



SEPTEMBER 2016

Why Isn't Pool in Olympics?

For anyone with a television set or internet, it's been pretty hard to avoid anything Olympic in the last month. Trying to DVR all of it so as not to miss boxing or basketball (husband's favorite), gymnastics or diving (my favorite), or equestrian (daughter's favorite) was a challenge.

Sorting through the subsequent programming and fast-forwarding through endless bouts of beach volleyball, kayaking, track and field and more became a sort of game in itself. And then there were all the sports we were somewhat amused by (rhythm gymnastics and synchronized swimming - why is either still a thing?) and handball, horses dancing to music and fencing (okay, talent maybe, but weird to watch).

Probably one of the most fascinating was table tennis. Still can't figure out those weird serves but it's awfully fun to watch those guys battle it out on that tiny surface.

And that always comes back to, then why not pool?

If table tennis and golf can make it, surely the billiard sports, one discipline or another being played on every continent, should get a nod?

The first step in the process of becoming an Olympic sport is recognition as a sport from the International Olympic Committee (IOC). The IOC requires that the activity have administration by an international non-governmental organization that oversees at least one sport. A sport may gain IOC recognition but not become a competing event at the Olympic Games.

Sadly, that's the case in the billiard sports. Though we gained IOC recognition in the early 2000s, and were even part of the World Games in 2004 (Akita, Japan), pool's Olympic dreams have been sidelined. Like

bowling, they're both recognized sports, but they do not compete at the Games.

The Olympic Charter indicates that to be accepted, a sport must be widely practiced by men in at least 75 countries and on four continents, and by women in no fewer than 40 countries and on three continents. The sport must also increase the "value and appeal" of the Olympic Games and retain and reflect its modern traditions.

The IOC has been permitting new sports only in conjunction with the simultaneous discontinuation of others. Sports that have already been part of the Games are periodically reviewed to determine whether they should be retained. And, when choosing sports to include, the IOC must take into consideration media and public interest, since these are a key drive behind the Olympic Games.

Seems like the cuesports fit all the necessary bills, and would be pretty easy to create the arena for, but guess until more people demand to see the best pool, billiard and snooker players duking it out on the world stage, we'll have to keep creating our own world stages.

And so this month, while celebrating athletes from around the globe in a myriad of sports, right here in *P&B* we'll celebrate our own, including the ever amazing Shane Van Boening who turned in brilliant performances at the US Open 8-Ball and 10-Ball events in Vegas, AND a runner-up finish in Qatar at the World 9-Ball Championships. And Albin Ouschan, brother of female champ Jasmin Ouschan, who has cemented his own place in sports history as the newest WPA World 9-Ball champion!

Someday, maybe, we'll get to see great athletes like Shane and Albin on the podium, accepting Olympic Gold Medals they'd both surely earn...

EXECUTIVE STAFF

PUBLISHER:
Harold L. Simonsen
EXECUTIVE EDITOR
Shari J. Stauch
MANAGING EDITOR
Thomas C. Shaw
CIRCULATION DIRECTOR
Carol Simonsen

COLUMNISTS

Anthony Beeler
Phil Capelle
Dominic Esposito
Mark Finkelstein
Loree Jon Hasson
Ewa Mataya Laurance
Donny Lutz
Nick Nikolaidis
Charlie Williams

CONTRIBUTORS

Sean Chaffin
Ashi Fachler
Jerry Forsyth
Tony Fox
Tina Hardt
Karin Kaltofen
Sally Lee
John Lewis
Jojo Lirio, Jr.
Lawrence Lustig
Tom Rossman
Dale Shank
Victor Stein
Dave Thomson
Charles Ursitti

Pool & Billiard Magazine

is published by:

Sports Publications Ltd.

115 S. Main St. Summerville, SC 29483

Telephone (843) 875-5115 Fax (843) 875-5171

Web Site: www.poolmag.com

e-mail: poolmag@poolmag.com

Contents © 2016 and

cannot be reproduced without express written permission of this publication.