

The Story of Pickleball

It's been a long time since I wrote about the origins of Pickleball and we have many new members who may not be aware of them.

Pickleball has over 3 million active players in the US only. There are reasons it is so popular and the funny name is one of them.

First of all, it is a sport where no pickle exists. It's a paddle sport that combines badminton, tennis and ping-pong.

People wonder, why does such a sweet game have such a sour name? There are two different stories. One says the name was after the family dog named Pickles. The other says it was named after the boat named pickle boat.

This sport was invented in 1965. Three fun dads created the game to cheer up their bored kids during a summer vacation near Seattle Washington. In 1967 they constructed the very first permanent pickleball court in their backyard. To protect the new sport's creation, a corporation was formed in 1972.

The first PB tournament was held in 1976 at a Washington Athletic Club.

The dog Pickles used to chase the original Wiffle ball and then run off with it. After a couple of years, the inventors named it after their beloved dog Pickles.

A second story behind the name is about the pickle boat. One of the inventor's wives was a rower, and the pickle boat was the one that loses the race. It is made of leftover oarsmen from the other teams. So, she said that this PB game was also invented from the leftovers of several sports.

WHY IS PB SO POPULAR?

- It's a good game for all skill levels.
- It's a great option for social activity.
- It is very good exercise.

So, the story of PB began from a backyard near Seattle; today many throughout the world enjoys the game!

Happy playing, Villager Pickleballers!

It has been a pleasure to be the Villages Pickleball Club Publicity Chairman the last couple of years. I will occasionally write an article, but I'd like you to give a big welcome to Terry Holmquist who is taking over for me. She will be fantastic! Welcome and thank you, Terry!