

**TOWN OF BERLIN**  
Parks and Recreation Commission  
230 Kensington Road • Berlin, CT 06037

Thursday, June 9, 2022  
6:00 p.m.

Join Zoom meeting

<https://berlinct-gov.zoom.us/j/88028752798?pwd=eGYyTU9qNzh4bWU4MmpPWGZkQlhEQT09>

Meeting ID: 880 2875 2798

Meeting Passcode: 206569

By Phone (tolls may apply): +1 929 205 6099 US (New York)

Meeting Agenda

1. Audience of Citizens
  - a. Patrick Kelly, Berlin Little League
  - b. Scott Trevethan
  
2. Approval of Minutes May 12, 2022
  
3. Consent Agenda
  - a. Request approval for the Friends of Berlin High School Men's Swim and Dive Team to sell food and beverages at Berlin High School events during the 2022-2023 school year.
  - b. Request approval for the Berlin High School Athletic Booster Association to sell food, beverages and merchandise at Berlin High School events during the 2022-2023 school year.
  - c. Request approval for the Class of 2023 to sell food and beverages at Berlin High School events during the 2022-2023 school year.
  - d. Request by Berlin Little League to hang presented banners at named locations for the 2022 Fall and 2023 Spring Season.
  - e. Request by Berlin High School Boosters Association to hang presented banners for the 2022 – 2023 school year at Sage Park.
  
4. Parks and Recreation
  - a. Monthly Report
  - b. Community/Senior Center Update
  
5. Parks & Grounds
  - a. Monthly Report

- b. Dog Park Update
- c. Percival Soccer Field Update
- d. State of CT Grant Update

6. Adjournment

**TOWN OF BERLIN**  
**Parks and Recreation Commission**  
**230 Kensington Road • Berlin, CT 06037 / Zoom**  
**Thursday, May 12, 2022**  
**6:00 p.m.**

**ATTENDANCE:**

**Commissioners Present:** Tony Butrimas, Don Dellaquila, Andrew Legnani, Joe Pulcini, Greg Starr

**Commissioners Absent:** Donna Bovee

**Staff Present:**

Jen Ochoa, Director of Community, Recreation and Park Services  
Debbie Dennis, Superintendent of Recreation  
Steve Wood, Grounds Superintendent

Vice Chairman Dellaquila called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

**1. Audience of Citizens**

- a. Antonio Leone, CFC – Tony Allegro appeared in the place of Antonio Leone, whose flight was delayed. Mr. Allegro explained that Connecticut Football Club (“CFC”) is a travel soccer organization that employs about 60 coaches. CFC will often partner with Towns or local organizations to host clinics and typically offers a courtesy discount to local registrants in return for use of fields. Mr. Leone stated that CFC usually advertises a clinic at a “proposed” location prior to securing approval to use that location in an attempt to gauge participant interest. If interest is sufficient, CFC will request permission to use fields / charge admission for its clinics, and if permission is not granted it will seek out an alternate location nearby. Vice Chairman Dellaquila explained that the Parks and Recreation Commission was disappointed with the inaccuracies in CFC’s previously-submitted field use application and the fact that the group advertised its proposed soccer camp at Sage Park prior to requesting / receiving approval. Mr. Leone apologized for any miscommunication or misstep. The Commission suggested that approvals be requested earlier in the year going forward to ease the approval process at Parks and Recreation Commission and Town Council.

**2. Approval of Minutes**

**April 7, 2022**

Commissioner Starr moved to approve the April 7, 2022 meeting minutes.

Seconded by Commissioner Butrimas.

Those voting in favor: Commissioner Butrimas, Commissioner Dellaquila, Commissioner Pulcini, Commissioner Starr

Vote being: 4-0-1. (MOTION CARRIED) Commissioner Legnani abstained, as he was not at the April 7, 2022 meeting.

### **3. Consent Agenda**

- a. **Request by CFC North, LLC to charge a registration fee of \$150 for a youth soccer camp that will take place July 11-15, 2022 at Sage Auxiliary Field from 9:00AM -12:00PM.**
- b. **Request approval for Metro Swim Team to sell swimsuits, caps, goggles, bungee cords, etc. on June 22, 2022 from 6:00PM – 7:00PM at Percival Pool to participants on the Berlin Dolphin Swim Team, and to waive the vendor fee of \$200.**
- c. **Request approval for Berlin Dolphins Swim Team Booster Club to sell food and beverages at Berlin Dolphin Swim Team home meets in 2022.**

Commissioner Butrimas moved to approve Consent Agenda items a-c.

