



## Euro Cup Competition 2026/27

The Euro Cup Competition is a competition to find:-

- (a) The top 4 Club teams who will then play off in a Final (article 7), to decide who will represent Petanque England at the Confédération de Européenne Pétanque (CEP) 2026 EuroCup and
- (b) The best club from those who do not qualify for the EuroCup qualification final, to be awarded the PE Cup for 2026 (article 8)

### 1. Entry

- 1.1 All Clubs registered with Pétanque England will be invited to register one or two teams for the tournament. The winning Club progressing through to the European stage must be registered with Pétanque England for the calendar year of the European Championship

### 2. Players

- 2.1 All players must hold a valid Pétanque England license registered with the Club they are representing, signed by the player and not defaced in any way. Players taking part in the Round 4 groups or subsequently must hold a valid Pétanque England license complete with a recent photograph or accompanied by suitable photographic I.D.
- 2.2 New players transferring into a club for season 2027 must be registered for their new club prior to March 31<sup>st</sup> 2027 to be eligible for the latter stages of this competition.
- 2.3 The Players (male and female) of the same club taking part in the Round 4 groups or subsequently must be clothed in matching strip with the badge or logo of the club they represent on the front of their shirt.
- 2.4 Players can only play for one Club during the Tournament.
- 2.5 Players from the same club can only transfer to another team from that club from round 4 onwards provided the other team from that club has been eliminated. If both teams reach round 4 or the finals no transfer will be allowed for that round. Teams that qualify for the PE Trophy final will not be described as 'eliminated' from the competition.
- 2.6 Any Club fielding a player(s) other than the PETANQUE ENGLAND members registered to their Club will be penalised by forfeiting all games in which that player(s) took part.

### 3. Structure

- 3.1 The Draw will be conducted under the direction of the PETANQUE ENGLAND Events Group(where possible).
- 3.2 Each Club will be drawn into a knockout grid for the first 3 rounds. For Round 1 the home team will be the first team to be drawn for each fixture. For Rounds 2 & 3 the venue will be decided by each team's location in the previous rounds to ensure a fair distribution of Home and Away matches. If both teams have the same number of Home or Away matches the venue will be decided by random draw.
- 3.3 Rounds 1, 2 & 3 will be drawn(where possible) geographically to limit the travel requirements. Fixtures in round 1 will be confined to clubs within the same region. If the distance between two clubs is greater than 100 miles an attempt can be made to find a neutral venue approximately equidistant from both clubs and with the agreement of both clubs.
- 3.4 For the 2026/27 competition, the top three teams in the finals of the 2025/26 competition will be seeded and will receive byes in rounds 1 to 3.
- 3.5 The final seeded team will be the winners of the 2025/26 PE Trophy.
- 3.6 Round 4 onwards will be re-drawn nationally.
- 3.7 In Round 4 the 16 Clubs will be drawn randomly into one of 4 groups each consisting of 4 Clubs. The seeded clubs will be placed into separate groups.
- 3.8 The required dates by which each round must be completed are:
- Round 1 - 22<sup>nd</sup> November 2026
  - Rounds 2 - 21<sup>st</sup> February 2027
  - Round 3 – 16<sup>th</sup> May 2027
  - Round 4 - Group Heats – To be played in June 2027 at suitable venues tbd.
- 3.9 Please note that these dates are the latest that the match can be played. Extension to the published dates will not be made except in exceptional circumstances (failure to agree a date will not be considered 'exceptional'). Do not leave it to the last minute! Please keep a record of all correspondence as the number of dates proposed and the number of rejections by each team will be taken into account to decide who is to progress if the match is not played by the completion date of each round.
- 3.10 The Euro Cup Qualification Finals Day will be held at a suitable venue over a weekend in August after which the overall winner will be invited to represent PE at the CEP 2027 tournament.
- 3.11 The PE Cup final will be held at a suitable venue on a Sunday in August 2027 at a venue tbd

