



**Meridian Valley Country Club  
Pickleball History of the Game**

**1965**

After playing golf one Saturday during the summer, Joel Pritchard, congressman from Washington State and Bill Bell, successful businessman, returned to Pritchard's home on Bainbridge Island, WA (near Seattle) to find their families sitting around with nothing to do. The property had an old badminton court so Pritchard and Bell looked for some badminton equipment and could not find a full set of rackets. They improvised and started playing with ping-pong paddles and a perforated plastic ball. At first they placed the net at badminton height of 60 inches and volleyed the ball over the net. As the weekend progressed, the players found that the ball bounced well on the asphalt surface and soon the net was lowered to 36 inches. The following weekend, Barney McCallum was introduced to the game at Pritchard's home. Soon, the three men created rules, relying heavily on badminton. They kept in mind the original purpose, which was to provide a game that the whole family could play together.



Rep. Joel Pritchard

**1967**

The first permanent pickleball court was constructed in the backyard of Joel Pritchard's friend and neighbor, Bob O'Brian.

**1972**

A corporation was formed to protect the creation of this new sport.



Original Pickleball Court

**1975**

The National Observer published an article about pickleball followed by a 1976 article in Tennis magazine about “America’s newest racquet sport.”

**1976**

During the spring of 1976, the first known pickleball tournament in the world was held at South Center Athletic Club in Tukwila, Washington. David Lester won Men’s Singles and Steve Paranto placed second. Many of the participants were college tennis players who knew very little about pickleball. In fact, they practiced with large wood paddles and a softball sized plastic ball.

**1978**

The book, *The Other Raquet Sports*, was published and included information about pickleball.

**1982**

Pickleball pioneer, Sid Williams began playing and organizing tournaments in Washington state.

**1984**

The United States Amateur Pickleball Association (U.S.A.P.A.) was organized to perpetuate the growth and advancement of pickleball on a national level. The first rulebook was published in March 1984.

The first Executive Director and President of U.S.A.P.A. was Sid Williams who served from 1984 to 1998. He was followed by Frank Candelario who kept things going until 2004.



The first composite paddle was made by Arlen Paranto, a Boeing Industrial Engineer. He used the fiberglass/nomex honeycomb panels that commercial airlines use for their floors and part of the airplane's structural system. Arlen made about 1,000 paddles from fiberglass/honeycomb core and graphite/honeycomb core materials until he sold the company to Frank Candelario.

### **1990**

Pickleball was being played in all 50 states.

### **1992**

Pickle-Ball, Inc. manufactured pickleballs in-house with a custom drilling machine.

### **1997**

Joel Pritchard passed away at age 72. Though he was Washington State's Lieutenant governor from 1988 to 1996, he is probably better known for his connection to the birth of pickleball.

### **1999**

The first pickleball internet website, Pickleball Stuff, launched and provided players with information, equipment, and products.

### **2001**

The game of pickleball was introduced for the first time in the Arizona Senior Olympics through the efforts of Earl Hill. The tournament was played at Happy Trails RV Resort in Surprise, AZ and drew 100 players. It was the largest event ever played to that point. Over the next few years the event grew to nearly 300 players.

### **2003**

There are 39 known places to play in North America listed on the Pickleball Stuff website. This represents 10 States, 3 Canadian Provinces and about 150 individual courts.

Pickleball was included for the first time in the Huntsman World Senior Games, held each year in St. George, Utah during October.

### **2005**

A new corporation for the sport was established as USA Pickleball Association (USAPA). Mark Friedenberg was named the first president of the new USAPA and the first Board of Directors included:

- Vice President – Steve Wong
- Secretary – Fran Myer
- Treasurer – Lela Reed
- General Counsel – Phil Mortenson
- Grievance – Phil Mortenson
- Marketing – Erne Perry followed by Pat Carroll in March, 2006
- Membership – Carole Myers
- National/International Relations and the Ambassador Program – Earl Hill



- Newsletter – Jettye Lanius
- Ratings and Rankings – Mark Friedenber
- Rules – Dennis Duey
- Tournaments – Barney Myer
- Training – Norm Davis
- Webmaster – Steve Wong

Steve Wong (former USAPA Webmaster) created the first USAPA website that went live in March. Website activity continued to increase as the popularity of pickleball grows and the features of the website increase.

