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IPF and WPF Unify to Form Global Governing Body for Pickleball

Member countries unanimously approve the merger of IPF and WPF to establish a fully democratic, IOC-compliant global federation headquartered in Switzerland

In a historic move for the sport of pickleball, member nations of the **International Pickleball Federation (IPF)** and the **World Pickleball Federation (WPF)** voted unanimously at Special General Meetings (SGMs) held on 14 June 2025 to **unify into a single international governing body**. The unified entity will uniquely continue to champion “One Country One Vote” – ensuring proper representation for all nations.

The new organisation will initially operate under the name **World Pickleball Federation (WPF)** and is established as a **not-for-profit 501(c)(3)** entity registered in Illinois, USA. It will combine the assets and resources of both federations into one unified structure.

To align with the global sports community and meet the highest standards of governance, the new WPF will also be **registered in Lausanne, Switzerland**—home to the International Olympic Committee (IOC)—and is fully committed to meeting all IOC recognition requirements, including:

- Democratic governance and equal voting rights for all member nations
- Transparent operations and financial oversight
- Gender equity and athlete representation
- Compliance with World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA) standards
- Conflict resolution and disciplinary frameworks
- Adherence to the Olympic Charter

With WPF having been established over six years ago, the unified body is well-positioned to **immediately begin the IOC recognition process**. In contrast to any other organisations claiming to represent the sport internationally, the new WPF distinguishes itself through **full democracy, transparency, and international legitimacy**.

"This unification is a landmark achievement for pickleball worldwide. By combining our strengths and committing to the highest international standards, we are sending a clear message: pickleball is ready to take its place among the world's most respected

sports. "

— *Arvind Prabhoo, President, IPF*

"The pickleball community wants and needs one International Governing Body for the sport of pickleball. With 100 member countries and six years in business the new unified WPF has met the first two critical requirements for IOC membership. We look forward to continuing to grow pickleball at the grass roots worldwide while pursuing our dream of being a full participating sport at an upcoming Olympic Games."

— *Seymour Rifkind, President, WPF*

As part of its founding process, the new WPF is **inviting nominations for Directors** to form its inaugural Board. These Directors will be elected by member countries at the first **Annual General Meeting (AGM) in August 2025**, ensuring that governance reflects the sport's diversity, inclusivity, and global reach.

This unification marks a transformative step in the evolution of pickleball on the world stage, laying a strong foundation for growth, legitimacy, and global recognition.

Finally, with true democratic representation & governance on the world stage.

Pickleball Wins!

Media Contacts:

Marlon Schulman, Business/Legal Advisor – IPF.

advisor@theipf.org

Tel: +1 323 304 3804

Karen Mitchell, Vice President – WPF.

karen@worldpickleballfederation.org

Tel: +44 773 9739056