#### 4. Matches

- 4.1 For rounds 1,2 & 3 the “Home” Club Team is responsible for liaising with their opponents and agreeing a mutual convenient time and date to play. In the event of Clubs not being able to agree a date and the match not being played by the closing date of the relevant stage the Euro Cup organiser will arbitrate, their decision will be without appeal. Please note Rule 3.9 as this will be the basis for the final decision of the organiser.
- 4.2 In the event of a Club Team withdrawing or declining to play then their opponents will win by a walkover.
- 4.3 For the first 3 rounds the matches will be self-governed by the Clubs and it is the responsibility of the Club Team Captains to ensure that their team members hold valid PETANQUE ENGLAND licences for their Club. However the Umpire’s Commission may appoint an umpire for any match in the competition.
- 4.4 The Host Club is responsible for the organisation on the day and the designated “Home Club Team” captain is responsible for submitting the match results online on the Petanque England website within 7 days but each Club Team Captain is responsible for ensuring that the correct details are on the scorecard before they sign it. The Home Club Team Captain should retain the signed scorecards in case of query.
- 4.5 For Round 4 and subsequent stages the Umpire’s Commission will appoint an umpire.
- 4.6 For Round 4 and subsequent stages the Petanque England Events Group will appoint an Organiser and decide the venues.

#### 5. Form of Play

- 5.1 This Petanque England event is played according to the format of the EuroCup established by the CEP.
- 5.2 Each Club Team can enter a squad of six, seven or eight players for each match. In a squad of six, at least one player must be of the opposite gender to the remainder of the team. In a squad of seven or eight, at least two players must be of the opposite gender to the remainder of the team. The Club Teams form into one (1) open triple, one (1) mixed triple, two (2) open doubles and one (1) mixed double and (for the final only) 6 singles, at least one of which must be between the opposite gender players.
- 5.3 **(Rounds 1,2 and 3 only)** Each match will consist of five games played over two rounds:-  
Round 1 - Triples – two games (one Mixed & one Open)  
Round 2 - Doubles – three games (one Mixed & two Open)
- 5.4 The two triple games will be played simultaneously, with the corresponding team combinations competing i.e. Open v Open and Mixed v Mixed.
- 5.5 The three doubles games will be played simultaneously, if possible, with the corresponding team combinations competing i.e. Open 1 v Open 1, Open 2 v Open 2 and Mixed v Mixed.

- 5.6 In the doubles and triples games, one player in each team may be replaced (from the squad for that round). For the mixed doubles and mixed triples the replacement shall not affect mixed composition of the team. The replacement can only be made between ends and must be reported to the captain of the opposing team and the umpire. A player that has competed in their game or has been replaced cannot play in any other team in this round
- 5.7 The Club Team is awarded 1 Game Point for each game won. Each Club Team Match may therefore end in 5-0, 4-1, or 3-2.

#### **6. Round 4**

- 6.1 The 12 Club Teams qualifying to Round 4 will be allocated to one of 4 groups as determined by a random draw. The 4 seeded clubs will each be allocated to a different group by a random draw. Each group will consist of 4 Clubs.
- 6.2 The playing format will be round robin.
- 6.3 The form of play will be consistent with that of 5.2 to 5.7

#### **7. EuroCup Qualification Final**

- 7.1 The EuroCup Qualification Final will be between the top 4 Club Teams from round 4 of the competition as determined in accordance with article 6.3.
- 7.2 Each club will play against each other in a Round Robin format.
- 7.3 The form of play will be consistent with that of 5.2 to 5.6 with the addition of a singles round consisting of six matches, at least one of which to be contested by opposite gender players
- Club teams will be awarded game points as follows:
- For each triples game won the team will receive 5 game points
- For each doubles game won the team will receive 3 game points
- For each singles game won the team will receive 2 game points
- The team with the most game points will be awarded 1 match point for that round.
- 7.4 The club with most match points will be the overall winner.
- 7.5 In the event of a tie the result will be decided by total game points. If that is tied the result of the game between the tied teams will decide.

#### **8. PE Trophy Final**

- 8.1 The PE Cup Final will be between the runners up in each round 4 groups determined in accordance with articles 5.2 to 5.7.
- 8.2 Each club team will play against each other in a round robin format.

## **9. Conventions**

9.1 Clubs are responsible for their own travelling costs.

9.2 Host Clubs will provide refreshments as appropriate; refreshments can vary depending on facilities. Hosts need to ensure that their visitors know what the refreshment arrangements are and of any costs.

9.3 If Clubs travelling long distances need overnight accommodation, host Clubs should do all they can to facilitate arrangements.

## **10. Rules**

All games will be subject to the Official Rules of the Game of Pétanque and Petanque England Competition Rules of which these form a part.