Seconded by Commissioner Starr.

Those voting in favor: Commissioner Butrimas, Commissioner Dellaquila, Commissioner Legnani, Commissioner Pulcini, Commissioner Starr

Vote being: 5-0. (MOTION CARRIED)

### **4. Parks & Grounds**

- a. **Monthly Report** – see attached. Grounds staff spent about a week preparing for the Gold Star event at Veterans' Park. The Veterans' Commission presented an award to the Grounds staff acknowledging their hard work. Superintendent Wood noted that Grounds has experienced some litter at Berlin High School ("BHS") – Director Ochoa met with BHS and Board of Education ("BOE") to discuss the situation, and BHS will arrange for Police presence at home tennis matches and additional Police patrols in the evening to discourage inappropriate activity. Superintendent Wood added that Grounds conducted inspections of all local playgrounds. One specific deficiency was noted, and replacement equipment is on order. The playgrounds average about 25 years of age and some equipment is outdated. A detailed plan will be prepared by Grounds with suggestions for updates / additions to equipment along with cost estimates. Director Ochoa added that she spoke with resident Ms. Van Gorder (who appeared in Audience of Citizens at the April Commission meeting) who will be providing pictures of equipment she feels will complement Berlin's playgrounds.

The Commission noted that an adult and child were witnessed utilizing Baretta Field for batting practice with no mat at the pitcher's mound. Additionally, a small group of people were witnessed on Scalise Field on May 10, 2022 and Police were notified of the unauthorized use.



- b. **Dog Park Update** – Director Ochoa advised the Commission that Town Manager Jayawickrema plans to present his proposal to designate an interior fairway at Pistol Creek as an off-leash dog area to Town Council on Tuesday, May 17, 2022. The “sides” of the fairway area are bordered by dense foliage which forms a natural barrier, and gated fences along the top and bottom of the designated area are proposed. The Commission noted that the proposed fence may interfere with use of the recently upgraded ADA cart path, and addition of an off-leash area at Pistol Creek would also interfere with local Cross-Country staging / athletic warm-up / spectators. Superintendent Dennis noted that summer campers typically will walk through the Pistol Creek cart paths several times each week and off-leash dogs may be a concern for the kids. Director Ochoa encouraged any residents / athletic organizations / Commissioners to attend the Tuesday, May 17, 2022 Town Council meeting to share opinions or concerns with the Council. The Commission suggested a possible compromise of closing access to the off-leash area during home cross-country meets and relocating the proposed fence to allow use of the ADA cart path outside of the designated off-leash area. Director Ochoa also indicated that the Animal Control officers are educating the public about the new leash ordinance. (Resident Mary Kathryn LaRose was an audience member at the meeting. She did not speak during Audience of Citizens or provide her personal opinions or wishes to the Commission, but she did report some details regarding the Town Manager’s proposed layout of the off-leash area from her research and participation through the exploratory process.)
- c. **Percival Soccer Field Update** – Director Ochoa reported that the Linden Landscaping was approved as architect and work on finalizing the contract is underway. The actual construction may end up being delayed due to availability of pvc piping, but more information will be available as the project progresses.
- d. **State of CT Grant Update** – The DEEP contract has been signed, departments involved have met. The bid for design and architecture is going public on Monday, 5/16/22. The scoreboard purchase is on the Town Council agenda, but the fiberoptic to power it is not finalized yet. Board of Education is working on a program/ class for users who will be running the scoreboard. The scoreboard completion is targeted for December 31, 2022, which will not be in time for fall sport season. Scalise Field will have an operational scoreboard throughout the installation project, either the current scoreboard or a temporary unit. The renovation of Biscoglio to artificial turf will likely begin mid-June 2023.

## 5. Parks and Recreation

- a. **Monthly Report** – see attached. After the last meeting, Superintendent Dennis booked the Rock-n-Roll ice cream truck for 3 days of Summer Fun camp and will pay for the ice cream out of registration fees. She will try to book it more frequently next summer if there’s funding available. Due to the high cost of bus transportation, swimming for campers at East Berlin pool has been eliminated this summer but field trips have been reincorporated into the camp schedule. Superintendent Dennis will also perform some field testing prior to next year’s fishing derby to locate the best spot for announcements so they reach the furthest distance.
- b. **Community/Senior Center Update** – Director Ochoa reported that the Advisory Committee presented its findings to Town Council and Mayor Kaczynski will lead a discussion on Tuesday, May 17, 2022 of the report’s pros / cons and whether or not to conduct public forums.

