

INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION OF PICKLEBALL

QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

Volume 1, Issue 1

May 2022



Pickleball Fire is the Official Magazine of the
International Federation of Pickleball



Mark your calendars
The 2022 Bainbridge Cup Series Tournaments

PAGE

CONTENT ①

PATH TO UNIFICATION ②

A Restructuring Plan

PLANNING FOR THE OLYMPICS ③

Road to Gold

BANBRIDGE CUP 2022 ④

Registration Opens

ATHLETIC RECREATION COMPLEX ④

Fantastic Facility with 60 Pickleball Courts

WORLD AMBASSADORS ⑤

A Pickleball Lifeline

MEMBER COUNTRIES ⑤

What Does It Take to Become an IFP
Member Country?

ADVISORY COMMITTEE ⑥

Five Continental Federations

MINUTES - Annual General Meeting ⑥



IFP's PATH TO PROMOTE UNIFICATION

The IFP values each and every member country and is committed to restructuring its organization. We embrace an “open door policy.” Our new and diverse leadership team desires to forge a future together with the international community. We believe our new mix of initiatives will benefit you and your association. With this in mind, we plan to implement the following changes by July 1, 2022:

Board of Directors - We have replaced vacant positions and will add one more Board Member. We are currently accepting applications for one additional Board Member for a total of seven Board members representing member countries beyond the U.S. This Board will serve until March 1, 2023, when elections will be held to elect new or existing Board members as specified in the IFP Bylaws. Our current President, Pat Murphy will be assuming the board position as Past President on June 30, 2022. Sunil, our Vice-President will assume the role of the IFP President as of July 1, 2022.

Board Meeting - The IFP now holds Board meetings on a regular scheduled monthly basis.

Advisory Committee - A team of 10 members (two from each continental federation), will begin work on the revision of our governing documents to be completed by September 1 for presentation to the Board.

Olympic Committee - A team of 10 members (two from each continental federation) will be

revising the make-up and timeframe of our IOC application to include our international consultant and begin the process of application within the next two months.

Committee of Competition & Accrediting - The continuation and revision of a committee to oversee the world Bainbridge Cup series and other IFP tournaments.

ARC Committee - Will be overseeing the process of implementation and the running of the 60-court pickleball facility within the complex. The groundbreaking event is scheduled for later this year.

Rules & Referee Committee - Will be working on the development and implementation of the IFP rule book, as well as referee training.

World Ambassadors - The IFP will be revising and implementing a new World Ambassadors guidebook.

Country Membership - The IFP will be revising and implementing guidelines for a tiered-level membership to ensure that all countries have a strategic path toward achieving IOC requirements.

Program Directors - We are revising our Directors Programs and recruiting internationally for more diversity within our programs.

Unification - The IFP plans to work with those willing to complete a unification of all international organizations working toward the goal of promoting pickleball worldwide and becoming an Olympic sport.



OLYMPIC MOVEMENT ROAD TO GOLD

Some GAISF Full Membership requirements are outlined below with explanations of what they require from the IFP as part of the application process. Applicant organizations must adhere to all requirements. The GAISF Membership Department will not show any flexibility of their requirements; in other words, all of them need to be fulfilled. You can read more about GAISF and their role and relationship with the IOC at www.gaisf.sport.

1. Application fee: Funding the project: *The IFP is committed to budgeting \$10,000 to fund the project, including an international consultant with application process experience. The application fee is \$4,500, but because of the due diligence that is going to be carried out by the admissions committee of the GAISF, for which the IFP would be responsible for covering costs, we realize this is just a starting point in the budgeting process of this project.*

2. 1.2.d: Members must be legitimate organizations that demonstrate they are working toward fulfilling their objectives. *The IFP is committed to fulfilling this requirement by having all member countries submit detailed “annual reports” and to manage their progress across a number of areas, including structure, membership, competition and development.*

3. 2.4: Constitution and bylaws must define the structure and role of the Board, committees, and member countries, and must allow member countries a voice via voting rights. *With revisions to our governmental documents, we will meet IOC expectations, including General Assembly protocol, member country participation and voting, etc.*

4. 2.8: Organizational charts would need to be developed showing the Board, committees, and

member countries. *The IFP already has many of these in place and our Advisory Committee will work to develop additional charts to meet this requirement.*

