

When Will Pickleball Be an Olympic Sport?

Have you ever wondered if and when our fun sport will be an Olympic sport? I can visualize Villages Pickleballers gathering together to eat, drink and watch the world's best pickleballers competing!

Some sports enthusiasts think this could have huge benefits for our sport:

1. Global Exposure
2. Recognition and Prestige: Inclusion indicates that the sport has achieved a certain level of competitiveness, organization and international appeal.
3. Funding and Support: from government agencies, national Olympic Committees, and private sponsors.

These would be great benefits, but PB has to continue to grow and wait its turn, as it's not on the slate for the upcoming 2028 Olympic Games. The Board did approve cricket, baseball/softball, flag football, lacrosse, and squash. Hmmmm, interesting?

Why wasn't our wonderful sport not even on the list to be selected, you might ask. Well, to be eligible, a sport must "comply with the Olympic Charter, the World Anti-Doping Code and the Olympic Movement Code on the Prevention of the Manipulation of Competition."

One key component of the Charter is that "a sport must be widely practiced by men in at least 75 countries and on four continents and by women in no fewer than 40 countries and on three continents." Well, there you have it. We will have to keep an eye on the growth of PB in the next 4 years to see if we can meet these requirements. Pickleball will have to wait and continue to grow and look to 2032 and beyond.

In the meantime, our awesome San Jose Villages Pickleball Club, with a membership of 546 members, will just have to keep on loving and enjoying our sport, right??!!

Happy Pickleballing, Friends!