



SPA Competition Rules 2017

These rules apply to all competitions held under the auspices of the Scottish Petanque Association for 2017.

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 Sport of Petanque' as approved by the FIPJP at the time of the competition in question and these Competition 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, using electronic cigarettes and drinking alcoholic beverages during play is forbidden. Players who fail to observe this rule will be subject to penalties as defined in the Official International Rules of the Sport of Petanque.
- 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 National Executive Committee.
- 1.8 During any competition the Umpire, Jury and Competition Committee may make amendments to the Regulations which they deem necessary to ensure smooth running of the competition.

2. ELIGIBILITY

- 2.1 To play in SPA competitions, players must be members of the SPA and hold a current SPA International Licence.
- 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 Eligible players who qualify (via a competition or series of competitions) for an international event will be expected to accept their invitation to represent the SPA. Such players who decline the invitation will be required to provide a suitable explanation (for example for family reasons, prior commitments or financial reasons) to the NEC. Where a suitable explanation is not forthcoming, the NEC may consider disciplinary action.
- 2.4 To be eligible to represent Scotland in international events players must satisfy the following:
 - 2.4.1 The player shall be a member of the SPA, hold a current SPA International Licence 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.

- 2.4.2 **At the time of writing**, players who represent Scotland in competitions organised by the CEP (excluding the EuroCup for Clubs) may be of any nationality. However, we are aware that there may be a vote among CEP member federations in 2017 to change eligibility for CEP events which, if carried would mean that players would need to hold a current SPA International Licence **and** a British passport.
- 2.4.3 **At the time of writing**, players wishing to compete in the EuroCup **must** hold an SPA licence which bears the name of the club they will represent and **must** have done so for a period of not less than 6 months before the commencement of the Qualifying Round.
- 2.4.4 **At the time of writing**, Players who represent Scotland at FIPJP World Championships must hold a current SPA International Licence **and** a British passport. The FIPJP Executive **may** allow one non-national player in a squad, but this is at their discretion and is not guaranteed.
- 2.4.5 Players who have transferred their International Petanque Licence 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, who may consult with the FIPJP, CEP and other Federations as necessary 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 produce their license at registration at each event.
- 3.3 Entry fees for each competition will be £6 per player (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 player.
- 3.4 Registration will open at each competition at 0900 and will close at 0915 prompt for Grand Prix and Masters, and will 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 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 For the Celtic Challenge and Home Nations, all players must play in full International team kit comprising SPA tops (navy blue with sky blue panels under the arms) and black or dark navy trousers. There is no requirement for jackets, jumpers, fleeces or waterproofs to match, although SPA branded items are preferred where practical. For the avoidance of doubt, all players will be required to pay for their own kit.
- 4.3 For CEP (excluding the Euro Cup) or FIPJP competitions, teams representing the SPA may arrange their own kit, provided that it clearly displays the official SPA logo on the left breast and has the word 'Scotland' or 'Ecosse' displayed on the back. All kit must match (tops, jumpers, trousers, shorts etc – shorts must be 'below the knee'), be in good taste and portray the right image for our association. For the avoidance of doubt, players will be required to meet the cost of their own kit.

4.4 For the Euro Cup, clubs are permitted to wear their own club kit. All kit must match (tops, jumpers, trousers, shorts etc – shorts must be ‘below the knee’), be in good taste and portray the right image for our association.

5. GRAND PRIX SERIES

5.1 Teams of 3 or 4 players may enter the Grand Prix Series. Teams who enter the GPS with 3 players initially may introduce a 4th player for subsequent rounds, provided that player has not played in another team in previous rounds. Players must play with the same team throughout the GPS and SPA Masters, unless the conditions detailed in 5.5 apply.

5.2 The GPS will be used to qualify the top 12 teams for the 2017 Masters competition and Scotland’s representatives at the 2018 Home Nations.

5.3 To be eligible to play at either the 2017 Masters or represent Scotland at the 2018 Home Nations, a team must have competed in a minimum of 2 GPS rounds in 2017.

5.4 The 2017 Masters placings will be used to select the SPA representatives for the 2018 Celtic Challenge and other international competitions as detailed at the end of these rules.

5.5 **In exceptional circumstances only**, the NEC will consider requests for introducing a 4th player for the Masters from teams who only used 3 players in the GPS, or one substitute player from teams who used 4 players in the GPS. Such requests must be made in good time before the Masters weekend and have good foundation, for example illness. Requests will not be granted where players are simply not available to attend the Masters. The substitute player may have played for another team during the GPS, provided that team did not qualify for the Masters. The NEC's decision will be final.