Director Ochoa notified the Commission that Parks and Recreation Administrative Assistant Terri Noyes retired as of April 30, 2022. The Parks and Recreation Commission is also looking for a recording secretary to attend Commission meetings and prepare minute documents.

Director Ochoa also brought up the possibility of canceling the July 2022 meeting to accommodate vacation schedules, stating that any fall approvals could be moved ahead to June 2022 or addressed during a Zoom meeting if need be. The subject will be discussed with Chairwoman Bovee and the group may decide at the June 2022 meeting whether to cancel the July 2022 meeting or not.

## **6. Adjournment**

Commissioner Starr moved to adjourn at 6:54 p.m.

Seconded by Commissioner Butrimas.

Those voting in favor: Commissioner Butrimas, Commissioner Dellaquila, Commissioner Legnani, Commissioner Pulcini, Commissioner Starr

Vote being: 5-0. (MOTION CARRIED.)

Submitted by,

Dana Borges

Received on 5/19/2022  
at 11:12:42 AM by Town Clerk  
Kathryn J Wall



**Town of Berlin**  
Parks and Grounds  
15 Town Farm Lane - Berlin CT  
Office 860-828-7025  
Fax 860-828-7124  
E-mail [swood@berlinct.gov](mailto:swood@berlinct.gov)

Steven T. Wood  
Superintendent Parks and Grounds

**Parks and Grounds March report**

**News:**

- o Spruce up Veterans Park for the Gold Star Memorial
- o Veterans Certificate for all the work at Veterans Parks
- o Install Second Gaga pit at Griswold School
- o Added risers to septic tank at Little Peoples Playground
- o Replaced concrete at Hubbard and McGee School

**Daily**

- o Ballfield maintenance
- o Mowing

**Weekly**

- o Painting athletic fields
- o Garbage

**Miscellaneous**

- o Weeds removed from all baseball & softball fields
- o Washed and cleaned both pools in preparation of the summer
- o Fertilize fields and small parks
- o Put up windcreens





*Debra S. Dennis, CPRP*  
*Superintendent of Recreation*

**Town of Berlin**  
**Parks and Recreation Department**  
230 Kensington Road • Berlin, CT 06037  
Office (860) 828-7056 • Fax (860) 828-1627  
E-mail [ddennis@berlinct.gov](mailto:ddennis@berlinct.gov)

May monthly report

1. Sent out paperwork for summer staff, new and returning.
2. Working on entering new staff and will email all staff about blood borne pathogens program through CIRMA. Still need to send out Mandated Reporter training to the Summer Fun staff.
3. Will begin opening and closing p.o.'s for the end of the fiscal year.
4. Fishing derbies were held, nice turn out for both days, over 100 total kids registered.
5. This year we are doing a brochure just on Aquatics and a separate brochure with information on all of our other programs. New this year, we are offering adult tennis lessons at night at Berlin High School. We started to register for household and individual swim passes and will begin registration for swim lessons, on May 16. Registration for all other programs will also begin May 16.
6. We are only opening one site, The Creek, for our Summer Fun program this summer. On-line registration started on May 4, with few issues. Numbers are very good so far.
7. Started ordering supplies for Summer Fun program and Aquatics.
8. Started working on updating staff manuals for Aquatics and Summer Fun program.
9. Finalizing field trips/special events for the Summer Fun program.

Debbie



Berlin Little League Banner Request June 2022

i. General description of the banners and signs (colors, size, content, etc.);

- Sponsored banners. Vinyl, green, 4'x6'. Contains company logos
- Championship banners. White, metal sheet with wood backing. Shape of a pennant, roughly 2'x3'. Name of the award and year

ii. General area banners or signs will be posted;

- Sponsored banners. Outfield fences at Centurelli Field, fields 1 and 2 at the Petit Field Complex, and Baretta Field
- Championship banners. Hung on the upper half of the backstop fence facing out at Centurelli Field, fields 1 and 2 at the Petit Field Complex, and Baretta Field

iii. Material to be used to hang or post the banner or sign (rope, zip ties, nails, etc.);

- Sponsored banners. Zip ties
- Championship banners. Bolted thru the fence with a small piece of metal on the other side.

iv. Contact information of person responsible if issues or questions;

- Patrick Kelly, [patrick.kelly@blldt.com](mailto:patrick.kelly@blldt.com)

v. Confirmation that coordination with the other requesting groups, teams or sports organizations using the field during the same season have agreed to the location of the banner or sign.

