



Scottish Petanque Association

Competition Rules

1. GENERAL

- 1.1. The number, date and venues of official Scottish Petanque Association (SPA) competitions will be determined by the National Executive Committee (NEC) and published in advance.
- 1.2. The NEC will be responsible for the organisation of SPA Competitions and will appoint a designated organiser and an Umpire, if available, for each event.
- 1.3. Any competition may be postponed or cancelled at the discretion of the National Executive Committee.
- 1.4. Regulations for play shall be the *Official International Rules of the Sport of Pétanque*, published by the Federation International de Pétanque et Jeu Provençal, at the time of the competition in question, and these Competition Rules only.
- 1.5. Any infringement of the Regulations may invalidate entry, cause disqualification and/or the forfeiture of any position or prizes previously awarded.
- 1.6. During any competition the Umpire, Umpires Jury and/or Competitions Committee may make amendments to the Regulations which they deem necessary to ensure the smooth running of the competition.
- 1.7. Unless otherwise communicated, teams of 3 or 4 players may enter and participate in triples competitions. A team may change no more than one player in the course of a game and then only between ends after informing the Umpire.
- 1.8. In any competition where score sheets are provided, they must be fully completed with the game score and signed by a player from each team. Once a score sheet has been fully completed, signed and submitted to the control table, it will be accepted as the correct score for the game in question and cannot be altered.
- 1.9. Smoking, using electronic cigarettes, drinking alcoholic beverages and using mobile telephones during play in any competition is forbidden. Players who fail to observe this rule will be subject to penalties as defined in Article 35 of the *Official International Rules of the Sport of Pétanque*.
- 1.10. Players will be expected to adhere to the spirit of fair play and sportsmanship at all times.

2. ELIGIBILITY

- 2.1. To be eligible to compete in SPA Competitions, players must hold a valid SPA Licence.
- 2.2. Players who accept an invitation to represent the SPA in international events must be eligible to represent Scotland, be available to play, be able to travel and be able to fund themselves.
- 2.3. To represent Scotland in World or European Championships, a player must:
 - 2.3.1. Hold a current SPA Licence.
 - 2.3.2. Be a British Citizen.
 - 2.3.3. Have been born in Scotland *or* permanently resident in Scotland for at least one calendar year prior to selection.
 - 2.3.4. Must satisfy any age restrictions as laid down by the Federation Internationale de Pétanque et Jeu Provençal (FIPJP) or Confédération Européenne de Pétanque (CEP) for the competition in question.
- 2.4. To represent Scotland in the Home Nations or Celtic Challenge a player must:
 - 2.4.1. Hold a current SPA Licence.
 - 2.4.2. Have been born in Scotland *or* permanently resident in Scotland for at least one calendar year prior to selection.
- 2.5. To represent Scotland in the CEP EuroCup, a player must:
 - 2.5.1. Be a member of the affiliated club they are competing for.
 - 2.5.2. Hold a current SPA Licence that was issued at least 6 calendar months before the published date of the EuroCup Qualifying Round and shows the name of the affiliated club they are competing for.
- 2.6. Should the SPA be invited to any competition that has different eligibility criteria than described above this will be communicated separately.
- 2.7. In the case of World, European, Home Nations and Celtic Challenge representation, the NEC will give consideration to those players who would otherwise be eligible but, because of work commitments, are temporarily resident overseas. Each case will be considered on its own merit and the NEC's decision will be final.
- 2.8. Players who have transferred their International Pétanque Licence from another Federation to the SPA may be subject to additional eligibility conditions as laid down by the FIPJP or CEP. The specifics of each individual case will be examined by the NEC, who may consult with the FIPJP, CEP and other Federations as necessary to determine eligibility.

