



Inter-Regional Championships Junior Championships and Challenge Tournament Competition Rules

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Inter-Regional Championships, Junior Championships and Challenge Tournament – Competition Rules

1. Purpose and Authority

Purpose – These Competition Rules govern the organisation and operation of the Pétanque England Inter-Regional Championships, Junior Championships and Challenge Tournament – Competition Rules (the Competition).

Applicable Rules – The Competition shall be conducted in accordance with the Official Rules for the Sport of Pétanque, these Competition Rules and any Competition Format Appendix or Competition Regulations published by Pétanque England.

Event Organiser – The Event Organiser shall be responsible for the administration and operation of the Competition.

Umpires – The appointed Umpire(s) shall be responsible for the interpretation and application of the Official Rules for the Sport of Pétanque and these Competition Rules. The Umpire(s) shall control the playing area throughout the Competition. All participants shall respect the decisions of the Umpire(s).

Jury – The Umpire, in consultation with the Organiser will appoint a Jury to determine matters not otherwise provided for within the Official Rules for the Sport of Pétanque or these Competition Rules.

This jury will consist of a minimum of 3 (maximum 5) PE members, who are not directly involved in the issue to be resolved.

The Jury shall not overturn a decision of fact made by a Umpire. Decisions of the Jury shall be final for the duration of the Competition.

2. Definitions

Board – The Board of Directors of Pétanque England.

Combined Squad – A Squad formed from Teams drawn from more than one Region.

Competition – The Inter-Regional Championship, Juniors & Challenge Tournament.

Competition Format Appendix – A document published by Pétanque England setting out operational arrangements.

Competitor Licence – A current Pétanque England Competitor Licence.

Control Table – The area designated for administration of the Competition.

Event Organiser – Person(s) appointed by Pétanque England to administer the Competition.

Good Standing – A member whose membership and/or licence is valid and who is not subject to suspension, restriction, outstanding obligation or other condition rendering them ineligible.

Jury – A panel appointed to consider matters relating to administration and operation of the Competition.

Participant – Any player, Squad Manager, official or other accredited person.

Player – A competitor registered to play.

Playing Area – The area designated for play and controlled by the Umpire.

Region – A Pétanque England Region participating in the Competition.

Squad – The collection of Teams entered by a Region.

Squad Manager – The non-playing person appointed by a Region to act as principal point of contact.

Team – The registered players representing a Region in an individual match.

Umpire – A person appointed by Pétanque England to officiate the Competition.

3. Eligibility and Registration

All Players must hold a valid Competitor Licence, be registered within the Region they represent and be in Good Standing. Regions shall register Players and Squad Managers in accordance with published deadlines.

Pétanque England shall verify eligibility prior to the Competition.

A Team may make one substitution during a game. The substitution may only take place between ends, before the jack has been thrown, and after informing the opposing Team.

4. Squad Composition

Inter-Regional Championship: Each Region shall enter a Squad consisting of eight Triples Teams.

Junior Inter-Regional Championship: Regions may enter one or more Teams. The format shall be determined having regard to participation levels and meaningful playing opportunities.

Challenge Tournament: Each Region shall enter a Squad consisting of four Triples Teams.

5. Combined Squads

Pétanque England may establish a Combined Squad where necessary to maintain an even number of participating Squads, avoid byes and preserve the integrity of the Competition format. Combined Squads are not eligible for promotion.

Pétanque England shall provide the approved playing uniform for any Combined Squad established under this Section.

Inter-Regional Championship, the squad will be composed of 4 teams from the previous year's Division 1 winning Region and two teams each from the previous year's Division 1 second and third placed Regions. This squad will be managed by the previous year's Division 1 winning Region.

Junior Championship, the team will be composed of 4 players, 2 each from the previous year's Championship winning and second placed Regions. This team will be managed by the previous year's winning Region

Challenge Tournament, the squad will be composed of 4 teams, 2 each from the previous year's Division 1 Challenge winning and second placed Regions. This squad will be managed by the previous year's Division 1 winning Region.