- n/a. BLL is the only organization on the 3 fields stated.



BERLIN HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETIC BOOSTER ASSOCIATION, INC.  
P. O. Box 7273, Berlin, CT 06037

May 31, 2022

Jen Ochoa, Director  
Parks and Recreation Commission  
230 Kensington Road  
Berlin, CT 06037

Dear Jen:

As required by the Parks & Rec Commission's Banner & Sign Policy, this letter is to request permission, on behalf of the BHS Athletic Booster Association, Inc. for the following teams to hang banners on the fences at Scalise Field, Sage Park.

Football

Men's & Women's Soccer

Men's & Women's Lacrosse

Cheerleading

Softball

1. Hang four (4), 40" tall x 30' long windscreen banners on the visitor's side of Scalise Field, two on each end, beginning at the 30-yard line going to the goal line. See exhibit 1.
2. Hang two (2) banners, approximately 40" x 40", vinyl banners on the fence at the end zone in front of the fan picnic table area. Memorial banners. See exhibit 2.

GO REDCOATS

3. Hang two (2) banners, 40" tall x 8' long, vinyl banners on the fence, entrance to Scalise Field fence, facing the field. Sponsor banners. See exhibits 3 & 4.
4. Hang one (1) banner, approximately 40" x 30", vinyl banner on the outfield fence at the Sage Softball Field (Spring 2023 only).

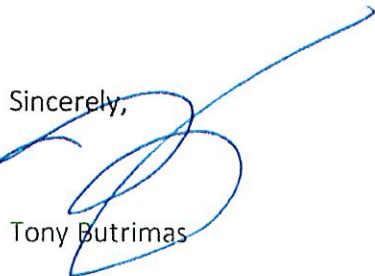
All banners will be secured to the fence with either plastic zip ties or tennis clips.

Banners will be hung up at the beginning of the Fall Sports Season, no later than August 31, 2022, and removed at the end of the Fall Sports Season, but no later than December 15, 2022. The five (5) windscreen team banners will be re-installed for the start of Spring Sports Season but no later than March 15, 2023, and removed at the end of the Spring Sports Season but no later than June 20, 2023.

The seven (7) team representatives have met, along with BHS Athletic Director, Dave Francalangia, discussed and agreed to the banners and the placement of the banners. See attached letter of approval from Dave Francalangia.

Contact person for any issues that may arise with the banners is the Athletic Booster Association President, Tony Butrimas, (860) 778-5159, [butrimas@comcast.net](mailto:butrimas@comcast.net).

Sincerely,



Tony Butrimas

President

BHS Athletic Booster Association, Inc.











BALL		STRIKE						OUT	
DATA		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	RUNS
GUEST									
BERLIN									

**B REDCOAT SOFTBALL**







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**State Rep.** **Stass Moon**  
**State** **Matt Ritter**  
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# 2016 Berlin Redcoats Girls Soccer

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# Berlin High School

**Eileen H. Eustis**  
Principal

**Katie M. Amenta**  
Assistant Principal

**Barbara Ventura**  
Assistant Principal

**Patricia H. Pires**  
School Counseling  
Supervisor

**David A. Francalangia**  
Director of Athletics, Health,  
and Physical Education

139 Patterson Way  
Berlin, CT 06037

Tel (860) 828-6577  
Fax (860) 829-2169

Twitter/Instagram  
@BHS\_Berlin\_CT

Facebook.com/  
BerlinHighSchool

To: Park and Recreation Department of Berlin

From: David A. Francalangia, Director of Athletics, Berlin High School

I am writing in support of the Berlin High School Sports team banners that will be displayed at Scalise Field, Sage Park. I have met with the Berlin Booster team representatives and have agreed with their proposal being submitted by Booster president, Tony Butrimas, for the banners to be hung for the fall 2022 and spring 2023 season. If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me.