USAPA became a Non-Profit Corporation on July 1.

USAPA cooperated with several web sites to have them discontinue their Places to Play links and consolidate all their entries into the USAPA database creating a single reliable source for players to find sites to play. Today this website is: [places2play.org](http://places2play.org)

## **2006**

One of the originating founders of the sport, Bill Bell passes away at 83.

## **2008**

The USAPA Rules Committee, headed by Dennis Duey, published the (1) *USA Pickleball Association Official Tournament Rulebook – Revision: May 1, 2008*.

Pickleball was included for the first time at the National Senior Games Association (NSGA).

There are now 420 places to play in North American as listed on the USAPA website. This represents 43 States and 4 Canadian Provinces and about 1500 individual courts. This does not account for those places that are adding courts at private homes.

*ABC's Good Morning America* aired live, in-studio segment on pickleball that included a brief demonstration. This was the first mass media exposure for the sport.

## **2009**

The first USAPA National Tournament for players of all ages was held in Buckeye, Arizona, November 2-8, 2009. The tournament drew almost 400 players from 26 states and several Canadian provinces.

USAPA establishes the Grant Program to assist players in creating new sites for new players. By the end of 2013 the program has accounted for over 1,400 new sites.

## **2010**

To help foster the growth of the sport on an international level, USAPA established the International Federation of Pickleball (IFP) organization and corresponding website ([ifpickleball.org](http://ifpickleball.org)).

## **2013**

In January, Justin Maloof joined USAPA as its first full-time Executive Director.



USAPA starts the year off with a record 4,071 members.

USAPA re-brands with a new logo and red, white, and blue color scheme that is more consistent with other US national sports governing bodies.

## **2014**

USAPA launched a new, more user-friendly website.

Pickleball Channel launched making it the first professional media group for the sport

## **2015**

USAPA surpasses 10,000 members for the first time.

The first USAPA ambassador retreat was held in Tahoe City, CA.

According to the Sports and Fitness Industry Association (SFIA), there are now just over 2 million pickleball players.

USAPA and author Mary Littlewood collaborate with publisher, Human Kinetics to produce a new pickleball book for beginners titled (2) *Pickleball Fundamentals, Master the Basics and Compete with Confidence*.

After 6 years in Buckeye, AZ, USAPA moves the USAPA National Championships to Casa Grande, AZ.

Total number of courts per Places2Play continues to grow and breaks through 10,000 courts and finishes the year at 12,800 for both indoor and outdoor courts.

## **2016**

USAPA reports it now has more than 17,000 members.

USAPA creates a national certified referee certification program.

*Pickleball Magazine* launched as the sports first full-color, professional print and digital publication. USAPA members receive a free digital copy and a discount on a mailed subscription.

The first US Open Pickleball Championships were held in Naples, FL and included the first nationally televised broadcast of pickleball on CBS Sports Network.

More than 4,600 locations are now listed on Places2Play.

USAPA selects St. Jude's Children's Research Hospital as it's national charitable partner.

The Super Senior International Pickleball Association (SSIPPA) was created and partners with USAPA and sanctions all their tournaments.

## **2017**

The USAPA volunteer Ambassador group exceeds 1,500.

Places2Play reflects nearly 5,900 locations.



USAPA expands the number of USAPA regionals from 8 to 11.

USAPA and the American Sports Builders Association (ASBA) partner to co-author the first official pickleball construction book for the sports industry. (3) *Pickleball Courts – a Construction & Maintenance Manual* provides detailed technical information for properly building pickleball courts and facilities.

