

WM Barbara Spencer WP Joe Spencer



## August Birthdays

 22 Patricia Echols 23 Jean Seets 28 Lannon Caldwell 29 Dorothy Kilgore
## Grab a pencil and piece of

 paper. How many words can you make using the letters in "Plastic Ball" We found 73!
## AUGUST:

flower: Gladiola
Birthstone: Peridot
Zodiac Signs: Leo = July 23 -
August 22 : Virgo=Aug 23 -Sep 23

Pickleball is a racket or paddle sport in which two or four players hit a perforated, hollow plastic ball with paddles over a 34-inch-high net until one side is unable to return the ball or commits an infraction. Pickleball is played indoors and outdoors.


It was invented in 1965 as a children's backyard game in the United States, on Bainbridge Island in Washington state. In 2022, pickleball was named the official state sport of Washington.
Between 1965 and 2020, pickleball became a popular sport in the Pacific Northwest region of the United States, and began to grow in popularity elsewhere. In 2021, 2022 and 2023, the sport was named the fastest-growing sport in the United States by the Sports and Fitness Industry Association, and by 2023 it was estimated to have over 4.8 million players.
Estimates for active players grew to 3.3 million in 2019 up $10 \%$ from 2016. As of 2021, there were 58 member countries overseen by the International Federation of Pickleball. As of 2022 there are over 8000 pickleball locations in the United States.
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## Professional pickleball

The popularity of pickleball has spurred the growth of investors and sponsors. As a result, two pro pickleball tours were independently formed in 2019, and a professional pickleball league was formed in 2021.

## Major League Pickleball

The Major League Pickleball organization was formed in 2021 by Steve Kuhn in Dripping Springs, Texas. In its first year, the League consisted of 8 teams and included both APP and PPA players. The second year expanded to 12 teams, but the PPA no longer allowed their players to participate in the League. Each team consists of two men and two women. Team members are chosen by a dual snake draft designed to make teams as competitive as possible. Three separate competitions are scheduled for 2022, and the winning team at each competition will win $\$ 25,000$ for each team member. The winning team is also awarded the Pritchard Cup. The league will expand to 16 teams in 2023, with NFL quarterbacks Tom Brady and Patrick Mahomes, tennis player Naomi Osaka, and NBA players LeBron James, Kevin Durant, Draymond Green, and Kevin Love buying expansion teams. As of 2022 there were an estimated 4.8 million pickle ball players in the United States, a $14.8 \%$ increase over the previous year, with 10,724 playing locations registered with USA Pickleball.


## Noise controversy

When the hard pickleball paddle strikes the hard ball, it produces a sharp popping sound. The constant sound during play has generated conflict between pickleball court owners and nearby property owners. The noise, combined with the rapid rise in pickleball's popularity, has produced an intense backlash against the sport in communities across the United States.
Residents nearest to the pickleball courts said they could not hold conversations inside their homes due to the noise from the pickleball courts.

Not an Olympic Sport yet but there are two International pickleball federations with multiple national members, the International Federation of Pickleball (IFP) and the World Pickleball Federation. Both the IFP and WPF are pursuing efforts to have pickleball featured as an Olympic sport, possibly as a demonstration sport. The IFP is specifically working towards the Paris 2024 or Los Angeles 2028 summer games. An article by Sports Illustrated concluded the game would not likely be seen at the Olympics before 2032.



FIND 8 DIFFERENCES


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