Best regards,

Dave

David A. Francalangia  
Director of Athletics  
**Berlin High School & McGee Middle School**  
Director of PE & Health K-12  
[dfrancalangia@berlinschools.org](mailto:dfrancalangia@berlinschools.org)  
860-828-6577 ext. 6

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Town of Berlin  
Parks and Recreation Department  
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Office (860) 828-7056 • Fax (860) 828-1627  
E-mail [ddennis@berlinct.gov](mailto:ddennis@berlinct.gov)

*Debra S. Dennis, CPRP*  
*Superintendent of Recreation*

June monthly report

1. Had aquatic staff training on June 4, everything went well.
2. Equipment has been brought out to the pools for inspection. Percival passed inspection last week and Demore, Dinda, Bittner Jr Memorial will be inspected on June 9. Worked on aquatic staff manual. Percival set to open June 18 and Demore, Dinda, Bittner Jr. Memorial on June 20, for the season.
3. Worked on Summer Fun staff manual. Staff training was held last week and this week.
4. Coordinated various training requirements for the staff including Sexual Harassment, blood borne pathogens and Mandated Reporter.
5. Ordered supplies, bathing suits for guards and staff t-shirts for all staff.
6. Opening and closing p.o.'s for the end of the fiscal year and going through supplies to order what is necessary to start the pools and summer programs.
7. Arranged for phones at pools to be turned on and cell phones for emergencies.
8. I have several staff going through Epi Pen and Medication Administration training to be prepared in case any campers need assistance.
9. Covered office, handled daily registration while we are still searching for a secretary.
10. Coordinated with vendors running our camps this summer, to keep them updated on numbers.



## **Town of Berlin**

Parks and Grounds

15 Town Farm Lane - Berlin CT

Office 860-828-7025

Fax 860-828-7124

E-mail [swood@berlinct.gov](mailto:swood@berlinct.gov)

Steven T. Wood  
Superintendent Parks and Grounds

### Parks and Grounds May report

#### News:

- Planted 4500 annual flowers
- Looking into rebuilding a bridge Ragged Mountain
- UPBEAT picnic
- Painted and filled Percival Pool
- Clean out retention pond at BHS

#### Daily

- Ballfield maintenance
- Mowing

#### Weekly

- Painting athletic fields
- Garbage

#### Miscellaneous

- Mulch parks
- Service equipment
- Replaced more broken benches
- Replace and put flags around town for Memorial Day
- Cleaned up Willard, Griswold and Hubbard courtyard





## 2022 Pickleball Fact Sheet

Pickleball is a court sport played on a badminton-sized court with the net set to a height of 34 inches at the center. It is played with a perforated plastic ball and composite or wooden paddles about twice the size of ping-pong paddles. It can be played indoors or outdoors and is easy for beginners to learn, but can develop into a fast-paced, competitive game for experienced players. In addition, the game has developed a passionate following due to its friendly, social nature, and its multi-generational appeal.

Pickleball can be played as singles or doubles. New players can learn the basic rules quickly in a single session. No special apparel is needed – just something comfortable and appropriate for a court sport. Equipment is inexpensive and easily portable. The game can be played by all ages and is particularly popular in school P.E. programs and in adult living communities.

The sport is governed by the USA Pickleball Association ([USAPickleball.org](https://usapickleball.org)), which maintains the rules, promotes the sport, sanctions tournaments, and provides player ratings. For more information, please visit: [usapickleball.org](https://usapickleball.org).

### History

2022 marks the 57<sup>th</sup> anniversary of pickleball, as it was invented in 1965 on Bainbridge Island, a short ferry ride from Seattle, by three enterprising dads – Joel Pritchard, Bill Bell, and Barney McCallum. Their children were bored with their usual summertime activities. It evolved from the original handmade equipment and simple rules into a popular sport throughout North America and is now taking off in other parts of the world.

The origin of the game's name is very interesting, especially since no pickles are used. Accounts of how the name originated differ. According to Joel Pritchard's wife (Joan), she started calling the game pickleball because "The combination of different sports reminded me of the pickle boat in crew where oarsmen were chosen from the leftovers of other boats." However, according to Barney McCallum, the game was officially named after the Pritchards' dog Pickles who would chase the ball and run off with it. According to McCallum, "The Pritchards had a dog named Pickles, and you're having fun at a party, right? So anyways, what the hell, let's just call it pickleball."

Others claim both accounts may be true. In the early years, no official name was assigned to the game. However, a year or two after the game was invented, the Pritchards' purchased a cocker spaniel and named it Pickles. As the game progressed, an official name was needed and "pickleball" was it.