3. INTERNATIONAL QUALIFICATION

- 3.1. The SPA's aim for all international events is to ensure Scotland fields its strongest squads.
- 3.2. Teams ranked 1-4 in the SPA Grand Prix Series will represent Scotland at the following year's Celtic Challenge, except when Scotland is hosting, where teams ranked 1-8 will represent Scotland.
- 3.3. Teams ranked 1-8 in the SPA Masters will represent Scotland at the following year's Home Nations Championship.
- 3.4. Players who qualify for the Home Nations and/or Celtic Challenge will be expected to take their place in the relevant squad.
- 3.5. In circumstances where it is agreed by the NEC that a player will not take their place in a Home Nations or Celtic Challenge squad and this results in less than 3 players in any individual team, the NEC will take the following steps.
- 3.6. The remaining players in the short handed team will be given the option to either:
 - 3.6.1. join another short-handed team; or
 - 3.6.2. invite a 4th player from another qualified team to join the short-handed team.
- 3.7. The aim is to complete the squad from players who have already qualified. If it is not possible to complete the squad using the above method, the NEC will invite players from the team that were ranked in the next highest position to help form the short-handed team.
- 3.8. This could involve inviting individual players to complete a short-handed team or inviting a whole team to take up a vacant team slot as required.
- 3.9. Should the squad still be short-handed, players from teams who were ranked in the next highest position in the qualifying ranking will be invited, and so on, until such time as all the vacant positions are filled.
- 3.10. In the circumstances where a squad remains short-handed after all of the methods above have been exhausted, the NEC reserve the right to invite any eligible player (see Eligibility section) to join the affected squad at its discretion.
- 3.11. The NEC's decision will be final.
- 3.12. The SPA Masters will be used to determine the players who will represent Scotland at either the World or European Triples Championships.
- 3.13. All players competing in SPA Competitions will be asked to confirm if they are able to commit to play in the international squads if asked to represent Scotland. A commitment means the player is eligible to represent Scotland, can make themselves available to play, is able to travel and can fund their participation.

- 3.14. The male player(s) in the highest ranked team at the SPA Masters will have the right to represent Scotland in the following year's World or European Triples Championship. If the team has less than 4 male players, other male players who competed in the SPA Masters and confirmed their commitment to play in Scotland's international squads may be invited to join the squad by the automatically qualified players to bring the total to 4. The NEC must be provided with details of the proposed squad, including all officials where required, by the end of the calendar year.
- 3.15. The female player(s) in the highest ranked team at the SPA Masters will have the right to represent Scotland in the following year's World or European Triples Championship. If the team has less than 4 female players, other female players who competed in the SPA Masters and confirmed their commitment to play in Scotland's international squads may be invited to join the squad by the automatically qualified players to bring the total to 4. The NEC must be provided with details of the proposed squad, including all officials where required, by the end of the calendar year.
- 3.16. The veteran player(s) in the highest ranked team at the SPA Masters in an even numbered year will have the right to represent Scotland in the following year's European Triples Championship. If the team has less than 4 veteran players, other veteran players who competed in the SPA Masters and confirmed their commitment to play in Scotland's international squads may be invited to join the squad by the automatically qualified players to bring the total to 4. The NEC must be provided with details of the proposed squad, including all officials where required, by the end of the calendar year.
- 3.17. All officials required to be part of the Scotland international squad must be agreed in advance with the NEC, who will take into consideration the selected individual's experience and standing.
- 3.18. Where a coach is required, they must hold a valid international licence or SPA Licence. The NEC has the right to appoint a suitable coach at its discretion and subject to their availability.
- 3.19. Where a head of delegation is required they must hold a valid SPA Licence. The NEC has the right to nominate one of the players or the coach to be the head of delegation.
- 3.20. The NEC will write and confirm its selection to all players and officials it has approved to represent Scotland.
- 3.21. Players or officials who do not accept or decline at a later date the SPA's invitation to represent Scotland must give their reasons in writing to the NEC. The NEC will consider the circumstances of each case and confirm its decision to the individual.
- 3.22. The NEC has the right to consider disciplinary action against a player or official if it decides the reason for withdrawal is not valid or if details for withdrawing are not forthcoming.
- 3.23. If the SPA receives invitations to other international events, the NEC will decide whether it is in the interests of the SPA to accept the invitation and the criteria for selecting the Scotland squad.

