



NEWS RELEASE

USA PICKLEBALL ASSOCIATION

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact:

Drew Wathey – (602) 570-5291

USAPA Media Relations

Justin Maloof – (602) 989-6357

USAPA Executive Director

USA PICKLEBALL NAMES KAREN PARRISH AS MANAGING DIRECTOR OF COMPETITION

SURPRISE, Az. (April 30, 2019) – The USA Pickleball Association ([USAPA](#)) has recently added another member to its growing list of staff personnel. And, the latest addition is no stranger to the USAPA.

Karen Parrish, former USAPA Atlantic Regional Director from 2013-2017 and current District Ambassador for the Emerald Coast District in the Florida Panhandle will be the governing body's Managing Director of Competition.

In her new position with the organization, Parrish will oversee USAPA's competition department with an emphasis on growing and streamlining all sanctioned tournament play, including the USAPA regional tournaments and the National Championships. In addition to tournaments, Parrish will also oversee USAPA staff whose responsibilities include ratings, equipment testing/standards, referees and other competition-related areas. "My first order of business is a trip to the US Open Pickleball Championships in Naples so I can observe and meet with several industry contacts who will be attending," said Parrish. "I will then immediately reach out and begin working with USAPA's 11 Regional Directors on the upcoming regional tournaments."

Parrish, along with David Jordan, Anne Reynolds and Kyle Klein will serve as an event chair for the 2019 Margaritaville USA Pickleball National Championships. The event this year will be held November 2-10 at the world-famous Indian Wells Tennis Garden facility in Indian Wells, CA (near Palm Springs, CA).

"USAPA is extremely fortunate to have a person of Karen's caliber and knowledge of the sport of pickleball to lead our competition department," said USAPA Executive Director, Justin Maloof. "She brings a great deal of enthusiasm and a desire to grow our sport and will certainly continue to elevate pickleball to the next level. I couldn't be happier to have her join our team."

Parrish grew up in a family that featured highly-competitive athletes which fueled her passion for sports.

After high school, she played competitive slow pitch softball for over 25 years and then three years on the diamond playing women's professional baseball. However, it was the sport of pickleball that stirred her soul in so many ways. "I have to say I have never played a sport with so much enthusiasm, joy, sweat and tears as I have pickleball. In my opinion, it's one of the greatest sports ever played."

Parrish's passion for the sport is reflected in one of her favorite quotes by the NFL's All Pro Defensive End JJ Watt... "Success isn't owned - it's leased, and rent is due every day."

Parish attended Northwest Florida State College majoring in Business Administration and Sports Fitness and Recreation Management. Her first day as the USAPA Managing Director of Competition is May 1 and she is without question, excited for the challenges that lie ahead. "It's time to go to work!"

For more information on USAPA Pickleball, visit www.usapa.org.

####

About USAPA

The United States Pickleball Association, a non-profit 501(c)(3) was established in 2005 to further the advancement of the sport on a national level. As the official governing body of pickleball in the United States, the USAPA promotes the growth of pickleball by maintaining the rules, setting player ratings, advancing the sport through its national network of @1,800 ambassadors, and sanctioning tournaments. Over the past five years, the USAPA has realized a growth of 650% in its membership which now totals @34,000. The USAPA is divided into 11 regions across the country with all 50 states being represented. The extensive group of volunteer ambassadors oversees the sport in their respective states. For more information, visit www.usapa.org.