USAPA and the International Pickleball Teaching Professional Association (IPTPA) launched a Pickleball Hall of Fame. Inaugural inductees were Joel Pritchard, Barney McCallum, Sid Williams, Arlen Paranto, Mark Friedenberg, and Billy Jacobsen.

With over 1,300 players, the USAPA National Championships sets a record for participants and for the first time, a 2-hour segment of the event airs to a nation-wide audience on CBS Sports Network.

USAPA membership doubles in two years and is 22,000 by December.

## **2018**

USAPA membership surpasses 30,000.

Total number of courts per Places2Play locations is nearly 7,000 and there are nearly 21,000 known courts across the U.S.

USAPA partners with Pickleballtournaments.com to produce and launch the sports first results-based tournament player ratings (UTPRs).

USAPA partners with the newly formed Professional Pickleball Registry (PPR), a subsidiary of the Professional Tennis Registry (PTR). During the first 6 months, PPR certifies over 1,000 new pickleball instructors.

USAPA members Jennifer Lucore and Beverly Youngren co-author and publish the sport's first historical book, (4) *History of Pickleball, More Than 50 Year of Fun!*

The USA Pickleball partners with Desert Champions, LLC with a multi-year deal and moves the National Championships to the world-renowned Indian Wells Tennis Garden in Indian Wells, CA. Registration for the newly branded Margaritaville USA Pickleball National Championships explodes to over 2,200 participants. The event featured over 17 hours of live-streamed content to a nation-wide audience on ESPN3 and a 1-hour segment aired nationally on ESPNEWS. The event also provides the highest cash purse (\$75,000) in the history of the sport.

USAPA Facebook team carried several live matches of the National Championships on Facebook and had a total reach of over 1.5Million viewers.

Pickleball Hall of Fame inductees were Earl Hill, Fran Myer and Robert Lanius.

## **2019**

USA Pickleball Association as part of the growth agenda adds several new staff including Hope Tolley, Managing Director, Recreation Programs, George Bauernfeind, as first Chief Marketing Officer, and Karen Parrish, Head of Competition and Officiating.



The Sports Fitness Industry Association 2019 report indicates pickleball continues as one of the fastest growing sports in the U.S. as participants reaches 3.3 million.

The last of the three originating founders of the sport, Barney McCallum passed away at 93.

The Margaritaville USA Pickleball National Championships places a greater emphasis on spectators and the spectator experience. A VIP lounge and live video screens were placed just outside the stadium court where fans could enjoy the action from the food and beverage areas. The event drew nearly 28,000 fans.

Pickleball Hall of Fame inductees were Dan Gabanek, Jennifer Lucore, Enrique Ruiz and Steve Paranto.

USAPA reaches almost 40,000 members by the end of the year, a 1,000% growth rate since beginning of 2013.

## **2020**

USAPA rebranded as USA Pickleball, aligning more consistently it with other US sports governing bodies and our USA Pickleball National Championships. The brand re-launch also includes a new, modern logo and an updated website. The new name, logo and website are designed to strengthen USA Pickleball's worldwide image as the official pickleball organization in the U.S.

Stu Upson joins USA Pickleball in December as first full-time CEO.

## **2021**

USA Pickleball Membership reached the 50,000 milestone and ended the year with just over 53,000 members, a 43% increase from the previous year and the largest single growth year to date for the organization. With over 2,300 registered players, the 2021 Margaritaville USA Pickleball National Championships presented by Pickleball Central was the largest tournament in the world to date.

USAP continued to reinvest in staff infrastructure and ended the year with nearly 20 staff members. Media exposure also continued to drive awareness with several national segments on NBC's The Today Show, CNBC, BBC News, Live with Kelly and Ryan, and stories published within top-rated publications including, The New York Times, Vanity Fair, Forbes, Allure, The Boston Globe, The Economist, USA Today, Sports Illustrated, Parade, and Axios.



