



USA Pickleball and European Pickleball Federation Announce Strategic Officiating Partnership to Establish Common Referee Standards

July 14, 2025 — USA Pickleball (USAP), the National Governing Body for the sport in the United States, and the European Pickleball Federation (EPF), Continental Governing Body for the sport in Europe, have announced an exciting partnership aimed at standardizing pickleball officiating practices and referee development in Europe and the USA.

The agreement marks a major milestone in global officiating alignment, as both organizations will now operate under a shared set of best practices for training, certifying, and credentialing referees. The partnership reflects a joint commitment to creating a single recognized referee standard for the sport, paving the way for expanded international play and future Olympic inclusion.

Under the new agreement:

- EPF exclusively aligns with USA Pickleball's Officiating policies and best practices to establish one common pickleball referee standard for the sport of pickleball in Europe and the USA.
- USAP exclusively aligns with EPF as the sole organization issuing referee credentials in Europe.
- USAP will support EPF with translations of all referee and officiating documents.
- Both certifying bodies have agreed on standard and reciprocate referee credential levels and testing requirements.
- Both entities will collaborate on materials, resources, and coordination of websites.

"This collaboration represents a significant step toward building a unified, international officiating standard that brings the sport closer to global recognition and Olympic qualification," said Justin Maloof, Chief Competition Officer at USA Pickleball. "We're proud to work with the EPF to ensure referees across continents are held to the same high standards of professionalism and accuracy."

Maria Munz, Leader of Officiating in EPF, added: "We started this initiative because we see USAP as the gold standard in officiating and our aim is to align European referee training with

its quality and professionalism. EPF referees are credentialed to match USAP levels, enabling officials from both organizations to officiate interchangeably across the U.S. and Europe. EPF is offering USAP-based courses and is encouraging and supporting its country members to adopt similar standards for their own referee programs.”

This affiliation reflects the sport’s accelerating international growth and reinforces the commitment of both organizations to strengthening the global officiating infrastructure. It is the latest in a series of steps toward ensuring that pickleball’s rules, referee qualifications, and player experience remain consistent across borders.

For media inquiries, contact:

USA Pickleball Media Relations

mediarelations@usapickleball.org

European Pickleball Federation

info@epfpb.org

About USA Pickleball:

[USA Pickleball](#) is the official National Governing Body (NGB) for the sport of pickleball in the United States. As a nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization, USA Pickleball is dedicated to preserving the integrity of the game while advancing its growth and development nationwide. The organization supports players, clubs, and communities by sanctioning premier tournaments, offering certified equipment testing, training referees, certifying facilities, and providing a wide range of educational resources. USA Pickleball also maintains and updates the official rules of the sport, ensuring consistency and fairness at every level of play. Led by a Board of Directors and a dedicated national office staff, USA Pickleball delivers the infrastructure and strategic vision necessary to fuel the continued expansion of pickleball across the country—benefiting members with exclusive access to events, programs, and tools that elevate their experience on and off the court.

About European Pickleball Federation:

[EPF](#) is a not-for profit federation established in Luxembourg and created on 31st of May 2023, now comprising 38 member countries. EPF’s objectives are: 1. To facilitate the growth of pickleball as a world-renowned sport and to promote the sport by demonstrating its physical, mental, and social benefits to people of all ages and abilities. 2. To represent the best interests of the EPF internationally and of pickleball players in Europe. Follow EPF on [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#).