



Competition Rules 2025

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 Internationale de Pétanque et Jeu Provençal, at the time of the competition in question, these Competition Rules and any specific rules used for a competition and no other.
- 1.5. In the absence of a dedicated umpire the term 'Umpire' also refers to either an Umpires' Jury or the appointed SPA organiser, as announced on the day.
- 1.6. Any infringement of the Regulations may invalidate entry, cause disqualification, lead to forfeiture of any position or prizes previously awarded, and/or other appropriate actions in line with the SPA disciplinary procedure.
- 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 opposition must be informed of the change before the jack is thrown.](#) 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.

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- 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. Those who require a device on the piste to monitor a medical condition must declare this to the umpire at registration and it must only use it for that purpose.
- 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 National Titles and Qualifiers players must hold a valid SPA Licence.
- 2.2. To represent Scotland in the Home Nations or Celtic Challenge, or take part in the qualification event, a player must:
 - 2.2.1. Hold a current SPA Licence.
 - 2.2.2. Have been born in Scotland or permanently resident in Scotland for at least one calendar year prior to selection.
- 2.3. Should the SPA be invited to any competition that has different eligibility criteria than described above this will be communicated separately.
- 2.4. For 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.
- 2.5. 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 NEC 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 NEC reserves the right to invite any eligible player (see Eligibility section) to join the affected squad at its discretion.
- 4.8. 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. STANDARD OF DRESS

- 5.1. In all SPA National Titles and qualifiers, teams are required to wear matching tops.
- 5.2. Note: For the actual Celtic Challenge and Home Nations competitions, all players must play in full SPA international team kit, comprising the official SPA squad polo shirt & black trousers or three-quarter length shorts. In addition, for the Home Nations Championship all additional tops such as fleeces must also be official SPA approved items, with the exception of waterproofs when it is actually raining. Entry into a qualifier is a commitment to adhere to the required standard for that competition if you qualify.
- 5.3. For the avoidance of doubt, all players will be required to pay for their own kit.

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

- 6.1. Entry to all SPA National Titles and Qualifiers will be in advance, unless communicated otherwise by the NEC.
- 6.2. All players entering National Titles or Qualifiers must hold a valid SPA Licence.
- 6.3. Entry fees for SPA Competitions will be communicated in advance by the NEC.
- 6.4. 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.
- 6.5. For all SPA Competitions, play will commence as soon as possible after the draw and any official announcements.
- 6.6. The draw must be witnessed by an SPA Official or an Umpire.
- 6.7. Each competition covered in these rules 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.
- 6.8. Lane allocations for individual games shall be determined by the competition software or organiser. Games must be played on the allocated lane unless, in exceptional circumstances, you are instructed otherwise by an Umpire or SPA Official.

7. COMPETITION FORMATS

- 7.1. Details of competition formats will be announced for each qualifier and set of National Titles in advance of opening of registration. However, the NEC reserve the right to modify this based on the number of entries to any specific event if required. In all cases the format will be advised to all teams as soon as possible following the close of pre-registration.

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.

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- 8.5. If teams are tied after the second additional end, a further tie breaker end will be played. During this end, each player will play the same number of boules as normal for the format of the competition, 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, at the umpires discretion, 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.

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.

Summary of Changes:

2025 updates

Clause 1.8 (addition) The opposition must be informed of the change before the jack is thrown.

Clause 7.1 Removal of “The intended competition format for all 2024 National Titles and Qualifiers will be ‘Swiss’” Replaced with “Details of competition formats will be announced for each qualifier and set of National Titles in advance of opening of registration.”

Documentation:

Summary of changes added as final sheet.

Footers updated to include Revision date.

Edited by A Swiffin.