



Standards & Guidance for Umpires

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Standards & Guidance for Umpires

1. Introduction

These Standards & Guidance should be read alongside the Pétanque England Code of Conduct & Behaviour Standards, Safeguarding Policy, Anti-Doping & Clean Sport Policy and any applicable competition rules or governance procedures.

2. Scope

- These Standards & Guidance apply to all umpires operating under the jurisdiction of Pétanque England, including Club, County, National, European and International Umpires.
- The Standards apply during competitions, training, mentoring, meetings, travel connected with officiating duties and online, digital or social media activity connected with the sport.

3. Professional Standards

- Act impartially, independently and with integrity at all times.
- Apply the rules of the sport fairly, consistently and respectfully.
- Maintain professional behaviour and avoid abuse of authority or position.
- Avoid conflicts of interest and declare any actual, potential or perceived conflicts promptly.
- Communicate calmly, courteously and professionally with players, officials, organisers and spectators.
- Avoid conduct which may bring the umpiring body, Pétanque England or the sport into disrepute.
- Maintain confidentiality regarding safeguarding, complaints, disciplinary and governance matters.
- Cooperate honestly and reasonably with safeguarding, complaints and disciplinary processes.

4. Officiating Responsibilities

- Maintain appropriate umpiring qualifications and ongoing development requirements.
- Remain familiar with applicable Pétanque England, CEP and FIPJP rules, regulations and guidance.
- Attend appointments punctually and prepared to undertake officiating duties.
- Arrive sufficiently in advance of competition commencement to undertake required pre-event duties, briefing and terrain inspection.
- Submit reports and relevant documentation when required.
- Cooperate with organisers, officials and representatives in the effective management of events.
- Maintain neutrality and avoid coaching, advising or favouring participants whilst officiating.
- Dress appropriately in accordance with applicable umpiring standards or event requirements.

5. Safeguarding Responsibilities

- Place participant welfare and safeguarding responsibilities above sporting considerations.
- Maintain appropriate professional boundaries with participants.
- Report safeguarding concerns promptly and appropriately.

- Umpires are expected to report serious misconduct, safeguarding concerns or significant breaches of conduct observed during events.
- Avoid behaviour that may intimidate, humiliate or undermine participants.
- Complete safeguarding training where required by Pétanque England.

6. Conduct at Events

- Act as a positive role model for the sport.
- Avoid aggressive, intimidating, inflammatory or unnecessarily confrontational behaviour.
- Behave responsibly regarding alcohol, prohibited substances and social media activity.
- Support a safe, respectful and inclusive environment.

7. Training & Development

- Participate in ongoing training, mentoring and development opportunities where required.
- Support the development of new and less experienced umpires in a constructive and professional manner.

8. Decision-Making & Respect for Officials

- Umpires must exercise authority fairly, proportionately and consistently.
- Participants, officials and organisers are expected to respect umpiring decisions made in accordance with the rules.
- Umpires should remain calm and professional when decisions are questioned or challenged.

9. Breaches

- Failure to comply with these Standards may result in guidance, retraining requirements, removal from appointments, suspension of officiating status or disciplinary action.
- Pending investigation, an umpire may be temporarily removed from appointments or officiating duties where considered necessary and proportionate.
- Concerns may be addressed under the Pétanque England Complaints, Disciplinary or Safeguarding Procedures.
- Confidential information obtained through officiating, safeguarding or disciplinary processes must not be improperly disclosed.

10. Standards & Guidance Review

- These Standards & Guidance will be reviewed at least every two years or sooner where required by legislative, safeguarding, governance or operational changes.

This Standards & Guidance replaces all previous umpiring standards, guidance and conduct documents adopted by Pétanque England and was approved by resolution of the Board.

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