5. 2.9: General Assembly (GA) needs to be organized with an agenda, tentative dates, and plan to actively involve all member countries in that meeting. Member country participation must be part of the GA or otherwise, the minutes from the GA, which are required by GAISF, will not be accepted. They require minutes from two GAs, so the protocol needs to be correct and transparent. *The IFP has completed one GA meeting and the minutes have been completed. The IFP will hold a second meeting early next year.*

6. 2.11: A clear IFP strategy must be drafted and voted on by the Board and member countries that incorporate everything required in this application form. *This will be done through the IFP Olympic Committee.*

7. 3.1: Commit to a world championship event. GAISF and the IOC require a World Championship Event that involves players or teams from member countries and includes the top players in the world. *The IFP has already completed three such events and has two more scheduled in 2022.*

8. Professional expertise in legal and finance/accounting, as well as in the sport. *The IFP Board is actively recruiting individuals to fill this expectation.*

In conclusion, the IFP is following a framework established by Mike Hess several years ago and is enhancing it through the expertise of an international consultant experienced in the application process. He recently attended the virtual GAISF annual meeting and has given us his overview of that meeting along with his suggestions for our next steps.

Note: This process can only be successful with a united international community willing to promote pickleball as a unified group. Our hope is that we can all join together to complete this goal.



BAINBRIDGE CUP

It was on Bainbridge Island, just a short boat ride from Seattle, Washington, where Joel Pritchard, Barney McCallum and Bill Bell invented the sport we know today as pickleball. It was their vision to develop a sport that could be enjoyed by all ages as a family event. Thus, the name “Bainbridge Cup” was chosen to pay tribute to both the founding fathers and the birthplace of pickleball.

The idea of an intercontinental competition evolved from pickleball’s rapid global growth and official tournaments being conducted worldwide. To meet this global demand, the Bainbridge Cup was created by the IFP – a world stage to host pickleball’s first intercontinental team event.

The first Cup was held in Spain in 2017 followed by Italy in 2018 and Germany in 2019. Because of the pandemic, the 2020 cup scheduled to be held in England was canceled but returned in 2021 being held in the U.S. The 2022 Cup will be held in India toward the end of the year, with a warm-up series event being held in the U.S. in October.

Click the below link for more details about the USA Bainbridge Cup series event at:

<https://www.pickleballtournaments.com/tournamentinfo.pl?tid=6104#menuInformation>

As the sport grows, it is expected that more intercontinental events will continue to grow. The IFP’s goal is to have at least two series events each year. Countries are welcome to visit our website and view the application process to host an event.



Situated at the gateway to Zion National Park about 15 miles North of St. George, Utah, the ARC will be the gem of Southern Utah with its many sports facilities, a wave pool, RV park, hotels and an interactive Native American Interpretation Center.

It will be a privilege for the IFP to be involved with such a great facility. In our role, we will have exclusive operational rights for the 60-court pickleball facility within the ARC. This gives the IFP an opportunity to not only run and profit from one of the top facilities in the world, but also allow us to run quality tournaments, leagues, intramural programs, and develop a world-class training and educational facility. The complex will also house a high school, charter school and sports academy along with a possible pickleball resort hotel. The opportunities are endless for this fast growing area, and we are proud to be part of its development.

Ground breaking is scheduled for later this year and we will pass along information as it becomes available through our quarterly newsletter and the Pickleball Fire Magazine.

Additional information and a video introduction of the facility is available at: [Toquerville Athletic & Recreation Complex \(ARC\) - Eastward Management Group](#)

WORLD AMBASSADORS - Our Pickleball Lifeline

The promotion of pickleball over the years has been a huge success simply because players were willing to step up and spread the joy of pickleball. Ambassadors for the sport have been the key to its growth both in the U.S. and the world. The IFP established the World Ambassador program several years ago and now has over 200 Ambassadors who are doing a fantastic job of promoting the sport worldwide. Ron Ponder has led this effort over the last couple of years with tremendous success. Now, we are delighted to have one of our new Board members, with ties to Vietnam and the U.S., Tanyat Pham, step up to be the Interim Director. Just in the last two months, we have added another 20 or so Ambassadors with ties worldwide.

If you are interested in joining this increasing number of World Ambassadors, please go to our website and fill out the application form. The world will be your stage and pickleball will be your fiddle.

[Ambassador Application \(ifpickleball.org\)](http://ifpickleball.org)



A CALL FOR COUNTRIES TO UNITE



In recent months, the IFP was challenged by several countries that left the organization. These countries preached unification of the two international organizations; however, have instead created a third organization. Their actions created more division and confusion in the world of pickleball and does not help “unification”. The IFP is committed to unification for the best interest of pickleball on the world stage. In a recent article by Sports Illustrated, it points out that pickleball has become the wild, wild west.

