

# Beer Pong: Not Just a Drinking Game Anymore

The Progression of Beer Pong From an Activity to a Sport

By: Rachel Trujillo



ABOVE: World Series of Beer Pong in Las Vegas, NV- Semi Final game.

Almost all college students in the past fifteen years will tell you that they have played beer pong in someone's basement. However, the game of beer pong has transformed into a sport instead of the drinking game everyone is familiar with.

Skilled players from all over the world meet annually at the World Series of Beer Pong to determine who the best players are.



ABOVE: College students play beer pong in a basement.

BELOW: After shooting, a player holds his follow-through over a typical house-party table.



ABOVE: A player waits to play Phoenix Rules, which are the house rules at this party. BELOW: The beer used to play depends on what is available in the homeowner's fridge.



ABOVE: Solo cups typical of house parties.



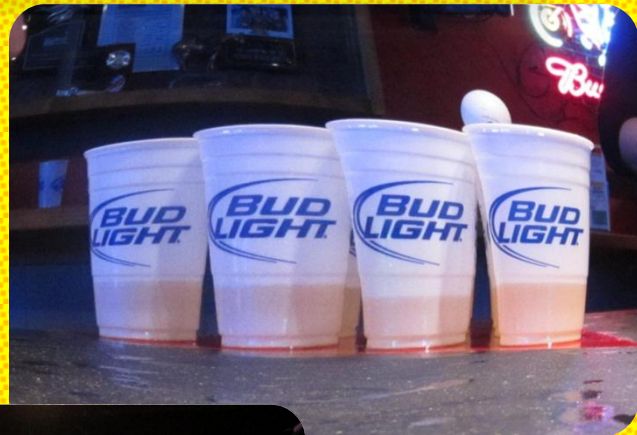


ABOVE: Female beer pong player leans across the table to gain an advantage in a New Mexico WSOBP satellite tournament.

### Beer Pong Goes Public: The Bar

When bars across the nation started holding weekly tournaments, the game of beer pong was transformed. Players could now prove that they were the best in their hometown, not just at the house party. Bars also started to regulate the rules of the game so that they were universal, and players knew what to expect. Each bar, however, still used different types of tables and cups, attracting certain crowds in the beer pong community. Now, beer pong players around the nation flock to bars to play in tournaments with prize money ranging from \$100 to \$3000. Throughout the year, satellite tournaments for the World Series of Beer Pong are also hosted, at various bars, so that the best teams from each community can represent their hometowns.

RIGHT: At bars, beer companies sponsor tournaments so that their product is sold to players.



LEFT: Bar tables, cups, and balls vary between bars, but rules are regulated and remain the same at each location.

RIGHT: Beer pong teams from around the world come to play in the WSOBP. Japan, Canada, Jamaica, and Ireland were all represented in the WSOBP VI.

BELOW: In the WSOBP, all of the equipment and rules are regulated so that players are guaranteed fair games.



### The World Series of Beer Pong: Where Professional Beer Pong Was Born

Beer pong turned into a professional sport when the World Series of Beer Pong was created by the company BPong. BPong organizes and runs the WSOBP every year in Las Vegas and gives out over \$75,000 in cash and prizes (of which the first place team takes home \$50,000). They also regulate everything from the rules, to the tables, to the weight and circumference of the ping pong ball. Players across the world come to play in the WSOBP to prove that their skills and techniques are better than those of any of the other competitors. There are several different beer pong tournaments in addition to the actual WSOBP played in Las Vegas, including a coed tournament, East Coast vs. West Coast tournament, female singles tournament, male singles tournament, and an international team tournament. However, winning one of these tournaments is minor in comparison to winning the World Series. The WSOBP transformed the game of beer pong from a drinking activity played in basements, into a highly competitive, international sport, played by hundreds of professional players across the world.



ABOVE: The team Standing Ovation celebrates after winning the WSOBP VI.

RIGHT: The team, Smashing Time, repeat champions of WSOBP IV, receive the 50K first place check from Bruce Buffer in the WSOBP V.



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