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Pétanque **ENGLAND**

PE NATIONAL LEAGUE

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1 Introduction

With the advent of a new **Petanque England** Board there is a push to gain more interest and involvement from the members. To this end this document outlines the proposal for a **National League** to retain interest from all members during the Petanque season regardless of ability.

2 Terminology

For ease of use the following definitions will apply:

Term	Definition
PE	Petanque England
Team	Any participating entrant whether it be Triples, Doubles or Singles . Team also means each individual within a Double or Triple .
Main	Main section of afternoon competition
Consolage	Competition offered to the 1 st round losers of the main section
Cadrage	Preliminary round to obtain required number of entrants for 1 st round proper of the knockout.
Mixed Triples	A team consisting of 1 (one) female and 2 (two) male players or 1 (one) male and 2 (two) female players.
Shotgun	A competition whereby teams are pre-drawn by the organisers as explained in section 3.2.1.2
Panel	Organising panel deciding the make up of the Shotgun teams.
Barrel	Pot containing a category of players e.g. club-level .
Entry List	List of teams whose entrance to a competition have been confirmed.
Waiting List	List of teams who have specified an interest to take part but have yet to be formally added to the Entry List .

3 Proposal

3.1 Overview

It is proposed that over the course of the season selected competitions will be used for a **National League**. This **National League** will have 4 sections, namely, **Gold**, **Silver**, **Bronze** and **Pewter**, each one matching a competitions afternoon section.

The **National League** will be a recognition **League Table** that is not linked to the **PE** squad selections for European and World Championship representation.

During a qualifying competition points will be awarded to each (and every) **team** taking part according to the number of games won during the competition and of course their progress through that competition.

3.2 Qualifying Competitions

Currently the proposed competitions that will count towards the **National League** will be as follows:

Event	Competition
PE National Titles	Men's Singles
PE National Titles	Men's Doubles
PE National Titles	Men's Triples
PE National Titles	Women's Singles
PE National Titles	Women's Doubles
PE National Titles	Women's Triples
PE National Titles	Mixed Doubles
PE National Titles	Mixed Triples
PE National Titles	Shotgun

This list is not exhaustive and maybe extended (or indeed reduced). For a full list of qualifying competitions and the date of each qualifying competition, please refer to the PE playing calendar.

3.2.1 Competition Formats

3.2.1.1 Mixed Triples

Due to the disparity in the number of male and female players the **Mixed Triples** will ideally consist of 1 (one) female and 2 (two) male players. However, to enter the **Mixed Triples** a team needs only to contain one member of the opposite sex.

3.2.1.2 Shotgun

The **Shotgun** competition will consist of **teams** pre-drawn by a **panel**. Players will be split into **barrels** according to ability and will nominally be **experienced**, **intermediate** and **club-level** players. Players will be distributed between the **barrels** by the **panel** and an online draw will take place whereby players will be drawn from each **barrel** in order to form a **double** or a **triple**. This allows less experienced players the chance to play alongside players they normally would not have a chance of playing with. Format of **doubles** or **triples** will be dependent on the number of entries.

3.2.2 Qualifying Points

There will be no cap to the number of points that may be awarded nor the number of **teams** that may be awarded points.

Each (and every) **team** will be awarded points for every game that is won during a competition. As such there will be no fixed cap of the maximum number of points that may be won. Therefore, the greater the number of entrants the greater the number of points that will be on offer.

3.2.3 Morning Poules

All competitions will have a qualifying series in the morning to determine which main competition a **team** will be placed within in the afternoon.

On completion of the morning games, each **team** will be allocated a section for the afternoon's play. This will be one of **Gold, Silver, Bronze** or **Pewter** depending on the number of entrants. The organiser will attempt to set the afternoons play such that a competition will consist of at least a top 8.

3.2.3.1 Format

The format selected for morning play will be poules of 2 rounds. For each game won a **team** will be awarded **2 points** towards their **National League** score.

For each poule the following will apply:

Match	Round	Team 1		Team 2
1	1	A	v	B
2	1	C	v	D
3	2	Winner Match 1	v	Winner Match 2
4	2	Loser Match 1	v	Loser Match 2

3.2.3.2 Ranking

Ranking of **teams** within the poule phase will be as per the standard format with one additional criterion:

Step	Criteria
1	Games Won
2	Points Difference
3	Points For
4	Team winning 1 st round match

Step 4, "**Team winning 1st round match**" will only be used if teams cannot be separated using steps 1 - 3.

The chosen format is to facilitate a free-flowing competition enabling better planning of the knockout stages with finals to be played on showcase pistes. Being able to plan the knockout stages with an aim for finals to be played around 6pm, allows earlier finishes overall and the ability to potentially invite local dignitaries e.g., the Mayor.