‘Pickleball Is the Wild, Wild West’: Inside the Fight Over the Fastest-Growing Sport in America.” Is this really what we want for our sport on the international stage? The IFP has reached out to the Presidents that represent the countries that left but so far our efforts have been met with silence. We, at the IFP, are still willing to help unify the sport on an international scope but it has to be a two-sided conversation. The important thing is how we can best serve and promote the sport of pickleball, a love to us all.

The IFP is committed to serving our 60+ member countries including our two newest member countries. We may not have the backing of larger pickleball countries but our goal will and always has been the promotion of pickleball regardless of the size of the country. We stand behind our motto **“Not To Leave Any Country Behind”** and that this approach will uplift the international pickleball community.

United we move forward, division just slows down the process. Let's work together, not apart!

ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Role and Commitment



As part of the commitment to restructuring, the IFP has established an Advisory Committee that will independently review and revise the organization's two governing documents, the by-laws and the constitution. This committee will be guided by Sunil Valavalkar from India and is currently underway. The committee is made up of two representatives from each of the five continental federations. One of the goals of this committee is to revise the governing documents to allocate more input and participation by member countries. Included in the revision will be voting procedures for officers and directors of the organization. Additionally, the committee shall make recommendations and develop additional committees they determine are important for the restructuring process. The Advisory Committee will have approximately 4 months to complete their review, beginning in June and ending with the sharing of their work at the Board's September meeting.

It is our hope that those countries who have left the IFP will contribute ideas to this committee. Additionally, we invite your questions, comments, suggestions and ideas no matter the different walks of life, ages, gender, and ethnicities. You may reach us at any time via text or call at (+1) 360-203-0139 (WhatsApp) or e-mail: Contact-Us@ifpickleball.org

VIRTUAL ANNUAL MEETING MINUTES MARCH 2-5, 2022

The IFP held its first annual meeting virtually over a four-day period in order to accommodate the differences in time for our member countries. Although we were disappointed in the turnout. We felt it was very beneficial for the IFP as well as the countries that did attend. The following is a summary of the meeting.

1. Welcome and opening presentation statement on the AG meeting and purpose of this meeting.

Pat Murphy, President, welcomed everyone and gave an overview of the agenda and purpose of the meeting.

2. What the future of these meetings will be.

Pat explained that the purpose of this meeting is to have an open and honest conversation on the state of the IFP. He also explained that we hope to hold quarterly meetings so as to better keep all countries up to date on the actions and goals of the organization.

3. The election and new Board members.

Pat explained that the Board had elected two new board members to fill the vacancies left by Mike Johnson (Secretary) and Justin Maloof (Member at Large) - Steffi Pace from Malta and Tanyat Pham with ties to Vietnam and the U.S.

4. The appointments of the IFP Advisory Committee

Pat explained that the IFP would be going through a restructuring process and that 5 members, one from each continental federation would be appointed by the Board, and then these 5 members would recommend 5 additional members, one from each federation, thus giving the committee a focus on member countries' input on the selection. This committee will focus on the reworking of the governance documents and other aspects of the organization.

5. The new direction for the IFP Program Director.

Pat discussed the role and selection of the Program Directors and how they would be selected going forward. Program Directors will be selected on diversity and with emphasis on many countries being represented rather than just a few. Experience in the field they will head will be important.

6. A short presentation on the growth and accomplishments the IFP has experienced since April 2019.

Pat gave an overview of the following:

- *Accomplishments of the IFP since he started his presidency*
- *The movement of independency of the organization from any one country*
- The 2022 Bainbridge Cup World Championship Tournament Event
- The new Pickleball Fire magazine as the official IFP magazine.
- The IFP 2022 Rulebook and the IFP Rules Committee.
- Referee development international IFP efforts to have Pickleball recognition as an Olympic sport
- The new IFP headquarters and state-of-the-art 60-court pickleball complex.

7. Presentation of strategies for the IFP.

Pat, David and Sunil shared strategies of the IFP including the following:

- Goals going forward
- The process of re-structuring the IFP
- New commitment to a united Olympic movement process
- The role of the Advisory Committee
- Additional Board members and more diversity
- The independence of the organization

Closing remarks were given by Sunil VP, David Treasurer and Pat President with the emphasis on the importance of all parties working together for the successful promotion of pickleball worldwide.