



### JESSIE DAI, 60

I have been a badminton enthusiast for over 20 years. When I visited my family in Singapore in 2015, I chanced upon pickleball and gradually fell in love with this friendly yet competitive sport which is less strenuous on my knees compared to badminton.

I work within the United Nations where an official recreational club plays up to three times per week. Currently I play in Vienna and also participate in overseas tournaments.



### YANG DAI, 63

In 2015, while I was visiting Singapore, I got to know the sport of pickleball and I immediately fell in love with it. At Christmas that very same year, my wife gifted me with two paddles. Unfortunately it was not until 2022 that I found fellow pickleball players in Austria, and from then on, I officially joined this amazing sport. I have 56 years of experience in table tennis and 46 years in Badminton. I am also committed to teaching newbies.



### STEFAN GRUBMÜLLER, 38

When I started playing Pickleball in 2023, I immediately fell in love with this sport. With my background in tennis it didn't take me too long to raise my level and I was able to compete with the best players in Europe. At tournaments across Europe I made a lot of new friends and recognized that Pickleball is one true unique sport with an outstanding vibe of fair play and a close knit and warm-hearted community that welcomes everyone. To be part of this community and be allowed to represent my home country Austria at the European Championships truly means a lot to me.



### HELMUT HÜBSCH, 62

I am addicted to Pickleball - five months ago I started to play this sport at a try out. Now my dream comes true to be part of a European Championship. I am really thankful and proud to start for the Austrian Pickleball Federation, don't give up, believe in yourself! Put your paddle in your bag, the next four go onto the court, that's the spirit of this sport - everyone is welcome, do their best and have fun, we are not a group, we are not young or old, we have a lot in common, that's what Pickleball says!



**THOMAS KNAPP, 29**

I have a background in tennis and padel. When I discovered pickleball on social media in 2023, I joined a tournament in Vienna at the first opportunity and was hooked. I enjoy the challenge of learning the strategies of a new sport and appreciate that anyone, no matter their sports background, can compete and have fun.



**SIGRID PREISSLER, 57**

I started playing PB about 7 years ago and have been hooked ever since. Little did I know that what started as social get togethers and weekend tournament play would eventually lead to a career change. In the meantime, I am running PB events, teach beginners and intermediates, and still play tournaments.

I am honored to be part of the Austrian Team in the First European Championships. Sharing this experience with my son is something I would have never imagined.



**STEPHEN PREISSLER, 22**

I first picked up a pickleball paddle about 5 years ago as a fill in for my Mom's practice partner. I played baseball for 8 years growing up, so I was familiar with team sports and quickly picked up the techniques of pickleball. I played some tournaments but went to university and put it on the back burner for a couple of years, but I recently graduated and am excited to dedicate much more time to pickleball! I'm incredibly proud to be selected for the 1st European Championship and to represent Austria, I think it'll be a lot of fun!



**SANDRA PRIBIL, 54**

I saw pickleball for the first time in Florida 3 years ago and thought to myself, what a great sport! Since the beginning of this year I have started to play Pickleball in Vienna; I'm very happy to find an alternative for tennis and I'm so proud to be a member for the 1. European Championship



## **JASMIN PRIMUS, 37**

I discovered pickleball a year ago in Vienna, Austria, and despite having no racket sports background (aside from some squash) I immediately fell in love with the sport. What I love most about pickleball is that anyone can play, no matter their gender, body type, age, or even if they've never picked up a racket before. While I enjoy doubles, I've recently started playing singles, and I love the athleticism and strategy it demands.



## **MARTIN SCHÄFFL, 54**

I discovered Pickleball through my work at sporting goods manufacturer HEAD, where I was introduced to this exciting sport. With my background as a former tennis professional, I was immediately captivated by the strategy and skill involved. Combining my passion for the sport with my career has made Pickleball an essential part of my life. I'm proud to represent Austria together with our team at the first European Pickleball Championships.



## **ASHLEY SIMPSON, 24**

I first started playing pickleball with my mom during the pandemic. With my background in volleyball, I immediately enjoyed the defensive aspects of pickleball. Once I moved to Vienna in 2022, I found a group and started playing regularly to meet new people. Now, pickleball has become an important part of my life through which I've met many of my closest friends. It is a great privilege to represent Austria in the first European Championships. I look forward to competing with my teammates and making new connections.



## **LIZ WEARE, 68**

After playing various sports competitively from a young age - tennis, field hockey, badminton, squash and table tennis - I discovered pickleball while on holiday in Mexico in 2022. Within 5 minutes, my husband and I became addicted to this amazing sport! Pickleball offers something for everyone at any age or skill level, for example, a competitive element as well as lots of social interaction. I'm delighted to have the chance to represent Austria at the first European Championships!