3.2.4 Afternoon Knockout

3.2.4.1 Section Allocation

Progress to the relevant **Gold**, **Silver**, **Bronze** and **Pewter** sections is dependent on morning performance. The format selected for the mornings play allows players to be seeded into one of 3 groups:

Group	Criteria
1	Teams with 2 wins
2	Teams with 1 win
3	Teams with 0 wins

Teams are seeded within these 3 groups in the same manner as applied in section 3.2.3.2. If **teams** are tied, then they will be separated by a method of the organisers choosing, for example a **3 end play off**. Simpler options of **Toss of a Coin** or the **Drawing of Straws** will only be used to decide seeding where the result does not determine whether a **team** should play in the **Gold/Silver**, **Silver/Bronze** or **Bronze/Pewter**.

In an ideal situation, numbers permitting, **group 1** will progress to the **Gold** knockout, **group 2** will be split evenly between **Silver** and **Bronze** according to the seeding within that group and **group 3** will progress to **Pewter**.

One point to note is that **ALL** poule winners i.e., **group 1**, are **guaranteed** to progress to the **Gold** knockout.

3.2.4.2 Example Allocation

Entry numbers will not always allow for the **Gold** knockout to consist of just the **teams** in **group 1** and there will be some overlap. The **2020 Mixed Doubles** was a prime example.

A competition with 56 entries requires 14 morning poules and after the poule stage would result in **group 1** and **3** containing 14 **teams** and **group 2** containing 28 **teams**.

With **group 1** being guaranteed **Gold** knockout and no planned **byes** or **cadrage**, two slots must be filled to bring the **Gold** knockout to 16 **teams**.

Knockout	Seeds	Source
Gold	01 - 14	Group 1, seeds 01 - 14
Gold	15 - 16	Group 2, seeds 01 - 02
Silver	01 - 16	Group 2, seeds 03 - 18
Bronze	01 - 10	Group 2, seeds 19 - 28
Bronze	11 - 16	Group 3, seeds 01 - 06
Pewter	01 - 08	Group 3, seeds 07 - 14

3.2.4.3 Main Section

For the afternoon knockout, a **team** will be awarded **7 points** for each game won in the **main** section of whichever section of the competition they qualify for after the morning qualifiers.

The following points are therefore on offer for winning the **main** section of a competition:

Stages	Points Awarded
Last 64 thro' to Final	6 rounds @ 7 points = 42 points
Last 32 thro' to Final	5 rounds @ 7 points = 35 points
Last 16 thro' to Final	4 rounds @ 7 points = 28 points
Last 8 thro' to Final	3 rounds @ 7 points = 21 points

The points awarded will be in addition to the **2 points** per win awarded in the morning qualifiers.

3.2.4.4 Consolage Section

A **team** losing in the first round of the **main** knockout may, at the discretion of the organisers, be offered a **consolage** competition. In this instance each game won in the **consolage** will be awarded **1 point**.

The following points are therefore on offer for winning the **consolage** section of a competition:

Stages	Points Awarded
Last 32 thro' to Final	5 rounds @ 1 points = 5 points
Last 16 thro' to Final	4 rounds @ 1 points = 4 points
Last 8 thro' to Final	3 rounds @ 1 points = 3 points
Last 4 thro' to Final	2 rounds @ 1 points = 2 points

The points awarded will be in addition to the points awarded in the morning qualifiers which will be a maximum of **6 points** (assuming 3 games).

3.2.5 Scoring Rationale

There is obviously a difference in the points awarded for winning a game in the **main** and **consolage** sections of the competition.

The idea behind the **National League** is that **every team** is awarded points for **every** game that they win regardless of which section of competition they play in and whether it is **main** or **consolage**. However, it should be noted that in a competition which has for example a last 16 knockout, the **team** winning the **consolage** is finishing 9th and as such they should not be awarded more points for the afternoon knockout than a **team** winning through to the last 8.

Taking a competition with a last 64 as an example, a **team** winning through to the last 32 will score a minimum of 7 points in the knockout section (assuming 1 win in the afternoon). A **team** winning the **consolage** will score a maximum of 5 points in the knockout section i.e. 5 wins in the afternoon to win the **consolage**. Thus, the **team** in the **consolage** is unable to score more points than a **team** that progressed in the **main**.

In the **main** section, due to the award of **7 points** for a win, in the afternoon it *should* not be possible for a team knocked out early to finish above a team knocked out in a later round.

Conversely, due to only **1 point** being awarded for a win in the **consolage** it will be possible for a team knocked out early to finish above a team knocked out in a later round. This is highlighted in the worked example in section 4 specifically 4.3.

