



## International Pickleball Federation, Inc.

4445 Willard Avenue, Suite 600

Chevy Chase, MD 20815-3786

<https://theipf.org>

### Historic Pickleball Merger Nears Completion

**Chevy Chase, Maryland, USA – February 1<sup>st</sup>, 2025** – The global pickleball community is on the brink of a major transformation as the merger between the International Pickleball Federation (IPF) and the World Pickleball Federation (WPF) nears completion. This unification represents a pivotal step in solidifying pickleball's place on the international sports stage, with aspirations to achieve Olympic recognition.

A dedicated transition team has been steering the process, ensuring a smooth consolidation of the two organizations. The team comprises two Board members from each federation—Marlon Schulman and Dwight Crawford from IPF, alongside Karen Mitchell and Steve Kuhn from WPF—guided by independent consultant Mike Jacki, a seasoned expert in sports administration with extensive International Olympic Committee (IOC) experience.

With significant progress made, the next milestone in the process is the convening of Special General Meetings for both organizations, where members will formally approve the merger. This will be followed by a joint Annual General Meeting (AGM), during which member nations will have the opportunity to nominate and elect candidates for the newly formed Board of Directors.

A key recommendation from the transition team is to establish the newly merged entity in Lausanne, Switzerland, and to implement a new set of bylaws aligned with IOC standards from its inception. This strategic move not only distinguishes the new organization from its predecessors—historically based in the United States—but also signals a clear intention to seek IOC recognition for pickleball at the earliest opportunity.

In preparation for the transition, a whitepaper has been drafted to guide member nations through the membership restructuring process. A crucial aspect of this restructuring involves ensuring that each country is represented by a single National Governing Body (NGB), formally recognized either by the government or, where official recognition is premature, by the nation's player base. This streamlined approach aligns with IOC expectations and strengthens pickleball's case for Olympic inclusion.

The transition team remains steadfast in its commitment to uniting the global pickleball community under a single, well-organized governing body. This historic merger is not just about administrative realignment—it is about positioning pickleball for a future on the world's biggest sporting stage.

Stay tuned for further updates as the final steps toward unification unfold!

- Marlon Schulman & Karen Mitchell  
The United Transition Team