### **The Court**

A pickleball court is 20' x 44' for both singles and doubles. The net is hung at 36" at the ends and hangs 34" in the middle. A non-volley zone extends 7' back from the net on each side, commonly called "the kitchen." In 2017, USA Pickleball and the American Sports Builders Association (ASBA) co-produced and released an official pickleball courts construction and maintenance manual for the industry. In 2020, USA Pickleball and ASBA produced an updated version of the court construction manual. Copies of this manual can be purchased at: <https://www.sportsbuilders.org/publications/>

### **The Equipment**

Competitive paddles used in pickleball are constructed from a high-tech composite. An official pickleball is made of plastic and is between .78 to .935 ounces and 2.874 to 2.972 inches in diameter. There are no color restrictions other than the ball must be a single, consistent color. USA Pickleball has tested and approved several outdoor and indoor balls for official tournament play. [Click here](#) to review the complete list of all tested/approved paddles and balls approved for sanctioned tournament play.

### **Places2Play**

Every US state and all Canadian provinces now have pickleball venues. Senior residence communities, YMCAs, local community recreation centers, schools and parks are just some of the places likely to have pickleball courts. USA Pickleball compiles the most up-to-date and comprehensive listing of places to play on a new dedicated website: [places2play.org](https://places2play.org). The known places to play totaled of 9,524 at the end of 2021, an increase of 789 locations or approximately 66 new locations per month.

### **Tournaments**

USA Pickleball supports and sanctions tournaments throughout the United States. See [Upcoming Events List](#) for a current list of upcoming USA Pickleball sanctioned tournaments. In 2009, USA Pickleball held the first Nationals Pickleball Tournament in Buckeye, Arizona. Over 400 players participated in divisions for all ages. In 2021, the Margaritaville USA Pickleball National Championships presented by Pickleball Central were held at the world-renowned Indian Wells Tennis Garden, just outside of Palm Springs, CA. The event drew more than **2,342** registered players who competed for \$90,000 in prize money. [Click here](#) for detailed information regarding this event. The 2021 event also included over 100 hours of broadcast on three courts and 2-hours were aired to a nation-wide audience on ESPN-U. The 2022 event is scheduled to take place again this fall at the Indian Wells Tennis Garden, November 5-13, 2022.

### **Estimated Pickleball Players Within the United States**

Pickleball grew in 2021 to 4.8 million players in the US, according to the 2022 Sports & Fitness Industry Association (SFIA) Single Sport Report on Pickleball. SFI is the premier trade association for top brands, manufacturers, retailers and marketers in the American sporting goods and fitness industry.

This 14.8% growth from 2020 to 2021 follows on the heels of 21.3% growth the previous year and contributes to a 11.5% average annual growth rate over the past 5 years.

- Of the 4.8 million Total participants, 3.5 million were "Casual" players who play 1-7 times a year



- 1.4 million were “Core” players who play 8 or more times a year
- While the number of Core participants did not grow from 2020 to 2021, Casual players grew by 22%
- 60% of total participants are men and 40% are women; with a slightly faster rate of growth among women
- The average age for all players continues to drop, to 38.1 years old in 2021, a decrease of 2.9 years from 2020
- The average age of Core players is 47.9 and Casual players 34.3 years old
- 52% of Core players are 55 or older while 79% of Casual players are 54 or younger
- Growth of total participants from 2020 to 2021 was the fastest among players under 24 years of age (21%)
- Annual growth among players 55 and older was a more modest 10%
- The percentages by age of Total, Core, and Casual participants in 2021 are:

AGES	TOTAL	CORE	CASUAL
6-17	21.2%	14.2%	23.9%
18-34	28.8%	16.8%	33.5%
35-54	20.4%	17.0%	212.8%
55-64	12.0%	19.2%	9.2%
65+	17.6%	32.7%	11.6%

- The SFIA US regions with the largest number of Total participants were:
  - South Atlantic (FL, GA, SC, NC, VA, WV, DC) = 1,087,000
  - East North Central (WI, MI, IL, OH, IN) = 801,000
  - Pacific (CA, OR, WA) = 780,000
  - Mid-Atlantic (NJ, NY, PA, WV) = 675,000
  - These four regions account for 69 % of players
- The region with the highest rate of growth is the West North Central (IA, KS, MN, MO, NE, ND, SD) at 30% year-over-year (245,000 to 318,000)
- Growth is lagging in the East South Central region (AL, KY, MS, TN) with the smallest number of players (151,000) the lowest percent of total population participating (0.9%) and a modest but above average annual growth rate (14%)
- 61% of players live east of the Mississippi River
- The 4.8 million Total pickleball participants represent 1.6% of the US population of 305M people ages 6+: demonstrating the tremendous potential for further growth of the sport.

