

SPA Competition Rules 2015

These rules apply to all competitions held under the auspices of the Scottish Petanque Association for 2015.

1 GENERAL

- 1.1 The number, dates and venues of the events will be determined by the National Executive Committee (NEC) and published in advance.
- 1.2 The SPA Competition Committee will be responsible for the organisation of the competitions and will appoint a designated organiser for each event.
- 1.3 Regulations for play shall be the 'Official International Rules of the Game of Petanque' as approved by the FIPJP at the time of the competition in question and these Competition Rules and no other rules.
- 1.4 Teams of 3 or 4 players may enter and participate in triples events. A team may change no more than one player in the course of a game and then only between two ends after notifying the umpire.
- 1.5 Smoking, drinking alcoholic beverages and the consumption of food on the terrain during a game is forbidden. Players who fail to observe this rule will be subject to penalties as defined in the Official International Rules of the Game of Petanque as approved by the FIPJP at the time of the competition in question.
- 1.6 Any infringement of the Regulations may invalidate entry or cause disqualification and/or necessitate the forfeiture of any position or prizes previously awarded.
- 1.7 Any event may be postponed or cancelled at the discretion of the NEC.
- 1.8 During any competition the Umpire, Umpire's Committee and Competition Committee may make amendments to the Regulations which they deem necessary to ensure smooth running of the competition.

2 ELIGIBILITY

- 2.1 Only fully paid SPA licence holders are eligible to compete in SPA events.
- 2.2 Players who accept an invitation to represent the SPA in international events must be eligible to represent Scotland, be able to travel and be available to play.
- 2.3 To be eligible to represent Scotland in international events players must satisfy the following:
 - 2.3.1 The player shall be a member of the SPA, holding a valid license which shows a recent photograph and has been officially stamped AND was born in Scotland OR one parent or grandparent of the player was born in Scotland OR the player has been resident in Scotland for the full calendar year prior to selection.
 - 2.3.2 Players who have transferred from another Federation to the SPA may be subject to additional eligibility conditions as laid down by the FIPJP. The specifics will need to be examined by the SPA to determine eligibility.

3 ENTRIES, REGISTRATION AND THE DRAW

3.1 Entry to all competitions will be on the day of competition unless otherwise communicated

3.2 All players must be able to produce their license at registration at each event.

3.3 Entry fees for each competition will be £6 per head (teams of 4 entering a triples event are therefore required to pay £24) with the exception of the SPA Masters, where the charge will be £3 per head.

3.4 Registration will open at each competition at 0900 and will close at 0915 prompt for Grand Prix and close at 0930 for all other national competitions.

3.5 Entries will not be accepted after registration has closed on the day of the competition.

3.6 Teams must provide a unique name by which they will be known for the duration of the event or series of events.

3.7 No more than four players can be used by any one team in the International Qualification Series.

3.8 The draw will be made immediately upon closure of registration in the presence of the Umpire and play will commence immediately after the draw and announcements.

4 STANDARD OF DRESS

4.1 In all competitions teams will be required to wear matching tops.

4.2 When playing in International competitions representing the SPA all teams must play in full International team kit comprising SPA tops as approved by the NEC and black or dark navy trousers.

5 INTERNATIONAL QUALIFICATION SERIES

5.1 The Grand Prix Series of competitions will qualify the top 12 teams for the 2015 Masters competition and Scotland's representatives at the 2016 Home Nations.

5.2 To be eligible for selection to play at either the 2015 Masters or represent Scotland at the 2016 Home Nations, a team must have competed in a minimum of 2 Grand Prix in 2015.

5.3 The 2015 Masters placings will be used to select the remaining teams for the 2016 Celtic Challenge and other International competitions as detailed at the end of these rules.

5.4 The NEC will consider requests for introducing a 4th player for the Masters (for teams who only used 3 players in the Grand Prix Series) or substitutes in exceptional circumstances. Such requests must be made in good time before the Masters weekend. The NEC's decision will be final.

6 FORMAT OF PLAY

6.1 GRAND PRIX SERIES

6.1.1 Each Grand Prix will be a six game **Swiss Ladder** to ascertain draw position and **Points Difference** to finalise positions.

6.1.2 Registration 0900 – 0915 prompt with start of play at 0930 latest.

6.1.3 Timed games of 60 minutes plus one additional end – this means that when 60 minutes has elapsed, the end which is currently in play is completed and then one full additional end is completed. For these purposes an end is judged to have started **once the final boule of the previous end has been thrown**. Where teams are tied after the additional end a final tiebreaker end is played with each player throwing only one boule (3 boules per team).

6.1.4 To avoid multiple jack throws eroding the time allotted for a game, the team who throw the jack will have one attempt to throw a legal jack, otherwise the jack will be passed to the opposing team who may place it in any legal position. The game will then continue as normal.

6.1.5 Penalties for teams arriving late for a timed game are as follows:

If a team has not arrived after **5** minutes have elapsed a point is awarded to the opposing team and for every 5 minutes thereafter. If, after 15 minutes have elapsed, the team has still not arrived the game is forfeit and their opponents are credited a 13-7 win.

6.1.6 Points towards the Grand Prix Series standings will be awarded as follows:-

1st.	17
2nd.	14
3rd.	11
4th.	9
5th.	8
6th.	7
7th.	6
8th.	5
9th.	3
10th.	2
11th.	1

6.1.7 The following points will be awarded for attending Grand Prix :-

1xGP	= 1Pt
2xGP	= 3Pts
3xGP	= 6Pts

6.1.8 Points totals will be cumulated after each round of the Grand Prix Series. In the event of positional ties at the end of the Grand Prix Series teams will be split by taking an average of Grand Prix positions. If they are still tied then the following cumulative totals from the Series will be used to determine the final position of the tied teams (in the following order): Total wins then total points difference, then total points scored.

