

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

European Pickleball Federation Welcomed as Continental Member of the World Pickleball Federation

Luxembourg, 4 August 2026 — The European Pickleball Federation is pleased to announce that it has been welcomed as a Continental Member of the World Pickleball Federation.

This follows the recent EPF Annual General Meeting, at which EPF Full Members voted overwhelmingly to authorise the EPF Board to apply for Continental Membership of both the World Pickleball Federation and the Global Pickleball Federation.

That decision was taken in the clear interest of supporting the urgent unification of international pickleball governance. EPF's members expressly mandated the Board to engage with both international federations on a non-exclusive and neutrality-preserving basis, as an interim and constructive measure while unification discussions remain ongoing.

EPF welcomes WPF's positive response and appreciates that WPF has accepted the application in the constructive spirit in which it was made. EPF regards WPF's acceptance as a constructive interim step, taken in the same spirit of neutrality, cooperation and support for the ultimate creation of one unified international federation for pickleball.

EPF President Frank Arico said: "This is a positive and important step for European pickleball. Our members gave us a very clear mandate: not to choose sides, but to support unification. WPF has understood and respected that position, and has welcomed EPF in the same constructive spirit. EPF remains firmly committed to one unified, democratic and IOC-compliant international federation, and we will continue to work tirelessly with all parties who share that objective."

An application was also submitted by EPF to GPF in the same spirit and with the same objective. GPF acknowledged that EPF had submitted the required documentation and that EPF's application demonstrated strong compliance with the relevant Continental Federation requirements. However, GPF has advised EPF that it regards its governance framework as requiring EPF to affiliate exclusively with GPF before its application can proceed. EPF is still awaiting a positive response from GPF.

EPF respectfully understands GPF's position and continues to believe that its interim engagement with both international federations is consistent with its democratic mandate and its commitment to unification.

EPF remains open to constructive dialogue with GPF and continues to hope that a solution can be found which respects EPF's democratic mandate, protects European pickleball, and supports the wider unification process for the creation of the single, credible and democratic international federation that the sport so urgently needs.

The European Pickleball Federation's position remains unchanged: the long-term interests of pickleball are best served by one unified, democratic, transparent and IOC-compliant International Federation.

About the 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:

- 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.
- To represent the best interests of the EPF internationally and of pickleball players in Europe.

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