

Petanque Etiquette etcetera **RWBPC**

Before the game

- It is important to warm up particularly the fingers, wrist and shoulder of the throwing arm.
- When warmed up players should get in some practice to stimulate hand/eye co-ordination. Pointing will allow players to get familiar with the surface of the terrain and shooting will stretch the shoulder.
- Decide on the roles of the players within the team.
- Get to know each players boule so you don't confuse them with the opposition, or you may shoot the wrong boule!
- Make sure that you have everything – Jack, boule, cloth, stick to mark, measuring method.
- For long competitions you will need water and snacks or even meals and possibly a chair.

Starting the game

- The home team should toss a coin for who starts, and the winner of the toss starts,
- The circle should be placed with the 'Obut' logo facing up and be clearly marked **before** the jack is thrown. The circle must be more than 1 metre from any obstacle and at least 1.5 metres from another jack or circle. An obstacle is anything higher than 25cms.
- On subsequent ends the circle must be placed **over the jack** as the new starting position.
- Any member of a team may throw the jack, and **the jack should be marked** ideally with a line either side such as, -o- or a V to the side. Please discuss the position of the jack with your team mates and study the terrain.
- The jack must be 50 cm from any obstacle and the end of the lane and 1.5 metres from any other jack or circle. There is no minimum distance from any side line.
- If the jack cannot be thrown to 10 metres the circle may be moved backwards in line with the previous end but the distance from the circle to the dead ball line **must not exceed 10.5 metres.**
- If the thrown jack is stopped by a member of the same team the opponent will place the jack in a valid position.
- The players' feet must be **entirely within the circle** and not encroach on the circle. The feet must not leave the circle or be lifted completely off the ground until the thrown boule has landed on the ground. There are exceptions for disabled players. There are instances of the heel being raised at the point of throwing, but this is frowned upon by umpires.

During the game

- All players must stand still and be silent whilst a player is preparing to throw.
- If you need to leave the piste for any reason you must ask the permission of the opposition and return quickly.

- If team A is in play team B must not stand on the piste between the circle and jack and must not be in the line of sight of the player to throw. Team B should be off the piste and 2 metres to the side of the direction of play. Team B should stand together.
- **Only the team about to throw should visit the 'head'**. The opposing team should stand as above and remain quiet.
- **Players should only fill one divot** and ideally only the person about the throw should fill the divot. No obstacles can be pressed down, crushed or displaced on the playing surface.
- If a player throws a boule out of turn it remains in its final position.
- When measuring, the opposing team should be 2 metres away from the measurement. They can measure themselves afterwards and in case of a dispute an umpire should be called.
- The responsibility to measure is with the player who played last or one of their team mates.
- The team who displaces either the jack or boule while measuring loses the point.
- If team A pick up the circle before all boules are played the circle is replaced but only team B are allowed to play their boule.
- If any team has an additional player i.e. 3 in doubles and 4 in triples that player may not go onto the piste during the game.
- A team may substitute a player in between ends if the competition rules allow but must inform the opponent.

Other points

- In the team discuss the situation and what shot to play. This should be a joint decision and one that you all stand by and take responsibility for, even if, in your opinion, you may not agree it is the right one. Once decided on, one of your team has the responsibility for playing that shot. Whether or not it results in a successful outcome, you must support that player.
- On no account should any negativity be shown or expressed, which might undermine that players confidence. The worst thing to say is, "we should have done something different."
- One minute to play your boule is a long time but disappears quickly.
- Boules yet to be played should be placed in a safe area where players will not step on them, for example off the piste or within the dead ball area.
- The captain of the team is responsible for recording the score and in competitions is responsible for signing that the correct score has been recorded.
- It is **forbidden to smoke or vape** during play or to use a mobile phone.
- Correct clothing must be worn and for safety players must wear enclosed shoes that protect the toes and heels.
- **Stand together as a team** and if necessary, stand between your player in the circle and the opposing team to prevent any distraction.
- Congratulate a player on a successful boule but don't over congratulate.
- At the end of a game congratulate the opposition whether winner or loser.

This list is not exhaustive and at all times the game should be played with respect, courtesy and good sportsmanship.

Alan McInnes

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