*Any citation of this data should reference the SFIA report as its source.*

#### **USA Pickleball Association [usapickleball.org](https://usapickleball.org)**

USA Pickleball was formed in 2005 to promote the sport. It maintains the official rules, sanctions tournaments, provides player ratings and produces the annual USA Pickleball National Championships Tournament. It is run by a CEO, executive staff and a volunteer board

of directors supported by an all-volunteer Ambassador corp. and thousands of dues-paying members.

### **Ambassador Program**

USA Pickleball currently has a network of over 2,000 volunteer ambassadors who have pledged to promote both the sport of pickleball and USA Pickleball in their local area. They serve as local volunteer representatives for USA Pickleball for all activities related to pickleball within the area they represent. Ambassadors support and abide by all official rules, assist with local clinics/tournaments and look for opportunities to add/grow the game in their community. The USA Pickleball Ambassador Search feature can be found on the USA Pickleball website. [Click here.](#)

### **Recreational Programs**

USA Pickleball Recreational Programs and Services Department has developed free downloadable resources for youth program providers nationwide to help with programs conducted in schools, parks, youth centers and pickleball facilities. A Campus Pickleball Guide has been created to help grow pickleball for middle school, high school, and college students. Additionally, a Fun Play Formats and Events resource has been developed to support programs for all ages offered in parks, HOA's, retirement communities, and pickleball facilities.

### **Youth Program Provider (YPP)**

USA Pickleball offers a Youth Program Provider (YPP) Membership to support physical education teachers, youth program leaders, coaches and recreation professionals with training and program resources to introduce pickleball to youth. YPP members receive access to the Youth Pickleball Playbook, activity cards, Youth Pickleball Video Series and discounted, multiplayer equipment packs.

### **Official Club Memberships**

USA Pickleball now offers a club membership program for pickleball clubs, groups, and facilities. Benefits include discounts and access to USA pickleball approved software providers that offer solutions for managing fees, ladder/league play, calculated playing levels, socials, events, etc. Additionally, official members receive a USA Pickleball Official Club Banner for the organization (\$90.00 value) and a mailed subscription to Pickleball Magazine. Lastly, the Official Club Plus Membership includes access to affordable liability coverage that includes accident medical insurance and certificates of insurance.

### **Community Grant Program**

A USA Pickleball Community Grant will provide current USA Pickleball members a maximum of \$250 reimbursement for the purchase of qualified pickleball equipment dedicated to a specific location. Special considerations will be given to locations with written "new player" training programs, areas with few pickleball locations in the vicinity, and individuals and groups that USA Pickleball deems most in need of financial assistance. For more information, please [Click here.](#)

### **High School Grant Program**

The High School Grant Program will award a maximum of \$350 in reimbursement to USA



Pickleball members for the purchase of start-up pickleball equipment for regular high school physical education classes and after-school programs. The grants funding will be equally targeted to every defined USA Pickleball region and, when feasible, awarded to different communities within the region. Considerations will be given to schools and districts where pickleball is being introduced into the high school physical education curriculum and to schools that USA Pickleball deems most in need of financial assistance. For more information, please click on the following link: [Click here](#).

### **USA Pickleball Social Media**

USA Pickleball social media followers support the sport's rapid growth. As of December 2021, total followers on Facebook numbered 43,206, almost double from two years ago. Instagram was added as a new channel in 2019 and ended that year with 12,383 followers. At the end of 2021, Instagram had 21,000 Followers. In November of 2020, USA Pickleball added an official Twitter account. In June 2021, USA Pickleball started a TikTok account. Overall, USA Pickleball Social Channels saw 48% year over year growth from 2020 to 2021.