## Open Play (“drop in”) Procedure

### Open Play “drop in” Procedure

- During “Open Play” hours only doubles will be allowed (no singles play)
- A game is won by reaching 11 points, and the winner must win by 2 points
  
- Courts 1, 2, & 3 will be “4 on, 4 off”
  - After each game all 4 players that just played must allow 4 new players to play
  - If there aren’t enough new players waiting the new group can draft one of the old players from that court to stay
  - To show you’re waiting for a court place your paddle in the designated “paddle” area
    - 1-4 paddles/stack
  
- Court #1 is the Challenge Court
  - After each game the 2 players who lost must get in the back of the challenge line, allowing 2 new players to challenge the winners
  - If there is only 1 challenger waiting, they can draft one of the losing players from the previous game
  - Winning team stays on indefinitely
  - To show you’re waiting for the challenge court place your paddle in the designated “paddle” area
    - 1-2 paddles/stack



**Meridian Valley Country Club**  
**Internal Staff Racquets Programming Policies**  
**June 2022**

**POLICY**

**Hours of operation Policy**

- Court hours for play are Mon- Sun from 10:00am – 5:30pm
- 1<sup>st</sup> reservation can be booked at 10:00am
- Last reservation can be booked at 4:00pm
- \*All courts must be cleared of play by 5:30

**Reservations Policy**

- Reservations can be made up to three (3) days in advance
- Member must accompany guests
- One member can bring up to three (3) guests
- More than three (3) guests will require club approval
- Each Member Guest is allowed to play twice per month
- Reservations can be made thru the MVCC Northstar Club app or by phoning the Golf Pro Shop
- Reservation time blocks are 1.5 hours in length

**Guest Fees**

- For first 30 days from opening day, no guest fees will be charged

**Court Check-In**

- All players must check in with the golf shop before preceding to the courts
- Members must provide golf shop with all guest names
- Upon check-in the member that has reserved the court will receive the gate keypad code

**Court Guidelines**

- Please limit food and beverage to side lines of the courts.
- Please be mindful of court surface do not bring chairs or heavy objects onto the courts.
- Bicycles and skateboards are prohibited on the courts.
- Non-participating children must be seated in the viewing area and be supervised by an adult as needed.



### **Dress Code**

- Tennis or racquets apparel is required for play
- No denim is allowed
- Shirts without collars are allowed for men and women
- Women may wear sleeveless tops
- Men's shirts must have sleeves
- Only court approved footwear is allowed (no non-approved black or colored sole shoes allowed)

### **Equipment management & rental**

- USAPA approved and non-approved equipment can be used on the courts
- The Golf Pro shop will have paddles, balls, and selected apparel available for rent and purchase

### **COURT WEEKLY SCHEDULE**

#### **Open Play Sessions**

Open Play "Drop In" (*no reservation required*)

- Tuesday
- Thursday
- Sunday



**Organized Play Programs** (*reservation required*)

- Monday
- Wednesday
- Friday
- Saturday

<b>Mon</b>	<b>Tues</b>	<b>Wed</b>	<b>Thurs</b>	<b>Fri</b>	<b>Sat</b>	<b>Sun</b>
10:00-11:30	10:00-11:30	10:00-11:30	10:00-11:30	10:00-11:30	10:00-11:30	10:00-11:30
11:30-1:00	11:30-1:00	11:30-1:00	11:30-1:00	11:30-1:00	11:30-1:00	11:30-1:00
1:00-2:30	1:00-2:30	1:00-2:30	1:00-2:30	1:00-2:30	1:00-2:30	1:00-2:30
2:30-4:00	2:30-4:00	2:30-4:00	2:30-4:00	2:30-4:00	2:30-4:00	2:30-4:00
4:00-5:30	4:00-5:30	4:00-5:30	4:00-5:30	4:00-5:30	4:00-5:30	4:00-5:30

Scheduled play

Open Play "Drop In"

**Lessons**

- Individual and group lessons will be available by appointment, please call the Golf Pro Shop for further information