



## USA Racquetball

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USARacquetball.com



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April 29, 2022

Dear Ms. Hirshland and Ms. Lyons,

USA Racquetball, in concert with the International Racquetball Federation (IRF), officially declares our desire to earn the opportunity for the sport of Racquetball to be included on the LA 2028 Sports Programme.

As stated in the companion letter to this one that was sent to the LA28 Chairperson and COO: "With so many sports vying for a coveted spot on the Programme, we are eager to demonstrate how we are compelling and unique. For those who believe Racquetball is past its prime, the reality is that this could not be further from the truth. The LA Olympic Games, in the country where Racquetball was created 70 years ago, will be the ideal opportunity to validate the passion that 3.5 million players\* in the U.S. and many millions more outside the U.S. hold for this fast-moving exhilarating sport."

\* [www.statista.com/statistics/191922/participants-in-racquetball-in-the-us-since-2006/](http://www.statista.com/statistics/191922/participants-in-racquetball-in-the-us-since-2006/)

The United States has been dominant in the IRF World Championships, The World Games, and the Pan American Games. Medals have been earned in Argentina, Bolivia, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Guatemala, Mexico, and Peru. At the last IRF World Championships in Guatemala City, December 2021, the United States brought home three medals in Singles and four medals in Doubles. The USA Men's Team placed first, the USA Women's Team second, and the ultimate Overall Team Championship trophy came home to the USA.

The IRF and USA Racquetball align strongly with LA28 Sports Programme Principles, and presentations will confirm this statement. We fully comply with anti-doping regulations. We value diversity: Racquetball is a sport played both indoors and outdoors for people from all walks of life, ethnicities, genders, and ages (currently 6 to 95!).

The USA Racquetball National High School Championships, fueled by high school programs across the country, attract entries each year second only to the US OPEN Racquetball Championships, which is the most-attended Racquetball event in the world. This is significant when realizing that these young rising Racquetball athletes (boys and girls in equal number) will be of prime age to compete for the U.S. six years from now in Los Angeles.

We would appreciate the opportunity to meet and talk with you about Racquetball and the Olympics. Your advice would be invaluable as the IRF and USA Racquetball embark upon this exciting journey in pursuit of LA28 Sports Programme inclusion.

Sincerely,

Dan Whitley  
President  
USA Racquetball

Mike Wedel  
Executive Director  
USA Racquetball

cc: USA Racquetball Board of Directors; IRF President Osvaldo Maggi; IRF Secretary General Luke St. Onge