Russia, Rwanda, Samoa, Saudi Arabia, Singapore, South Africa, Turkey, Uganda, United States, Venezuela, and Vietnam. This hallmark AGM demonstrated its member country support of the Boards’ proposal for a “One Country - One Vote” system ensuring equal representation for all members, regardless of a country's size.

Financial activity of the organization was reported by Mr. Dwight Crawford, CPA, Treasurer, who noted no liabilities or loans. The new International Pickleball Federation (IPF) has also been submitted to the IRS to become a federally recognized 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. The body was also presented the “**International Pickleball Consortium**” organization plan. The **Consortium** consists of a unified group of corporations devoted to the development and expansion of pickleball globally. Member countries at the conclusion of the AGM ratified the International Pickleball Federation (IPF) Bylaws, Operations Manual and corporate policies. The IPF’s leadership is now elected based on the “One Country - One Vote” equal voting representation of member nations. The member nation representatives then elected the IPF’s new President, Arvind Ramesh Prabhoo (India) and 3rd Vice-President, Collins Munene (Kenya). Outgoing President Sunil Valvalakar administered the Oath of Office to the entire Board of Directors on behalf of the new International Pickleball Federation (IPF) replacing its predecessor corporation.

The IPF’s role in the **Consortium** is to define the rules and provide oversight for the game of pickleball, globally. The federation will also certify referees and tournament officials, select rating systems, specify and certify equipment standards, and provide grants and scholarships to member nations, training for players, and certify tournament officials. The IPF will sanction all global multinational pickleball events and competitions and perform the necessary over-watch functions of a global sports federation for the sport of pickleball to ensure pickleball is included in global multisport games, including the Olympics.

This new federation continues to expand its membership and now is supported by nearly 80 member countries on five continents and is growing as new countries join the federation. Information about the AGM including voting results, can be found on the www.theifp.org website.

For the year ahead, the Board of Directors will be composed with the following officers of the IPF corporation:

Board of Directors

Arvind Ramesh Prabhoo, Carl Burnett, Tanyat Pham, Collins Munene, Karen Long, Dwight Crawford and Marlon Schulman.

Title: Karen Long, Secretary

Email address: secretary@theifp.org