

Countries of Wiffleball

“To other countries, I may go as a tourist, but to India, I come as a pilgrim.”

- Martin Luther King

When I was in high school, my english teacher always taught me that it is important to have an attention grabber at the beginning of any informational piece I wrote, so there ya go. Not sure if it has much relevance, but needless to say, this article is about comparing NWLA wiffleball squads to countries of the world, so why not bring some much needed diversity to this tournament with good old MLK! If you're feelings get hurt or you feel as though you don't actually have a punchable face like lil Kim Jung II, get over it, there isn't a science to this madness, just be happy and don't take things so seriously.

- 1.) **MNWA** - *Mexico*. MNWA is fun to be around, always competitive in games and they even have one of those accents that guarantees they are “not from here”. The Mexico comparison works so well because although they have great pride in their wiffle heritage, I don't think anyone would be surprised to see them sneaking across the wiffle border to join a powerhouse.
- 2.) **AWAA** - *United States of America*. This league has a chance to be on top of the wiffle world. They have seemed to form what a few have called a super team, but I'd rather consider this league the melting pot of wiffleball. Talent has come together from a few leagues to form what their manager calls “A bigly treamendous great great great amazing wiffleball team that has the biggest and best numbers.”
- 3.) **SWBL** - *Switzerland*. The only country in the world without an actual military (I think). Hundreds of millions of dollars stored in offshore accounts. Great pocket knives. Similar to Switzerland, this team gives off an aura that they are just happy to be there, reaping the benefits from other western countries (Easier pool play, year after year). Are they just happy to be skating by? Watch out, they just might take that pocket knife and end you when the time is right.
- 4.) **OCWA** - *England*. Ugly teeth? No. Sometimes drive on the wrong side of the road? Quite possibly. Powerhouse. Yes. This league is dominant every year, there's really no other way to put it. Their rich history stands for itself and that alone can garnish them the attention they deserve. They go to the bank just about every game and withdraw some POUNDS.
- 5.) **TBW** - *Israel*. Although not the oldest country in the world, the region most certainly is. This team is like a fine wine with its experience. The longer they play, the scarier they get. Derek Linderman is like the Jesus of this tournament. It's gonna take more than a few nails to push him to retirement.
- 6.) **WSEM** - *Russia*. I know what you're thinking. Russia?!? I get it. It doesn't sound glamorous, but this is a compliment. Russia is a dominant force in the world. Vladimir Putin (Carl Coffee, even though he doesn't live in Michigan anymore) is one of the most

powerful men in the world (wiffle world), has great athletes (Farkas) that may have or not been caught doping (That's gotta be why he throws so hard right?) and lives in one of the most frigid places on the planet (Michigan, may not be as bad as Minny, but you get the point). Plus, after last years results, I wouldn't doubt it if Evan Bischoff was really just playing for HRL to meddle with their championship run and let WSEM win.

- 7.) **LWA** - *Iceland*. Remember Iceland's amazing Euro Cup soccer run? Well for those of you that haven't, Iceland has a population of less than 330k, but somehow managed to dethrone European soccer powerhouses in the Euro tournament. Just like Iceland, Leroy, a small area in the middle of nowhere, wasn't really on the map before last year's NWLA tourney, but ended up shocking many by finishing in the top 8. Did they win? No. But by the way everyone fantasizes over them, you might think they did something worthwhile.
- 8.) **GBL** - *Vietnam*. In similar ways to Vietnam, this league is not a traditional league. Blacktops, Champro balls, and lawn chairs for a strike zone. Don't let these different rules and name fool you though. Vietnam may sound like a dreaded place because of historical tragedies, but it's actually quite beautiful. GBL is beautiful in its own right. Games under the lights, a great social media presence. Just like Vietnam, this league has got it. Wiffleball is wiffleball no matter how you sling it. It's a must see.
- 9.) **PWL** - *Jamaica*. PWL has that one stud, just like Jamaica. He could single handedly bring gold to his team if this were a one man sport, but unfortunately it's more like the 400m relay. Jack Shannon is this team's Usain Bolt and should be celebrated just like Bolt, but don't expect much else on the medal stand.