



# 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 except where stated.
- 1.3. Any competition may be postponed or cancelled at the discretion of the NEC.
- 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, these Competition Rules and any specific rules being used for a competition and no other.
- 1.5. All players and officials are required to follow the most recent version of the SPA COVID-19 Guidance throughout the competition.
- 1.6. Any infringement of the Regulations may invalidate entry, cause disqualification and/or the forfeiture of any position or prizes previously awarded.
- 1.7. 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.
- 1.8. Teams of 4 players in a triple's competition may change no more than one player in the course of a game and then only between ends after informing the Umpire. The name of the substitute must be captured, along with the score at the point of substitution, and confirmed with the Umpire for submission with the result.
- 1.9. Scores should be submitted to the event organiser, the process for which will be advised prior to competition start; paper, electronic, verbal. Once a score has been submitted and confirmed by both teams it will be accepted as the correct score for the game in question and cannot be altered.
- 1.10. Using mobile devices during play in any competition is forbidden. Any player who does not observe this rule will be excluded from the competition if they persist after a warning from the umpire.

- 1.11. Smoking, using electronic cigarettes and drinking alcoholic beverages is forbidden during play and within the designated playing area as defined by the Competitions Committee. If the competition is being held at licenced premises, it is forbidden for players to consume their own alcohol. Players who consume alcohol outside of licenced premises do so at their own risk and should familiarise themselves with local bye-laws. The SPA cannot be held responsible for any player who is found to break the law. Any player who does not observe this rule will be excluded from the competition if they persist after a warning from the Umpire.
- 1.12. 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.
  - 2.4.3. Be present and constantly available to play at the respective qualification competition.
- 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 Tournament 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. NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL QUALIFICATION**

- 3.1. The SPA's aim is to ensure Scotland fields its strongest teams.
- 3.2. Selection for Celtic Challenge, Home Nations and Eurocup will be via their respective qualification competition.
- 3.3. Selection for international qualification is via the selection process run by the Coaching Commission.

### **4. NATIONAL REPRESENTATION**

- 4.1. Players who qualify for the Celtic Challenge and Home Nations will be expected to take their place in the relevant squad.
- 4.2. In circumstances where it is agreed by the NEC that a player will not take their place in a Celtic Challenge / Home Nations squad and this results in less than 3 players in any individual team, the competition committee will take the following steps.
- 4.3. The remaining players in the short-handed team will be given the option to either:
  - 4.3.1. join another short-handed team; or
  - 4.3.2. invite a 4th player from another qualified team to join the short-handed team.
- 4.4. 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 competition committee will invite players from the team that were ranked in the next highest position to help form the short-handed team.
- 4.5. 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.
- 4.6. Should the squad still be short-handed, players from teams who were ranked in the next highest position in the qualifying event will be invited, and so on, until such time as all the vacant positions are filled.
- 4.7. In the circumstances where a squad remains short-handed after all of the methods above have been exhausted, the competition committee reserves the right to invite any eligible player (see Eligibility section) to join the affected squad at its discretion.
- 4.8. Clubs that accept an invite to the Eurocup qualifier will be expected to take their place in the Eurocup Finals in the event that they win; All players/coaches must have a valid International Licence with the club that they represent for a minimum period of not less than 6 months at the time of the European Cup for Clubs

- 4.9. In circumstances where it is agreed by the NEC that a club will not take their place in Eurocup finals the competition committee will offer the place to the runners up; If the runners up cannot attend the 3<sup>rd</sup> then 4<sup>th</sup> place team in the qualifier will be offered the opportunity to attend.
- 4.10. On acceptance of an invite to represent, the club / player is committing to play in the National event. A commitment means the player is eligible to represent Scotland, will make themselves available to play, is able to travel and can fund their participation.

## **5. INTERNATIONAL REPRESENTATION**

- 5.1. All selected players will be asked to confirm their availability during the selection process. On acceptance of an invite to represent the player is committing to play in the international event. A commitment means the player is eligible to represent Scotland, will make themselves available to play, is able to travel and can fund their participation.
- 5.2. Where a coach is required, they must hold a valid international licence or SPA Licence. The aim is for the coach to come from the qualified coaching cadre. However, if this is not possible the NEC has the right to appoint a suitable coach at its discretion and subject to their availability.
- 5.3. 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.
- 5.4. 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.
- 5.5. The NEC will write and confirm its selection to all players and officials it has approved to represent Scotland.
- 5.6. Players or officials who, at a later date, are no longer able to fulfil their commitment 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.
- 5.7. 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.
- 5.8. If the SPA receives invitations to other international events, the NEC will decide whether it is in the interest of the SPA to accept the invitation and the criteria for selecting the Scotland squad.
- 5.9. 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.
- 5.10. In all cases, the NEC has final approval for the selection of all international squads.

## **6. STANDARD OF DRESS**

- 6.1. In all SPA Competitions and National qualifiers, teams are required to wear matching tops. Nonadherence will result in the following penalties, Verbal warning for 1st offence, written warning for 2nd offence and immediate disqualification for a 3rd offence, these penalties will be cumulative and will last for a period of 18 months from the date of issue.
- 6.2. 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.
- 6.3. 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 as prescribed by the organising committee. For the avoidance of doubt, players will be required to pay for their own kit.
- 6.4. For the CEP 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 and be in law the organisers prescribed regulations.

## **7. ENTRIES, REGISTRATION, THE DRAW AND BREAKS IN PLAY**

- 7.1. Entry to all SPA Competitions will be in advance, unless communicated otherwise by the NEC.
- 7.2. All players entering SPA Competitions, with the exception of the Scottish Cup for Clubs, must hold a valid SPA Licence.
- 7.3. Entry fees for SPA Competitions will be communicated in advance by the NEC.
- 7.4. 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.
- 7.5. For all SPA Competitions, play will commence as soon as possible after the draw and any official announcements.
- 7.6. The draw must be witnessed by an SPA Official or an Umpire.
- 7.7. 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. Otherwise, play is continuous and breaks should be kept to a minimum.
- 7.8. 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.

## **8. COMPETITION FORMATS**

- 8.1. The competition format will be advised to all teams following pre-registration and no later than 1 week prior to the competition.

## **9. TIME LIMITED GAMES**

- 9.1. 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.
- 9.2. The commencement of each timed game will be signaled by a whistle.
- 9.3. If a team achieves 13 points within the time limit or in any of the additional two ends the game is over.
- 9.4. 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.
- 9.5. 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.

- 9.6. Players should ensure that the position of the jack is marked at all times, but especially during a tie-breaker end.
- 9.7. Should the jack leave the playing area during this end, the jack must be replaced in its previous position, provided it was marked.
- 9.8. If the jack was not marked and it leaves the playing area during this end, at the umpire's discretion, the Umpire will place it in the nearest valid position on the playing area to where it went out of play.
- 9.9. 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.
- 9.10. Should the jack become dead for another reason during this end, the Umpire will make a ruling in an equitable way.
- 9.11. 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.

## **10. UMPIRES JURY**

- 10.1. 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 umpire's 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.