

# SPA Competition Rules 2018

## 1. GENERAL

- 1.1 The number, date and venues of the events will be determined by the National Executive Committee (NEC) and published in advance.
- 1.2 The Competitions Committee will be responsible for the organisation of the competitions and will appoint a designated organiser and, if available, an umpire for each event.
- 1.3 Any event may be postponed or cancelled at the discretion of the National Executive Committee.
- 1.4 Regulations for play shall be the published 'Official International Rules of the Sport of Petanque' 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 Competition 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.
- 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. Players must therefore ensure the score sheet reflects the correct game score *before* signing it.
- 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 Petanque.
- 1.10 At all times, players will be expected to adhere to the spirit of fair play and sportsmanship.

## 2. ELIGIBILITY

- 2.1 To be eligible compete in SPA competitions, players must hold a current SPA Licence.
- 2.2 Players who accept an invitation to represent the SPA in international events must be eligible to represent Scotland (as detailed below) be able to travel and be available to play.
- 2.3 To be eligible to represent Scotland in *World Championships* or *European Championships* in 2019 a player must:
- Hold a current International Petanque Licence that has been issued by the SPA, and
  - Be a British Citizen, and
  - Have been born in Scotland or permanently resident in Scotland for at least one calendar year prior to selection, and
  - Must satisfy any age restrictions as laid down by the FIPJP or CEP for the competition in question
- 2.4 To be eligible to represent Scotland in the Home Nations or Celtic Challenge a player must:
- Hold a current International Petanque Licence that has been issued by the SPA, and
  - Have been born in Scotland or permanently resident in Scotland for at least one calendar year prior to selection
- 2.5 To be eligible to compete in the CEP EuroCup *and* any qualifier competition that the SPA May organise to select the representative club, a player must:
- Be a member of the affiliated club that they are competing for, and
  - Hold a current International Petanque Licence which has been issued by the SPA, that shows the name of the club they are competing for and has done so for a minimum of 6 calendar months before the published date of the EuroCup Qualifying Round.
- 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 2.3 and 2.4, consideration will be given by the NEC to those 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 Petanque 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 need to be examined by the SPA, which may consult with the FIPJP, CEP and other Federations as necessary to determine eligibility.

### **3. INTERNATIONAL QUALIFICATION**

3.1 Teams ranked 1-8 in the 2018 SPA Grand Prix Series will represent Scotland at the 2019 Home Nations Championship.

3.2 Teams ranked 1-4 in the 2018 SPA Masters will represent Scotland at the 2019 Celtic Challenge.

3.3 Players who compete in the 2018 Grand Prix Series and/or 2018 Masters and who qualify for the 2019 Home Nations and/or 2019 Celtic Challenge will be expected to take their place in the relevant squad.

3.3.1 Players who do not accept an invitation to compete in these events must give their reasons in writing to the NEC, which will consider the circumstances in each case. Where adequate reasons for withdrawal from the squad are not forthcoming, the NEC may consider disciplinary action. The reason for this rule is to field the strongest possible squads at all times.

3.3.2 In the circumstances where a player is not able to take their place in a Home Nations or Celtic Challenge squad resulting in less than 3 players in any individual team, the NEC will take the following steps:

- The remaining players in the short handed team will be given the option to either:
- Join another short handed team
- Invite 4th players from another qualified team to join the short handed team

The aim is to complete the squad if possible from players who qualified as of right.

- If it is not possible to complete the squad using the above method, the NEC will invite players from the team that was next in the qualifying ranking for the respective squad. In the case of the Home Nations, this means the team that was ranked in 9th position in the Grand Prix Series. In the case of the Celtic Challenge this means the team that was ranked in 5th position in the SPA Masters.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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 (as defined in 2.4) to join the affected squad at its discretion.
- The NEC's decision will be final.

- 3.4 The 2018 Masters will be used to determine the players who qualify as of right for Triples World Championships and Triples European Championships as detailed below. Players who qualify to compete in the 2018 Masters will be asked to confirm in advance if they wish to be included in the relevant international squads.
- 3.4.1 The male player(s) in the highest ranked team at the 2018 Masters that contains a male player will have the right to represent Scotland in the 2019 CEP Men's Triples European Championships. In the case where this team has less than 4 male players, other male players who competed in the 2018 SPA Masters and expressed a willingness to be selected, may be invited to join the European Championship team by the automatically qualified players to bring the total to 4.
- 3.4.2 The female player(s) in the highest ranked team at the 2018 Masters that contains a female player will have the right to represent Scotland in the 2019 FIPJP Women's Triples World Championships. In the case where this team has less than 4 female players, other female players who competed in the 2018 SPA Masters and expressed a willingness to be selected, may be invited to join the World Championship team by the automatically qualified players, to bring the total to 4.
- 3.4.3 The veteran player(s) in the highest ranked team at the 2018 Masters that contains a veteran player will have the right to represent Scotland in the 2019 CEP Veteran's European Championships. In the case where this team has less than 4 veteran players, other veteran players who competed in the 2018 SPA Masters and expressed a willingness to be selected, may be invited to join the European Championship team by the automatically qualified players, to bring the total to 4.
- 3.5 The SPA may receive invitations to other international events which are, as yet, unplanned. The NEC will decide whether it is in the interests of the SPA to accept such invitations (for example if there is a clash with other events that we are committed to) and then determine an appropriate means for selecting our representatives in these circumstances.
- 3.6 In all cases, the NEC will have final approval of all international team squads and selection. Where players are to be included in teams by invitation by those players who have qualified as of right, the selected individuals must be approved by the NEC.
- 3.7 In certain international competitions, a coach may accompany the teams. Where teams have a preference over who should be their coach, this must be agreed with the NEC which will take into consideration the selected individual's experience and standing. Otherwise a suitable coach may be appointed by the NEC at its discretion, subject to availability.
- 3.8 A Head of Delegation may accompany the teams at some international competitions. For the avoidance of doubt, the Head of Delegation will be appointed by the NEC at its Discretion.

