



2026 U.S.–China Collegiate Pickleball Exchange Program Report

Sports as the Bridge · Culture as the Bond

— International Sports & Culture Exchange Association (ISCEA)
May 2026

Executive Summary

The 2026 U.S.–China Collegiate Pickleball Exchange Program, organized by ISCEA (International Sports & Culture Exchange Association), successfully brought American collegiate pickleball players to China for a historic sports and cultural exchange tour from March 7–15, 2026.

The program connected student-athletes, universities, coaches, and communities across both countries through:

- Pickleball competition and training
- Cross-cultural engagement
- University exchange
- Community interaction
- Leadership development
- International friendship building

The tour represented one of the first large-scale U.S.–China collegiate pickleball exchange initiatives and demonstrated the growing role of sports diplomacy in strengthening people-to-people connections between young generations.

Program Highlights

Participating Delegation

- Collegiate pickleball players from leading U.S. universities
- Coaches and volunteer leadership team
- Student leaders and club presidents
- Community partners and supporters

China Tour Cities & Activities

The delegation visited multiple cities across China, participating in:

- Friendly matches and training sessions
- University and community engagement
- Cultural immersion experiences
- Historical and educational visits
- Cross-cultural dialogue and friendship activities

Key destinations included:

- Beijing
- Hebei Province (Shijiazhuang / Zhengding)
- Chengdu, Sichuan

Participants visited iconic cultural landmarks including:

- The Great Wall
- The Bird's Nest National Stadium
- Zhengding Ancient City
- Chengdu Giant Panda Base
- Local universities and sports communities

Mission & Impact

The program reflected ISCEA's mission:

“Sports as the Bridge · Culture as the Bond”

Beyond athletic competition, the exchange created opportunities for:

- International friendship
- Cultural understanding
- Youth leadership development
- Educational collaboration
- Long-term sports partnerships

The program demonstrated how pickleball, one of the fastest-growing sports globally, can become a powerful platform for international exchange and community connection.

Organizational Effort & Program Development

The program was initiated in September 2025 and required months of volunteer coordination involving:

- University outreach
- International partnership development
- Program logistics
- Sponsorship and community support
- Travel coordination
- Visa processing
- Student and parent communication

ISCEA volunteers and leadership dedicated extensive unpaid time and operational support throughout the planning and execution process.

Sponsor & Partner Appreciation

ISCEA sincerely thanks all supporters, sponsors, volunteers, universities, coaches, and community partners who helped make this program possible.

Special appreciation goes to:

- University pickleball leaders and student-athletes
- Chinese hosting organizations and local partners
- Volunteer coordinators and coaches
- Community supporters and sponsors
- Families and parents who trusted and supported the program

This exchange program was built through collaboration, goodwill, and a shared belief in the positive power of sports and cultural exchange.

Participant Feedback

The program received highly positive feedback from students and coaches.

Participants shared comments such as:

“The trip was incredible. I had an amazing time.”

“Cross cultural exchange enriches and inspires us.”

“Pickleball and sport bring people together.”

“The exchange was a huge success.”

Students highlighted:

- Warm hospitality from Chinese hosts
 - Deep cultural experiences
 - Meaningful friendships
 - Exposure to Chinese history, cuisine, language, and community life
 - Inspiration through sports and teamwork
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Looking Forward

The success of the 2026 exchange program has laid a strong foundation for future U.S.–China collegiate sports and cultural exchange initiatives.

ISCEA hopes to continue building:

- International youth exchange opportunities
- Collegiate sports partnerships
- Coaching and leadership collaboration
- Cross-cultural educational programs
- Global pickleball community connections

ISCEA welcomes future collaboration with:

- Sponsors
- Universities
- Sports organizations
- Community leaders
- Media partners
- Cultural exchange institutions

Together, we can continue using sports to build understanding, friendship, and opportunity across borders.

About ISCEA

International Sports & Culture Exchange Association (ISCEA)

ISCEA is a nonprofit organization dedicated to promoting international sports and cultural exchange through youth programs, community partnerships, leadership development, and global engagement initiatives.

Mission

Sports as the Bridge · Culture as the Bond

Through sports, education, and cultural understanding, ISCEA aims to create meaningful international connections that inspire future generations.