In each case, if any of these Regions are unable to field the additional teams, the vacancies will be filled by the next Division 1 finishing Region/s.

6. Joint Regional Squads

Pétanque England may approve a Joint Regional Squad where two or more Regions are unable to field a complete Squad independently and jointly request permission to participate as a single Squad.

A Joint Regional Squad shall not be regarded as a Combined Squad for the purposes of these Competition Rules.

Players within a Joint Regional Squad may wear the approved uniform of their respective Region unless otherwise directed by Pétanque England.

Pétanque England shall not be responsible for providing playing uniforms to a Joint Regional Squad.

The eligibility, divisional status, promotion and relegation rights of a Joint Regional Squad shall be determined by Pétanque England at the time approval is granted.

7. Squad Managers

Each Squad shall appoint a non-playing Squad Manager. An approved deputy may act in their place when necessary on condition the lead umpire and control table have been informed.

Failure to provide a Squad Manager or approved deputy for the duration of the Competition shall result in the deduction of three (3) match wins from the Squad's final Competition total.

The Squad Manager shall:

- o Be a member of PE with a Competitor's licence
- o Act as principal point of contact.
- o Attend official briefings or ensure attendance by an approved deputy.
- o Communicate official information to the Squad.
- o Respond to requests from the Event Organiser, Control Table, Umpire or Jury.
- o Promote good conduct and sportsmanship.
- o Remain reasonably available throughout the Competition.

During a game, the Squad Manager shall not enter the playing area except with the permission of a Umpire.

Players may seek advice between ends. Such discussions must take place off the playing area and must not delay play.

8. Regional Uniform and Appearance

All members of a Squad shall wear the approved Regional uniform and be readily identifiable as representing the same Region.

Squad tops shall display the Region's name, logo or approved regional identification. Members of a Squad shall present a consistent and professional team appearance.

Approved trousers, shorts and skorts may be worn.

Bottom garments shall be of the same colour and general appearance throughout the Squad.

Denim jeans are not permitted.

Shorts shall be of an appropriate sporting style and length. The lower edge of the shorts shall be no higher than the Player's fingertips when standing upright with arms extended naturally at their sides.

In adverse weather conditions, waterproof and protective clothing may be worn and is not required to match the approved Regional uniform.

9. Competition Organisation

The Competition shall be organised and administered by Pétanque England.

Pétanque England shall publish a Competition Format Appendix prior to the commencement of the Competition.

The two lowest placed eligible Squads in Division 1 shall be relegated and the two highest placed eligible Squads in Division 2 shall be promoted.

Pétanque England may adjust divisional allocations where necessary to maintain the integrity and structure of the Competition.

10. Conduct, Discipline and Compliance

All Participants shall conduct themselves in accordance with the Pétanque England Code of Conduct, these Competition Rules and any other applicable Pétanque England policies.

Participants shall not consume alcohol whilst engaged in Competition or within the designated playing area. Smoking, vaping and the use of nicotine delivery devices are prohibited within the playing area during Competition. Electronic devices shall not be used in a manner that disrupts play, distracts participants or provides an unfair advantage.

Photography and videography shall be conducted in accordance with the Pétanque England Safeguarding Policy.

Where a Participant or Squad fails to comply with these Competition Rules, appropriate and proportionate action may be taken, including warnings, forfeiture of games, deduction of match wins, disqualification or referral under the Pétanque England Disciplinary Policy.

11. Appeals and Disputes

Any dispute relating to the administration, organisation, scoring or outcome of the Competition shall be raised during the Competition and at the earliest opportunity.

Decisions made by a Umpire in the interpretation and application of the Official Rules for the Sport of Pétanque and these Competition Rules shall not be subject to appeal.

Nothing within these Competition Rules prevents a Participant from reporting matters under the Pétanque England Safeguarding Policy, Complaints Policy or Disciplinary Policy.

12. Related Documents

- o Official Rules for the Sport of Pétanque
- o Pétanque England Code of Conduct
- o Pétanque England Safeguarding Policy
- o Pétanque England Complaints Policy
- o Pétanque England Disciplinary Policy

13. Review

These Competition Rules shall be reviewed periodically by Pétanque England and amended as necessary.