3.24. Any circumstances that arise concerning international qualification or representation that are not covered specifically within these rules will be considered by the NEC and any decision made will be final.

3.25. In all cases, the NEC has final approval for the selection of all international squads.

4. STANDARD OF DRESS

4.1. In all SPA Competitions and international qualifiers, teams are required to wear matching tops.

4.2. For the Celtic Challenge and Home Nations, all players must play in full SPA international team kit, comprising the official SPA squad polo shirt & black trousers or three-quarter length shorts. There is no requirement for jackets, jumpers, fleeces or waterproofs to match, although SPA branded items are preferable where practical. For the avoidance of doubt, all players will be required to pay for their own kit.

4.3. For World or European Championships or other international events the SPA has accepted invitations to, teams representing the SPA must wear full SPA international kit, comprising the official SPA squad polo shirt & black trousers or three-quarter length shorts. Where jumpers and jackets are to be worn in competition, the organisers may insist these are of the same colour and design as the SPA squad polo shirt. For the avoidance of doubt, players will be required to pay for their own kit.

4.4. For the EuroCup, players must wear their own club's kit. All kit must match (tops, jumpers, trousers, three-quarter length shorts), be in good taste and portray the right image for our association.

5. ENTRIES, REGISTRATION, THE DRAW AND BREAKS IN PLAY

5.1. Entry to all SPA Competitions will be on the day, unless communicated otherwise by the NEC.

5.2. Players must present their SPA Licence and complete a registration form at registration for each competition.

5.3. Entry fees for SPA Competitions will be communicated in advance by the NEC.

5.4. Registration for SPA Competitions will open at 09:00 on the day of competition and will close at 09:15, unless otherwise stated by the NEC.

5.5. For all SPA Competitions, play will commence as soon as possible after the draw and any official announcements.

5.6. The draw must be witnessed by an SPA official or an Umpire.

5.7. The draw for National Competitions and the Grand Prix Series will be made by the competition software.

- 5.8. For the SPA Masters, teams will draw a number at registration that will determine their place in the draw and the order in which they will play opposing teams.
- 5.9. Each SPA Competition will have a lunch break after the completion of 3 rounds of games, unless communicated otherwise. The lunch break will be a minimum of 30 minutes and more time will be given where circumstances allow. Otherwise, play is continuous and breaks should be kept to a minimum.
- 5.10. Lane allocations for individual games shall be determined by the competition software or organiser. Games must be played on the allocated lane unless instructed otherwise by an Umpire or SPA official.

6. **COMPETITION FORMATS**

- 6.1. The Grand Prix Series will use the Swiss Ladder draw system, unless communicated otherwise, and the competition will comprise of 6 rounds.
- 6.2. Teams will be placed according to:
 - 6.2.1. Number of wins
 - 6.2.2. Bucholtz number (BHN)
 - 6.2.3. Fine Bucholtz number (fBHN)
 - 6.2.4. Points Difference
- 6.3. If there are an odd number of teams, byes will be allocated by the competition software. In round one, the bye will be allocated randomly. In subsequent rounds, the bye will be allocated to a team who have the least number of wins and who have not already received a bye. Teams who are given a bye will be credited with a 13-7 win.
- 6.4. The SPA Masters will be a round robin and teams will be ranked according to wins, with points difference and then points scored to determine the relative ranking of tied teams. Where teams remain tied, their head-to-head result will determine their relative placings.
- 6.5. The format and ranking systems for national titles and qualifiers will be communicated in advance as required.
- 6.6. With the exception of the SPA Masters all games in Triples competitions will subject to time limits.
- 6.7. The SPA Shooting Competition will follow the FIPJP rules for Precision Shooting. Players will compete in a qualification round, with the top 4 ranked players proceeding to seeded semi-finals and then a 3rd/4th place playoff and a final.