#### **Facebook**

- [USA Pickleball](#)@usapickleballassociation
- [USA Pickleball Juniors](#)@usapickleballjuniors

#### **Instagram**

- [USA Pickleball](#)@usapickleball
- [USA Pickleball Juniors](#)@usapickleballjuniors

#### **YouTube**

- [USA Pickleball](#)@usapickleball

#### **LinkedIn**

- [USA Pickleball](#)@usapickleball

#### **Twitter**

- [USA Pickleball](#)@usapickleball

#### **TikTok**

- [USA Pickleball](#)@usapickleball

### **2021 USA Pickleball Facts and Highlights (as of 12.31.21)**

- **Places to Play:** USA Pickleball Places2Play Database (places2play.org) increased to **9,524** known locations. Nearly 800 new locations were added to the database (66 new locations per month).
- **Total Known Courts:** **38,140** (places2play.org).
- **Membership:** **53,110** (an increase of 43.5% over 2021). This rapid growth is contributed to Pickleball being embraced across the nation at the recreational and competitive levels for the professional, amateur, and casual players. USA Pickleball's governance, coupled with the commitment to provide and support forward facing new programs, initiatives,

membership offerings, sanctioned tournament opportunities and strategic partnerships drove this success.

- **USA Pickleball Ambassadors: 2,025**
- **Sanctioning:** USA Pickleball sanctioned 153 tournaments including a National Championships and first ever National Indoor Championships.
- **Grants:** USA Pickleball awarded 87 Community Grants and 24 High School Grants, with a total allocation of \$30,950.
- **2020 National Championships:** The Margaritaville USA Pickleball National Championships presented by Pickleball Central were held at the world-renowned Indian Wells Tennis Garden, just outside of Palm Springs, CA. The event drew more than **2,342** registered players who competed for \$90,000 in prize money. The 2022 event is scheduled to be played November 5-13, 2022 at the Indian Wells Tennis Garden.
- **Certified Referees:** USA Pickleball certified 21 new referees in 2021. By year's end, USA Pickleball had 189 Certified Referees.
- **Referee Evaluations:** USA Pickleball referee evaluators conducted a total of 33 referee evaluations.
- **Level I & II Referees: By year's end,** USA Pickleball had 489 Level 1 and Level II referees.
- **Medal Matches:** All medal matches in the 2021 Margaritaville USA Pickleball National Championships were refereed by USA Pickleball Certified Referees.
- **Professional Pickleball Registry:** USA Pickleball's teaching and training partner, Professional Pickleball Registry (PPR) at present has 2,600 PPR members. In 2021, PPR conducted 127 workshops across the U.S. (record) with 1,235 workshop participants. <https://usapickleball.org/get-involved/usa-pickleball-ppr-agreement/>
- **Pickleball Magazine:** USA Pickleball's publishing partner, Dollard Publishing, produced another **7** issues of Pickleball Magazine. <https://usapickleball.org/pickleballmagazine/>
- **Referee Training Page:** To help educate and inform referees and the public on referee matters, USA Pickleball restructured and updated the following comprehensive webpage: <https://usapickleball.org/referee-training-tools/>
- **USA Pickleball/IFP Rulebook:** The USA Pickleball rules committee and board updated and approved the 2022 Official Rulebook.
- **Officiating Handbook:** The USA Pickleball Officiating Handbook was updated in 2021.
- **Ambassador Handbook:** The 2021 USA Pickleball Ambassador Handbook was updated by a special committee of Ambassadors. The book was distributed to all Ambassadors and is updated periodically with new sections.



- **Paddles & Balls:** USA Pickleball Equipment & Evaluation Committee (EEC) and its independent lab tested and approved 293 new paddles and 23 new balls in 2021.
- **Special Olympics North America (SONA) Partnership:** To encourage the growth of pickleball within the Special Olympics, USA Pickleball will provide resources and assistance in support of this goal and SONA's mission to provide year-round sports training and athletic competition.
- **Media Relations Highlights:** In 2021 "pickleball" was one of the hottest trends in the U.S. as it continues to be the fastest growing sport in the nation with a 168% increase in total media exposure. Hundreds of media outlets covered every aspect of the growth of the sport including pickleball segments featured on NBC's The Today Show, CNBC, Live with Kelly and Ryan, and stories published within top-rated publications and news sources including, New York Times, Vanity Fair, Forbes, Allure Magazine, The Boston Globe, The Economist, USA Today, Sports Illustrated, and Axios, among others.

**For photo requests and media inquiries:**

Email: [Media Relations](#)  
USA Pickleball Association  
P.O. Box 7354  
Surprise, AZ 85374