6. FORMAT OF PLAY

6.1 GRAND PRIX SERIES

6.1.1 Each Grand Prix will follow the Swiss Ladder played over six rounds to ascertain draw position with total wins, then points difference, then points scored to finalise rankings.

6.1.2 The draw for the first game of each GPS round will be at random, by the competition software. No seeding will apply.

6.1.3 Games will be timed, lasting 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. An end is judged to have started **once the final boule of the previous end has been thrown**. Where the score is tied after the additional end, a final tiebreaker end is played with each player throwing only one boule (i.e. 3 boules per team).

6.1.4 Penalties for teams arriving late are as per ‘The Official Rules of the Sport of Petanque’. However, 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.

6.1.5 If byes are required due to an odd number of entries, the team who is given the first bye will be determined randomly by the competition software. Teams who receive a bye will be awarded a win with a score of 13-7.

6.1.6 Lunch will normally be taken after the end of the third round of games and will be at least 40 minutes. Otherwise play is continuous.

6.1.7 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

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

1 round = 1
2 rounds = 3
3 rounds = 6

6.1.9 Points totals will be cumulated after each round. In the event of positional ties after round 3, teams will be split by taking an average of Grand Prix positions. If they are still tied then the 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 The format will be a round robin of the 12 top ranked teams from the GPS, played over 2 consecutive days.

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

6.2.3 All games will be played to 13 points without a time limit.

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) and other competitions.

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 The Competition Committee and/or the Umpire reserves 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).

6.3.3 Lunch will normally be taken after completion of three games and will be at least 40 minutes. Otherwise, play is continuous. Where a league format is used for morning play, the league games should be completed prior to the lunch break unless otherwise communicated.

7. INTERNATIONAL QUALIFICATION 2017

7.1 After completion of the **GPS** the teams will be placed in ranking order.

7.1.1 Teams ranked 1-8 in the GPS will represent Scotland at the 2018 Home Nations which is likely to be hosted by Jersey.

- 7.1.2 Teams ranked 1-12 in the GPS will qualify to compete in the 2017 Masters.
- 7.2 After completion of the 2017 Masters, the teams competing will be placed in order 1-12.
- 7.2.1 The highest 4 ranked teams in the 2017 Masters will represent Scotland at the 2018 Celtic Challenge in Ireland. At the time of writing these rules, only teams of 3 players may play in the Celtic Challenge, therefore teams with 4 players who qualify will be required to select 3 to compete, with the spare player joining a list of reserves. If 4 players are to be included, this will be communicated as necessary.
- 7.2.2 Should any qualified players be unavailable to represent the SPA at either Home Nations or Celtic Challenge, replacement players will be selected by invitation of the NEC and this decision will be final. Where possible, replacement players will be chosen from teams who competed in the 2017 Masters but failed to qualify in the first instance.
- 7.3 **Men's Triples World Championships:-** The highest ranked team in the 2017 Masters with a male player will have the right to represent Scotland in the 2018 FIPJP Men's Triples Championships. In the case where team with only 1,2 or 3 male players qualifies, they may invite a player or players who had competed in the 2017 Masters to join their team to bring the total to 4 players, subject to approval from the NEC. All players wishing to be considered for selection will be asked to pre-register their interest prior to the 2017 Masters. **The team may only include one player who does not hold a British Passport and their inclusion will be at the discretion of the FIPJP.**
- 7.4 **Women's Triples European Championships:-** The highest ranked team in the 2017 Masters with a female player will have the right to represent Scotland in the 2017 CEP Women's Triples Championship. In the case where team with only 1,2 or 3 female players qualifies, they may invite a player or players who had competed in the 2017 Masters to join their team to bring the total to 4 players, subject to approval from the NEC. All players wishing to be considered for selection will be asked to pre-register their interest prior to the 2017 Masters. The team may include players of any nationality at the time of writing, but this may be subject to change.
- 7.5 **European Singles Championship:-** The highest ranked male and female players from the 2017 SPA Singles Championship will have the right to represent Scotland at the 2018 CEP Singles Championships. Players will be required to register their intent to compete in advance. Where any player passes on the opportunity to represent Scotland, the next ranked male or female player will invited to compete. **The player may be of any nationality at the time of writing, but this may be subject to change.**
- 7.6 **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.
- 7.7 The NEC will have final approval of all international team squads and selection.