3.9 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.

#### **4. STANDARD OF DRESS**

4.1 In all SPA competitions *and* 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 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 European Championships or World Champions, teams representing the SPA must wear full SPA international kit, comprising the official SPA squad polo shirt & black trousers or shorts (shorts must be 'below the knee'). *Where jumpers and jackets are to be worn in competition, the organisers may insist that 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 Euro Cup, players must wear their own club's 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. ENTRIES, REGISTRATION, THE DRAW & BREAKS IN PLAY**

5.1 Unless communicated otherwise, entry to all competitions will be on the day.

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

5.3 Entry fees for each competition will be £6 per player.

5.4 Registration for National Competitions will open at 0900 on the day of competition and will close as follows:

- 0915 for Grand Prix, the SPA Triples, the SPA Veterans Triples and on Saturday of the SPA Masters.
- 0930 for the SPA Singles and SPA Doubles.

5.4.1 Registration and start of play times for qualifiers will be communicated in advance.

5.4.2 For all competitions, play will commence as soon as possible after the draw and announcements.

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

- 5.5.1 The draw for National Competitions and Grand Prix will be made by the competition software.
- 5.5.2 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.
- 5.6 Unless communicated otherwise, each competition will have a lunch break after the completion of 3 rounds of games. The lunch break will be at least 30 minutes in all cases (although more time will be given where circumstances allow). Otherwise, play is continuous and breaks should be kept to a minimum.
- 5.7 Lane allocations for individual games shall be determined by the competition software or organiser. Unless instructed otherwise by an Umpire or SPA official, games must be played on the allocated lane.

## **6. COMPETITION FORMATS**

- 6.1 In all National Competitions, including Grand Prix but excluding the SPA Masters, the Swiss Ladder draw system will be used and, unless communicated otherwise, the competition will comprise of 6 rounds.
- 6.1.1 In each competition detailed in 6.1, teams will be placed according to:
- Number of wins
  - Bucholtz number
  - Fine Bucholtz number
  - Points Difference
- 6.1.2 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.
- 6.2 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.
- 6.3 The format and ranking systems for qualifiers will be communicated in advance as required.
- 6.4 With the exception of the SPA Masters all games in Triples competitions will subject to time limits as detailed section 8.
- 6.5 The SPA Shooting Competition will follow the FIPJP rules for the Shooting discipline. Players will compete in a qualification round, with the top 4 ranked players proceeding to seeded semi-finals and then a final and 3rd/4th place playoff.

## **7. GRAND PRIX SERIES (GPS)**

7.1 The GPS will consist of three Grand Prix rounds.

7.1.1 Each Grand Prix will be a triples competition and teams of 3 or 4 players may enter.

7.1.2 Teams who have previously only registered 3 players at a previous Grand Prix, may register a 4th 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.

7.2 GPS points will be awarded at each Grand Prix as follows:

*1st Place:* 1 GPS point for every team entered  
(e.g. if the entry is 16 teams, 16 GPS points are awarded)

*2nd Place:* 1 point less than 1st place  
(e.g. if the entry is 16 teams, 15 GPS points are awarded)

*3rd Place:* 1 point less than 2nd place

and so on, such that the last placed team will always be awarded 1 GPS point.

7.3 After 3 GPS rounds the teams will be ranked according to:

- GPS points
- if tied, total wins over the GPS
- if still tied, total BHN over the GPS
- if still tied, total fBHN over the GPS
- if still tied, points difference over the GPS

7.4 In exceptional circumstances only, the NEC will consider requests for introducing a 4th player for the Masters from teams who only registered 3 players throughout the GPS. Such requests must be in good time for the Masters weekend and have good foundation, for example illness. Requests will not be granted where players are simply not available for the Masters. 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.
- 8.5.1 Should the jack leave the playing area during this end, the jack must be replaced in its previous position **provided it was marked** unless the circumstances in 8.5.3 apply.
- 8.5.2 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.
- 8.5.3 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 Petanque will still apply, however the jack may not be placed out of play.
- 8.5.4 Should the jack become dead for another reason during this end, the Umpire will make a ruling in an equitable way.
- 8.5.5 **Players should ensure that the position of the jack is marked at all times but especially during a tie-breaker end.**
- 8.6 Penalties for teams arriving late are as per Article 32 of the Official Rules of the Sport of Petanque 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.

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.