3.2.6 Cadrage

Should a **cadrage** be required then the **cadrage** generally consists of the lower ranking qualifiers. Ideally a win in the **cadrage** should attract **0 points** since awarding points for a **cadrage** win penalises those **teams** that played well enough in the morning to avoid a **cadrage**. For example, should points be awarded, a **team** winning the **main** section having navigated a **cadrage** will be awarded **7 points** more than a **team** that avoided the **cadrage**.

However, this does go against the premise of every win being awarded points. It is therefore proposed that if a **cadrage** is required it should only be used in the **consolage** section. However, regardless of which section it is employed within, a win in the **cadrage** will only be awarded **1 point**.

3.2.7 Penalties

The idea behind the scoring system is to allow **every team** to score points and for those points to count towards the **National League** section for the afternoon competition they qualify for.

However, on occasion there will be the odd **team** that decides that the afternoon competition they qualify for is not worth the effort of continuing to play and opt to leave early.

This is a headache for the organisers and impacts on the running of the competition.

All **teams** are expected to stay and complete the competition they have qualified for unless they have a valid reason to leave early.

Should any **team** leave early without a valid reason then the organiser can remove all points earned during the day's play.

Should a **team** leave early without valid reason on more than one occasion then they may be excluded from the **National League**.

3.2.8 Disclaimer

As indicated in sections 3.2.5 and 4.3 it is possible for a lower finishing **team** to be awarded more points than a **team** that progressed further. Therefore, the scoring system will be kept under constant review. Should an issue be found then remedial action **may** be taken **for future years**. Retrospective changes will only be made to the current year should the system be shown to be fundamentally flawed.

3.2.9 Competition Dates

As with other **PE** competitions, closing dates will be **7 days** before the intended event with an online draw taking place no later than **4 days** before the event. In the case of the **Shotgun** this allows some extra time for the **panel** to convene and decide how to split players between **barrels**.

The closing date may, at the organiser's discretion, be extended should the **Entry List** be such that the competition is in danger of being cancelled due to lack of interest.

3.2.10 General Formats

Groups of 6 are cumbersome and cause no end of problems in calculating which **team** should progress to which category of afternoon play.

Therefore, there will only be groups of 4 for morning play. To facilitate this, **Entry Lists** will be fed by a **Waiting List**. When 4 **teams** are on the **Waiting List** they will be transferred from the **Waiting List** to the **Entry List**. Until a **team** appears on the **Entry List** their participation is not confirmed.

The **Waiting List** for **Shotgun** will need to be slightly different. For **doubles** the transfer from **Waiting List** to **Entry List** can only take place when 8 people are waiting and for **triples** when 12 people are waiting. The **Waiting List** will be run on 8 people on the assumption that the format will be **doubles**. However, if numbers permit then **triples** will be used.

In addition to this, the intention is for competition numbers to be such that although **cadrage** has been covered above (section 3.2.6), a **cadrage** will not be used.

As such competitions will be set-up on the basis that **Gold** may have 4, 8, 16, 32 or 64 **teams** whereas **Silver, Bronze** and **Pewter** may have 0, 4, 8, 16, 32 or 64 **teams**.

Therefore, **Gold** will always be run whereas **Pewter, Bronze** or **Silver** may be dropped. From the numbers supplied, competitions with 4 to 256 **teams** may be held. However, it should be noted that since the intention is not to have **cadrage** not all combinations are available without employing the use of **byes**.

The first combinatory numbers requiring **byes** to be utilised are 90 and 108 **teams**. However, based on previous experience this should not be an issue.

3.2.11 Results

As mentioned previously the intention is to have **Gold, Silver, Bronze** and **Pewter National Leagues**. The lower categories will of course be dependent on number of entries.

Within each category the results will indicate the top **Male, Female** and **Region**. Therefore, each **team** is playing not only for themselves but, also for their respective **Region**. It should be noted that a **team** may consist of players from multiple **Regions**.

3.2.12 Prizes

The number of prizes to be awarded and indeed their value, monetary or otherwise, is not in the scope of this document. However, a minimum of **£100** will be awarded to each winning **team**. For the avoidance of doubt, the minimum amount will be awarded to each member of a **team**. So, a winning **double** will receive a minimum of **£200** to be shared by the **team**.

In addition to this, the winners of each category will be invited to form a team to play in a tournament abroad.

As with other areas of this proposal, all awards will be under constant review.

4 Worked Example

The tables below contain a subset of the results from the **2020 Mixed Doubles** and indicate how the above scoring methods would have been applied.