Schedule 1 – Guidance on Sanctions

The sanctions below are intended as guidance only and are not exhaustive. The sanction applied shall be proportionate to the seriousness of the breach, the circumstances of the case and any mitigating or aggravating factors.

The sanctions below are intended as guidance and are not exhaustive.

- o Failure to provide Squad Manager – deduction of three (3) match wins.
 - o Failure to attend mandatory briefing – deduction of three (3) match wins.
 - o Uniform non-compliance – opportunity to rectify before further action.
 - o Smoking/vaping in playing area – warning and possible disqualification.
 - o Alcohol consumption during Competition – warning or disqualification.
 - o Unauthorised entry to playing area by Squad Manager – warning and possible exclusion.
 - o Serious misconduct – disqualification and referral under the Disciplinary Policy.
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Appendix A

Competition Format and Procedures

A1. General Principles

The Competition format shall be determined annually by Pétanque England having regard to:

- o the number of entries received;
- o venue capacity;
- o available playing time;
- o the objective of providing meaningful competition for all participants; and
- o the maintenance of promotion and relegation between divisions where applicable.

Pétanque England shall publish the Competition Format for the relevant year prior to the commencement of the Competition.

The formats described in this Appendix apply only to the current Competition and do not create an entitlement or expectation that the same format will be used in future years.

A2. Competition Format – 2026

For the 2026 Competition the following formats shall apply:

Championship Division 1

- o Eight (8) Squads.
- o Single round-robin [day 1] and seeded 5 rounds [day 2].
- o Each Squad shall play a total of twelve (12) matches.

Championship Division 2

- o Twelve (12) Squads.
- o Single round-robin league.
- o Each Squad shall play every other Squad once.
- o Each Squad shall play a total of eleven (11) matches.

Challenge Tournament

- o Twelve (12) Squads.
- o Single round-robin league.
- o Each Squad shall play every other Squad once.
- o Each Squad shall play a total of eleven (11) matches.

Junior Inter-Regional Championship

- o Twelve (12) Teams.
- o Single round-robin league.
- o Each Team shall play every other Team once.
- o Each Team shall play a total of eleven (11) matches.

A3. Playing Schedule

The Competition shall normally be played over two days.

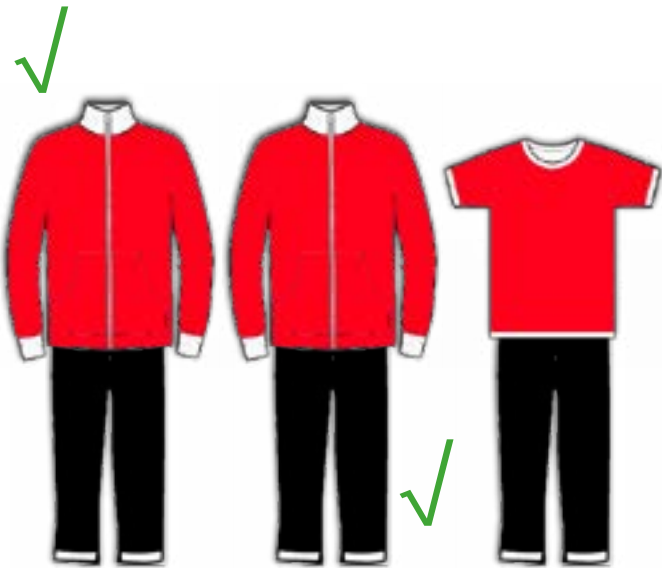
For the 2026 Competition the planned schedule is:

Competition	Day 1	Day 2
Championship Division 1	7 rounds	5 rounds
Championship Division 2	6 rounds	5 rounds
Challenge Tournament	6 rounds	5 rounds
Junior Championship	6 rounds	5 rounds

The Event Organiser may vary the playing schedule where necessary to accommodate operational requirements.



Appendix B
Team Kit - Explained (Pictorial)





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