

## The Simple Rules of Pétanque

The following gives a very basic idea of the game and rules of Pétanque and **must not** be taken as a substitute for “The Official Rules of the Game of Pétanque” issued by “FIPJP” the governing body.

### (Article 1)

Teams can be made of one (singles), two (doubles) or three players (triples). *(We however as the need arises have a team or teams of four players (quads) who throw 2 boules each. If three players play four players they adjust the number of boules each throws so that each team throws the same number)*

In singles and doubles each player uses 3 boules.

In triples each player uses 2 boules. *(We however in triples use 3 boules each, except if triples play doubles the triple players throw 2 boules each, with each team throwing a total of 6 boules). To balance things out the doubles players must throw no more than two boules in succession unless last to throw)*

### (Article 5)

Games are played to 13 points. *(As we play a social game of pétanque in order to encourage the mingling of players “a time limit of 35 minutes”, is adopted for each playing period. When “time is called”, any remaining boules are played to complete the end - following which the team in the lead moves forward to play the next team.*

*When all boules have been thrown the score is recorded, with the team closest to the jack earning one point, with extra points for each and every boule that they have nearer to the jack than their opponents. If the scores are equal the team who won the previous end, hence started the last end (the current end), is deemed to be the winning team and move forward)*

### (Article 6)

The toss of a coin *or the pick of a hand (left or right) concealing a jack* is used to decide who throws first. The winning team decide the play area (terrain) and throw the jack first.

The team to throw first draws a circle having an internal diameter between 35cm and 50cm, drawn or placed no near than 1m to any obstacle. *(We use a 50cm internal diameter plastic hoop and ignore the 1m reference obstructions such as the side or back kerb edging to the courts – see below re the restart)*

Both feet must be inside the circle and on the ground when throwing the boule until it touches the ground. The throwing of the jack by a player does not imply that he or she is obliged to throw the first boule.

### (Article 7)

The jack when thrown must stop between 6 and 10m and be no near than 1m to any obstacle.

The team to throw first has three attempts to achieve a legal throw. *(We throw just once – see below)*

If the first team fails to throw a legal throw the other team also have the right to three tries and may move the circle back if the maximum distance (10m) is not available. *(We just move the jack to an acceptable position to speed up play)*

At the start of a new end the winning team draws a circle around the jack, if regulation distance possible.

*(We do not do this; we restart near the end of the court with no minimum distance to the back of court)*

In any event the team that won the toss or the previous end throws first.

### (Article 9 and 18)

A jack which goes outside the playing area *(hits or touches the concrete edge)* is dead.

Similarly a boule, which goes outside the playing area *(hits or touches the concrete edging)* is deemed to be dead (out-of-bounds) and must be removed.

*(Article 5 – This states that the permitted minimum size of playing area is 12m x 3m)*

### (Article 15 and 28)

The first boule is thrown by the team who won the toss or the previous end and tries to get it as near to the jack as possible. The opposing team then throws its first boule and tries to get closer, after which the team who are furthest from the jack (does not hold a point) throw next and do so until they either get a boule nearer to the jack or run out of boules. If both teams have a boule equidistant from the jack and have boules, the last team to play throw again, then they throw alternately until there is a change or run out of boules; in this event the end is dead. In a team there is no fixed sequence or fixed turn to throw.

Terms used when playing Pétanque and their meaning:-

- Pointing: Trying to get one's boule near the jack
- Shooting: Trying to hit an opponent's boule away
- Holding: The team whose boule is nearest the jack is “Holding” also known as the “leading boule”
- Forwarding: When your boule strikes one of your teams boule and moves it forward nearer to the jack