6.2 MASTERS

6.2.1 A round robin of the 12 top ranked teams from the Grand Prix Series, played over 2 consecutive days.

6.2.2 Registration will be 0900 to 0915 sharp with play commencing after brief announcements.

6.2.3 At registration, each team will randomly draw a number which will determine their position in the draw.

6.2.4 Teams will be ranked according to wins, with points difference and then points scored being used to break ties. Where teams remain tied after these, their head-to-head result will determine their relative ranking.

6.3 NATIONAL TITLES (excluding the Scottish Masters)

6.3.1 The format of play will be determined on the day and will be announced to the players prior to the commencement of play.

6.3.2 Announcements will be made at 0945 and play will commence immediately afterwards and at the latest by 1000 (with the exception of Grand Prix which is detailed above).

6.3.3 The Competition Committee and National Umpire (or designated Umpire for the day) reserve the right to change the format of play during the event if they deem it necessary to do so (e.g. due to poor weather).

6.3.4 Lunch will normally be from 1300 to 1400 although this may be shortened to maintain smooth running of the competition. In the event of one or more games being unfinished they will be played to a conclusion, and teams involved will be entitled to a lunch break of 30 minutes.

6.3.5 Where a league format is used for morning play, the league games should be completed prior to the lunch break unless otherwise agreed. As play is continuous no breaks should be taken for refreshments other than the designated lunch break.

7 UMPIRES AND THE ARBITRATION COMMITTEE

7.1 An Umpire will be nominated to officiate at each event by the National Umpire or N.E.C. In the circumstances where the 'Umpire' is also a competitor there is clearly potential for a conflict of interest and therefore the following rules come into play:

7.2 The Umpire will, prior to the competition commencing, appoint a Deputy Umpire and an arbitration committee of 3 or 4 experienced players, with no more than one player from any competing team being appointed.

7.3 The Umpire may not give a ruling in his or her own game, instead the Deputy Umpire will be summoned to give the ruling. Likewise the Deputy Umpire may not give a ruling in their own game and will summon the Umpire. For clarity this means that the Umpire or Deputy Umpire have no power to enforce a ruling in their own game – they are merely players.

7.4 Where the Umpire and the Deputy Umpire are competing against each other and a ruling is required they will call the arbitration committee. Equally where the Umpire and/or Deputy Umpire feel they are unable to give an impartial ruling in any particular situation they will call the arbitration committee.

7.5 The Umpire and/or Deputy Umpire will, if necessary, alert the arbitration committee and explain to them the facts of the issue seen from their perspective, the relevant rule or rules and then suggest an appropriate response. However the arbitration committee shall have the onus and sole power to act as they see fit. Having made their ruling the arbitration committee are then discharged or the power to act until they are called again.

7.6 If called upon to make a ruling, the Deputy Umpire or arbitration committee shall be vested with all the powers normally held by the Umpire.

7.7 The decision of the Umpire or Deputy Umpire or arbitration committee is final and no dialogue will be entered into.

8 INTERNATIONAL QUALIFICATION 2015

- 8.1 After completion of the **Grand Prix Series** the teams will be placed in ranking order.
- 8.2 Teams ranked 1-8 in the Grand Prix Series will represent Scotland in the 2016 Home Nations.
- 8.3 Teams ranked 1-12 in the Grand Prix Series will be invited to take their place in the 2015 Masters.
- 8.4 After completion of the 2015 Masters, the teams competing will be placed in order 1-12.
- 8.5 The 4 highest ranked teams in the 2015 Masters will represent Scotland at the 2016 Celtic Challenge.
- 8.6 The 2016 Celtic Challenge is scheduled to be held in Wales on the first weekend in May.
- 8.7 The 2016 Home Nations is scheduled to be held in Scotland and is usually either the second or third weekend in August.
- 8.8 Should any qualified players or teams be unavailable to represent the SPA at either Home Nations or Celtic Challenge, replacement players or teams will be selected by invitation of the NEC.
- 8.9 **Men's World Championships**:- The highest ranked team in the 2015 Masters with a male player will have the right to represent Scotland in the 2016 FIPJP Men's World Championships if the SPA are invited to send a team. In a the case where team with only 1,2 or 3 male players qualifies, he or they may invite a player or players who had competed in the 2015 Masters to join their team. All players wishing to be considered for selection will be asked to pre-register their interest prior to the 2015 Masters.
- 8.10 **Women's European Championships**:- The highest ranked team in the 2015 Masters with a female player will have the right to represent Scotland in the 2016 CEP Women's European Championships in Slovakia. In a the case where team with only 1,2 or 3 female players qualifies, she or they may invite a player or players who had competed in the 2014 Masters to join their team. All players wishing to be considered for selection will be asked to pre-register their interest prior to the 2015 Masters.
- 8.11 **Veteran's European Championships (over 55s)**:- The highest ranked team in the 2015 Masters with a veteran player (who must be 55 or over at any time during 2016) will have the right to represent Scotland in the 2016 CEP Veteran's European Championships. In a the case where team with only 1,2 or 3 veteran players qualifies, they may invite other player or players who had competed in the 2015 Masters to join their team. All players wishing to be considered for selection will be asked to pre-register their interest prior to the 2015 Masters.
- 8.12 **Other international events and invitations**:- During the course of the year, the SPA may be invited to send other teams to international events which are, as yet, unplanned. The NEC will determine an appropriate means of selecting our representatives in these circumstances.
- 8.13 The NEC will have final approval of all international team squads and selection