4.1 Gold

Mixed Doubles	Poules Points (Wins)	Main	Consolage	Total	
Edwins / Huntley	4 (2)	28	Winner	32	
Lachani / Lachani	4 (2)	21	Runner-Up	25	
Leverett / Robertshaw	4 (2)	14	S-Final	18	
Blows / Huntley	4 (2)	14	S-Final	18	
Scott / Plumhoff	4 (2)	7	Q-Final	11	
Kirkbride / Cazautets	4 (2)	7	Q-Final	11	
Charlesworth / Peat	4 (2)	7	Q-Final	11	
Slade / Brooks	4 (2)	7	Q-Final	11	
Geddes / Ashby	4 (2)		3	Winner	7
Prendergast / Lombard	4 (2)		2	Runner-Up	6
Morris / Newland	4 (2)		1	S-Final	5
Thorpe / Webb	4 (2)		1	S-Final	5
White / De Silva	4 (2)		0	Q-Final	4
Woodward / Wing	4 (2)		0	Q-Final	4
Ashby / Finley	2 (1)		0	Q-Final	2
Baker / Clacey	2 (1)		0	Q-Final	2

4.2 Silver

Mixed Doubles	Poules Points (Wins)	Main	Consolage	Total	
Jones / Rowley	2 (1)	28	Winner	30	
Emson / Emson	2 (1)	21	Runner-Up	23	
Guiot / Adams	2 (1)	14	S-Final	16	
Edwins / Edwins	2 (1)	14	S-Final	16	
Lombard / Thatcher	2 (1)	7	Q-Final	9	
Webb / Matthews	2 (1)	7	Q-Final	9	
Harrington / Harrington	2 (1)	7	Q-Final	9	
Spray / Bradshaw	2 (1)	7	Q-Final	9	
Woodward / Griffin	2 (1)		3	Winner	5
Wenban / Rowley	2 (1)		2	Runner-Up	4
Tully / Clarke	2 (1)		1	S-Final	3
Wills / Seville	2 (1)		1	S-Final	3
Hall / Hall	2 (1)		0	Q-Final	2
Slade / Leverett	2 (1)		0	Q-Final	2
Annane / Layton	2 (1)		0	Q-Final	2
Capelin / Capelin	2 (1)		0	Q-Final	2

4.3 Bronze

Mixed Doubles	Poules Points (Wins)	Main	Consolage		Total
Blakey / Monika	2 (1)	28	Winner		30
Whiteaker / Cochrane	2 (1)	21	Runner-Up		23
Briggs / Lye	2 (1)	14	S-Final		16
Fauvel / Lombard	2 (1)	14	S-Final		16
White / Spillet	2 (1)	7	Q-Final		9
Mann / Mann	2 (1)	7	Q-Final		9
Hutchinson / Hutchinson	2 (1)	7	Q-Final		9
Geddes / Cubbit	0 (0)	7	Q-Final		7
Eversden / Coggins	0 (0)			3 Winner	3
Goodheart / Goodheart*	2 (1)			1 S-Final	3
Evans / Edmondson*	0 (0)			2 Runner-Up	2
Nygaard / Nygaard	2 (1)			1 S-Final	2
Gale / Butt	2 (1)			0 Q-Final	2
Ramplin / Ramplin	0 (0)			0 Q-Final	0
David / Rand	0 (0)			0 Q-Final	0
Atkinson / Wood	0 (0)			0 Q-Final	0

As indicated in section 3.2.5, **team “Goodheart / Goodheart,”** despite losing in the first round of the **consolage**, were awarded more points overall than the **team** finishing runner up in the **consolage**. This by virtue of having won more games in the morning.

4.4 Pewter

Mixed Doubles	Poules Points (Wins)	Main	Consolage		Total
Wilmot / Wilmot	0 (0)	21	Winner		21
Marshall / Smith	0 (0)	14	Runner-Up		14
Harris / Brown	0 (0)	7	S-Final		7
Senneck / Senneck	0 (0)	7	S-Final		7
Ruddick / Ruddick	0 (0)			2 Winner	2
Labauve / Labauve	0 (0)			1 Runner-Up	1
Bradley / Jakes	0 (0)			0 S-Final	0
Keemer / Keemer	0 (0)			0 S-Final	0

4.5 Regions

The tables below utilise the subset of results from sections 4.1 and 4.2 to indicate how they would have been applied on a region-by-region basis for the **Gold** and **Silver**.

4.5.1 Gold

Region	Singles	Doubles	Mixed Doubles	Total
Chiltern			117	117
Southern Counties			75	75
London			69	69
Anglia			22	22
Kent			15	15
Sussex			11	11
Heart of England			11	11
Eastern			10	10
Thames Valley			10	10
Great Western			4	4

4.5.2 Silver

Region	Singles	Doubles	Mixed Doubles	Total
Kent			142	142
Chiltern			48	48
Mercia			33	33
Great Western			20	20
Southern Counties			18	18
Heart of England			10	10
Thames Valley			9	9
London			3	3
East Midlands			3	3
Sussex			2	2