



D.C.'S FIRST PROFESSIONAL PICKLEBALL TEAM, D.C. PICKLEBALL TEAM, AND DC FRAY ANNOUNCE PARTNERSHIP

Washington, D.C., April 11, 2023 — D.C. Pickleball Team (DCPT), an expansion team of Major League Pickleball (MLP) and D.C.'s newest professional sports team, announced a partnership with D.C.'s preeminent social sports league, DC Fray.

DCPT joined MLP ahead of the 2023 season that began January 26th in Mesa, Arizona. Like the other high-profile investor backed teams that have joined MLP, DCPT's ownership group includes Al Tylis, Sam Porter, Eva Longoria, Justin Verlander, Kate Upton, Rip Hamilton, Shawn Marion, Odell Beckham Jr. and Mesut Ozil.

As a part of the partnership, D.C. Pickleball Team will provide professional level pickleball equipment, JOOLA pickleball paddles and an opportunity to receive signed DCPT items for DC Fray pickleball players during the spring and summer pickleball seasons.

DC Fray has a mission to make fun possible and DCPT aims to unite communities through the accessible sport of pickleball, and to help grow and elevate the sport in every way possible. By partnering with DC Fray and with the support of local pickleball brand JOOLA, the three organizations can lean into their missions and bring an elevated experience to the local rec sports players playing within DC Fray leagues.

"D.C. Pickleball Team is thrilled to partner with such a household organization as DC Fray that understands the importance of building community through sport," says Adam Behnke, Chief Operating Officer of D.C. Pickleball Team. "This is a meaningful partnership that helps support our mission of growing the sport and being a good community partner. With DC Fray and JOOLA, we look forward to elevating the sport and supporting both the game and players in our pickleball loving community."

"We are excited to be a part of the pickleball movement that has swept the nation," says William Dennis, Senior Operations Manager of DC Fray. "We appreciate what D.C. Pickleball Team and their ownership group brings to the sports world and are proud to partner with them in their first ever Major League Pickleball season."

For more information about D.C. Pickleball Team, visit dcpickleballteam.com and follow them on social media:

[Twitter](#) - @dcpickleball_tm

[Instagram](#) - @dcpickleballteam

[Facebook](#) - @dcpickleballteam

[TikTok](#) - @d.c.pickleballteam

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About D.C. Pickleball Team:

D.C. Pickleball Team (DCPT) is the newest professional pickleball team to join Major League Pickleball (MLP) ahead of the 2023 season that began January 26th. DCPT's ownership group includes Al Tylis, Sam Porter, Eva Longoria, Justin Verlander, Kate Upton, Rip Hamilton, Shawn Marion, Odell Beckham Jr. and Mesut Ozil.

DCPT is playing in the Challenger Level in season one and the Premier Level in season two. The year will be divided into two "seasons" of three events — in the first season, 12 teams will compete in the MLP Premier Level (the first 48 drafted players) and 12 will compete in the MLP Challenger Level (the next 48 drafted players), with rosters consisting of two men and two women. The teams will then flip levels and re-draft players for the second season that starts September 21st. Season one's roster includes Sam Querrey, 10-time ATP Tour titleist and ranked 11th in the world in 2018; Stefan Auvergne, an exciting new player from France and a former competitive tennis player, competitive gamer and race car driver; Shelby Bates, former D1 tennis player at Coastal Carolina University; and Amanda Hendry, former D1 field hockey player at University of North Carolina.

About DC Fray:

DC Fray was established in 2010 with a mission to make fun possible. Based in Northeast D.C., Fray operates across three divisions — social sports, events and media — to bring together communities through the creation of experiences and the fostering of relationships. In 2019, DC Fray acquired On Tap Magazine, which was rebranded to District Fray Magazine in 2020. Fray's combined audience reach is significant, with nearly 100K monthly readers, 500K monthly digital page views, 134K email subscribers and 50K followers across social media platforms. With our leagues, events and magazine, Fray has grown its community to over 185,000 active young professionals in the D.C. market.

Learn more about DC Fray at dcfray.com

About Major League Pickleball:

Major League Pickleball (MLP) is the premier team league and the standard-bearer for the fastest-growing sport in the United States. MLP is committed to perpetuating the sport's larger role in society and permeating every facet of pickleball's business, marketing and community relations. With iconic team owners, a co-ed team format, an innovative draft, easy-to-understand scoring, groundbreaking broadcast quality and the highest prize money in pro pickleball, MLP's goal is to elevate and grow the sport in everything it does. For more information on Major League Pickleball, visit majorleaguepickleball.net and follow Major League Pickleball on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), [Instagram](#), [TikTok](#) and [YouTube](#).

For more information, please contact pr@dcpickleballteam.com.