7. GRAND PRIX SERIES

- 7.1. The Grand Prix Series (GPS) will consist of three Grand Prix rounds.
- 7.2. Each Grand Prix will be a triples competition and teams of 3 or 4 players may enter.
- 7.3. Teams who have previously only registered 3 players at a previous Grand Prix, may register a 4th player at a subsequent round provided that player has not played in the GPS for another team. Only players who are physically present may be registered to play in a Grand Prix.
- 7.4. GPS points will be awarded at each Grand Prix as follows:
 - 7.4.1. *1st Place*: 1 GPS point for every team entered (e.g. if the entry is 20 teams, 20 GPS points are awarded)
 - 7.4.2. *2nd Place*: 1 point less than 1st place (e.g. if the entry is 20 teams, 19 GPS points are awarded)
 - 7.4.3. *3rd Place*: 1 point less than 2nd place
 - 7.4.4. and so on, such that the last placed team will always be awarded 1 GPS point.
- 7.5. After 3 GPS rounds the teams will be ranked according to:
 - 7.5.1. GPS points
 - 7.5.2. if tied, total wins over the GPS
 - 7.5.3. if still tied, total BHN over the GPS
 - 7.5.4. if still tied, total fBHN over the GPS
 - 7.5.5. if still tied, points difference over the GPS
- 7.6. The top 12 ranked teams in the GPS will qualify to compete in the SPA Masters.
- 7.7. In exceptional circumstances only, the NEC will consider requests for introducing a 4th player for the SPA Masters from teams who only registered 3 players throughout the GPS. Such requests must be in good time for the SPA Masters weekend and have good foundation, for example illness. Requests will not be granted where players are not available. The 4th player may have played for another team in the GPS, provided that team has not qualified for the Masters. The NEC's decision will be final.

8. TIME LIMITED GAMES

- 8.1. The duration of Triples time limited games will be 55 minutes plus two ends. Should it be necessary to apply time limits to Singles or Doubles games, the durations will be communicated in the announcements before the competition commences.
- 8.2. The commencement of each timed game will be signalled by a whistle.
- 8.3. If a team achieves 13 points within the time limit or in any of the additional two ends the game is over.
- 8.4. When the time limit for the game is reached, a whistle will sound. Any end in progress at the sound of this whistle should be completed. For these purposes an end is deemed to have started as soon as the last boule of the previous end has been thrown. A further two ends are then played as normal. If one team is leading after the completion of the last additional end, they are declared the winner.
- 8.5. If teams are tied after the second additional end, a further tie breaker end will be played. During this end, players play with two boules each as normal, however the jack cannot become dead.
- 8.6. Players should ensure that the position of the jack is marked at all times, but especially during a tie-breaker end.
- 8.7. Should the jack leave the playing area during this end, the jack must be replaced in its previous position, provided it was marked.
- 8.8. If the jack was not marked and it leaves the playing area during this end, the Umpire will place it in the nearest valid position on the playing area to where it went out of play.
- 8.9. If the jack is stopped or deviated having been hit during this end, the provisions of Article 15 of the Official Rules of the Sport of Pétanque will still apply, however the jack may not be placed out of play.
- 8.10. Should the jack become dead for another reason during this end, the Umpire will make a ruling in an equitable way.
- 8.11. Penalties for teams arriving late will be applied as per Article 32 of the *Official Rules of the Sport of Pétanque* with the following modification: after 15 minutes from the start of a game, if a team has still not arrived the game is forfeit and their opponents are credited with a 13-7 win.

9. UMPIRES JURY

- 9.1. Where a competition is not being officiated by a designated Umpire, there may be occasions where a ruling is required.
- 9.2. In these circumstances, any qualified umpire who is competing may be consulted. This person will make a judgement as to whether they are able to make a fair ruling, taking into account any potential conflict of interest that may exist. If they are unable to make a fair ruling, they will call upon the umpires jury to make a ruling who will discuss the matter and agree. The umpires jury consists of all qualified umpires who are in attendance. They will have the same powers as a designated umpire would have regarding enforcement of the Regulations and their decision is final.