

MAJOR LEAGUE PICKLEBALL AND OLYMPIC PICKLEBALL

Am I the only Villager who wasn't aware that there is a Major League Pickleball?! Apparently, it was formed a couple of years ago.

How about this positive blurb from the MLP board: "We believe Pickleball makes the world a better, more joyful place. From thrilling events and experiences to high-quality live broadcasts for fans around the world, our goal is to elevate and grow the sport we love in everything we do. So, our greater purpose is to build this sport we love so much and bring it to as many people as possible. Every person is a pickler waiting to happen." Nice!

A few professional athletes have purchased teams recently including LeBron James, Draymond Green, Kevin Love and Tom Brady. Anheuser Busch, Marc Cuban, Brene Brown and Drew Brees have or are purchasing teams as well. It will be expanding from 12 to 16 teams soon. It includes mixed doubles teams.

If you're interested, you can Google "Upcoming Schedule for Pro Pickleball Tournaments." A future Villager PB field trip, perhaps?

OLYMPIC SPORT?

Have you ever wondered like I have when Pickleball will be an Olympic sport?

The International Federation of Pickleball (IFP) was formed in 2010. The sport has grown extensively since then, with 70 countries as of February 2022. In 2012, it started out with just four countries: USA, Spain, Canada, and India.

Well, I found out that when PB has international popularity across at least 75 countries in four continents for men's games and 40 countries in three continents for women's games, PB will be an Olympic sport! When that happens, the Olympics will certainly be more exciting for this Villager and I assume many others! I can visualize a few PB Olympic-watching parties sprouting up in the Villages!

HAPPY DAYS, VILLAGE PICKLEBALLERS! SEE YOU ON THE COURTS!!