



Code of Conduct & Behaviour Standards

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Code of Conduct & Behaviour Standards

1. Introduction

Pétanque England is committed to promoting and developing the sport of pétanque within an environment that is safe, welcoming, inclusive and enjoyable for all participants.

This Code sets out the standards of behaviour expected from everyone involved in the sport under the jurisdiction of Pétanque England. It reflects the values of fairness, integrity, respect, equality, sportsmanship and good governance.

All members, players, officials and volunteers share responsibility for maintaining the reputation and positive culture of the sport.

2. Purpose

The purpose of this Code is to:

- promote high standards of conduct and behaviour;
- support a positive and inclusive sporting environment;
- protect the well-being of participants;
- provide clarity regarding acceptable and unacceptable behaviour;
- uphold the integrity and reputation of Pétanque England and the sport of pétanque;
- complement the Complaints, Disciplinary and Safeguarding Policies of Pétanque England.

3. Scope

This Code applies to all members of Pétanque England, affiliated clubs and regions, players, coaches, umpires, volunteers, officials, committee members, directors and spectators and other participants attending PE activities.

This Code applies during all activities organised, sanctioned or recognised by Pétanque England, including competitions, leagues, meetings, training sessions, travel connected with events and online activity connected to the sport.

4. Core Values

Respect:	Treat all individuals with courtesy, dignity and consideration.
Integrity:	Act honestly, fairly and ethically at all times.
Sportsmanship:	Compete in the spirit of fair play.
Inclusion:	Support an environment where everyone feels welcome and valued.
Responsibility:	Accept responsibility for personal conduct and its impact upon others.

Pétanque England recognises that participant welfare includes emotional well-being and psychological safety, and all participants should contribute towards an environment where individuals feel respected, supported and able to participate without fear of humiliation, intimidation or exclusion.

5. Expected Standards of Behaviour

All participants are expected to:

- behave respectfully towards players, officials, volunteers and spectators;
- comply with the rules of pétanque and all applicable competition regulations;
- accept umpire and organiser decisions courteously and respectfully;

- communicate courteously and constructively;
- avoid behaviour likely to intimidate, humiliate, offend or exclude others;
- support new participants and encourage participation;
- promote a positive image of the sport;
- respect venues, equipment and facilities;
- act safely and responsibly at all times;
- cooperate honestly and reasonably with complaints, disciplinary and safeguarding processes;
- not knowingly provide false, misleading or malicious information during any complaints, disciplinary or safeguarding process;
- respect the confidentiality and integrity of ongoing welfare, complaints or disciplinary matters;

Constructive discussion and disagreement are acceptable, but must always remain respectful.

6. Equality, Diversity & Inclusion

Pétanque England is committed to equality, diversity and inclusion throughout the sport. Discrimination, harassment or exclusion on the basis of protected characteristics or personal differences will not be tolerated.

Everyone has the right to participate in an environment free from intimidation, hostility or abuse.

7. Safeguarding & Welfare

Pétanque England is committed to safeguarding children, young people and adults at risk.

All participants have a responsibility to support a safe sporting environment, report safeguarding concerns promptly and avoid behaviour that may place others at risk.

Participants must avoid behaviour which humiliates, intimidates, pressures or undermines children, young people or adults at risk.

Safeguarding matters will always take priority over sporting considerations.

8. Social Media & Online Conduct

Online behaviour should reflect the same standards expected in person.

Participants must not engage in abusive, inflammatory or discriminatory online behaviour or misuse social media in a manner that damages the reputation of the sport or individuals.

Online behaviour that targets, humiliates, intimidates or undermines individuals may be treated in the same manner as behaviour occurring in person.

Participants should exercise caution when commenting publicly on ongoing complaints, disciplinary or safeguarding matters.

Participants should not publish confidential disciplinary, safeguarding or governance information without proper authority or where publication could reasonably be expected to compromise confidentiality, welfare, procedural fairness or legal obligations.

9. Unacceptable Conduct

The following behaviour is considered unacceptable and may result in disciplinary action:

- abusive, threatening or aggressive behaviour;
- bullying, harassment or intimidation;
- discriminatory conduct or language;

- deliberate cheating or serious unsporting conduct;
- victimisation, intimidation or coercive behaviour;
- abuse of authority, position, trust or influence;
- retaliation against individuals who raise concerns in good faith;
- attempts to discourage reporting of safeguarding or conduct concerns;
- persistent disrespect towards officials or organisers;
- conduct bringing the sport or governing body into disrepute.

This list is not exhaustive.

10. Alcohol, Substance Use & Participant Conduct

Members, officials and participants must:

- comply with all event, venue and tournament regulations concerning alcohol and prohibited substances;
- not consume alcohol within playing areas where prohibited by competition or event rules;
- not participate, officiate or undertake governance responsibilities while under the influence;
- avoid aggressive, unsafe or disruptive behaviour associated with alcohol or substance use.

Illegal drug use during Pétanque England activities is prohibited.

11. Responsibilities of Officials, Coaches & Volunteers

Individuals holding positions of responsibility or authority are expected to lead by example, act professionally, avoid conflicts of interest and support participant welfare and inclusion.

Umpires and officials are expected to apply competition rules consistently and respectfully.

Umpires appointed by or operating under the jurisdiction of Pétanque England must additionally comply with:

- Pétanque England Standards & Guidance for Umpires;
- applicable officiating guidance;
- relevant CEP and FIPJP officiating standards where applicable.

Coaches operating under the jurisdiction of Pétanque England must additionally comply with the Pétanque England Standards & Guidance for Coaches, safeguarding requirements and any relevant coaching guidance adopted by Pétanque England.

Failure to comply may result in removal from appointments or roles, suspension of appointments, accreditation or recognised status, retraining requirements and/or disciplinary action.

12. Responsibilities of Directors

Directors are expected to uphold the highest standards of integrity, impartiality, confidentiality, accountability, collective responsibility and good governance in the exercise of their responsibilities.

13. Responsibilities of Regions & Clubs

Regions and affiliated clubs are expected to promote and implement this Code and support safe, inclusive and respectful participation.

14. Reporting Concerns

Members, officials and volunteers are encouraged to report safeguarding concerns, serious misconduct or breaches of this Code promptly and responsibly.

Concerns regarding behaviour or breaches of this Code may be addressed through informal resolution, regional or club procedures, or Pétanque England Complaints, Disciplinary or Safeguarding Procedures.

15. Breaches & Sanctions

Pétanque England encourages proportionate and constructive resolution of lower-level behavioural concerns wherever appropriate, while recognising that serious or repeated misconduct may require formal disciplinary action.

Breaches of this Code may result in advice, warnings, suspension from activities, disciplinary action or termination of membership depending upon the seriousness of the conduct.

Where appropriate and proportionate, interim measures or temporary restrictions may be imposed pending investigation or determination of a matter.

Any disciplinary process will be conducted fairly, proportionately and in accordance with the principles of natural justice.

Consideration may be given to the seriousness of the conduct, intent, impact upon others, safeguarding implications, previous behaviour and willingness to accept responsibility.

16. Commitment to the Sport

Pétanque is a sport built upon friendship, mutual respect and enjoyment.

Everyone involved is encouraged to contribute positively to the pétanque community and support fair and enjoyable competition.

17. Related Policies

This Code should be read alongside the Pétanque England Complaints Policy, Disciplinary Policy, Safeguarding Policy, Anti-Doping & Clean Sport Policy, Standards & Guidance for Umpires, Standards & Guidance for Coaches and Standards & Guidance for Parents, Carers & Supporters, particularly within junior and safeguarding environments and any applicable Competition Regulations or Governance Procedures.

18. Acceptance of the Code

Participation in activities organised under the jurisdiction of Pétanque England constitutes agreement to comply with this Code.

All participants are expected to uphold both the wording and spirit of this Code at all times.

19. Policy Review

This Policy will be reviewed at least every two years or sooner where necessary.

This Policy replaces all previous codes of conduct adopted by Pétanque England and was approved by resolution of the Board.

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