



Competition Rules 2016



Part 1

1 General

- 1.1. These rules govern entry in the Welsh Pétanque Association (WPA) national and qualifying competitions, herein after referred to as "competition" or "competitions".
- 1.2. Entry into any WPA competition indicates acceptance of these rules by all individuals entering the competitions, whether by self-entry or being entered by the captain of a team.

2 Governance

- 2.1. The number, dates, rules and venues of the events will be determined by the WPA Executive and published in advance.
- 2.2. The WPA Executive will be responsible for the organisation of the competitions and will appoint an Organiser for each event.
- 2.3. The WPA Executive will appoint, when possible, an Umpire for each event.
- 2.4. The Organiser of each event will be the representative of the WPA Executive and may, in the event of any dispute not covered by the rules, after consultation with the Umpire, appoint a Jury of at least three WPA members. The decision of such a Jury will be final.
- 2.5. Regulations for play shall be the "Official International Rules of the Game of Pétanque" and any variations set out in these "Competition Rules", or as announced by the Organiser on the day. (These rules of play will include implementing recent decisions of the international bodies to ensure the existing rules as to time allowed for playing shots and position of feet in the throwing circle will be adhered to in competitions where an Umpire is appointed).
- 2.6. The Welsh Cup for Clubs Competition will be conducted under the published rules issued specifically for that event.
- 2.7. Any event may be cancelled at the discretion of the WPA Executive.
- 2.8. Competitions held at venues that are commercial, such as public houses and sports clubs, may only allow food and drink purchased at the venue to be consumed. All players are to respect this and comply with venue regulations or may be subject to an immediate disqualification from the competition.

3 Eligibility

- 3.1. WPA members holding a valid and legible licence, which must include a recent photograph of the holder, are eligible to compete in all competitions, subject to the following additional eligibility conditions.
 - 3.1.1. Each player entering the Veterans Triples Championship must be aged 55 years or over at the time of the event.
 - 3.1.2. Each player entering the Women's Triples Championship must be an adult female.

4 Entries

- 4.1. All competitions shall be by pre-entry.
- 4.2. The WPA reserves the right to refuse entry into any of its competitions.
- 4.3. The dates of all competitions will be notified to members via the WPA calendar published on the WPA website.
- 4.4. Pre-entry forms, online or hard copies must be completed using the designated form:
 - 4.4.1. Grand Prix Series (GPS).
 - 4.4.2. Pre-entry Form - All other WPA National events.



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- 4.5. The pre-entry form must be submitted to the WPA Executive prior to the closing dates for competitions indicated on the form. All parties' attention is drawn to the form submission rules (printed on the form itself).
- 4.6. The captain of a team may act on an individual's behalf and enter the individual for a competition. Captains must gain the permission of the individual before entering them into a competition (Rule 1.2).
- 4.7. Entry forms and cheques, payable to the Welsh Pétanque Association, for the correct entry fee are to be sent to the address published on the entry form and to arrive by the published closing date. No allowance will be made for delays in the postal service.
- 4.8. If a team or individual has pre-entered a competition and then find they cannot attend the competition, they must withdraw by notifying the WPA Executive.
 - 4.8.1. If the withdrawal is before the closing date, then a refund of fees may be given.
 - 4.8.2. If the withdrawal is after the closing date, no refund will be given unless extenuating circumstances for withdrawal can be shown.
- 4.9. Entry to non-qualifying competitions will be accepted on the day at the organisers' discretion and with the provisos that:
 - 4.9.1. There is room to accommodate the late arrivals in the competition.
 - 4.9.2. The organisation will not be unduly affected by the late entry.
 - 4.9.3. The team is required to pay the entry fee and an additional fee of £3.00 per player.
 - 4.9.4. The WPA or the Organiser of the day has complete discretion to decline to use a team name and without giving a reason and can instead replace it with another name or number, usually the name of the team captain or first named player.

5 Entry Fee

- 5.1. Entry for events is £5.00 per player.
- 5.2. The relevant entry fee must accompany the entry form.
- 5.3. For an entry to be valid, all team members must be paid for.

6 Registration and Draw

- 6.1. Registration will open by 09.00 and close promptly at 09.30. Any changes to these times will be published in advance.
- 6.2. All players will register as a valid team as defined in Article 1 of the "Official International Rules of the Game of Pétanque" at the control desk by submitting their licences to the Organiser. The team captain is required to notify the Organiser immediately, and before the close of registration if a member of the pre-entered team will not be able to register with a valid reason.

In accordance with the Official Rules if a team hands in all its players' licences at registration it may start play with one or more players short if the player or players are unavoidably detained. The Official Rules explain how and when the missing player(s) can join in. The player(s) actually starting cannot throw any more boules than they would if the whole team was present, that is if two players are present then 4 boules, if one player then 2 boules, until the missing player(s) are permitted to join in.

By close of registration only those teams, who have properly registered, as defined above, will be permitted to take part in the competition.

- 6.3. Any player failing to produce a valid licence will be fined £5.00, and may be refused entry to the competition.
- 6.4. The draw will take place in the presence of the Umpire or two team captains selected at random from the registered teams.



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- 6.5. Play will commence as soon as possible after the completion of the draw and announcements.

7 Competition Format

- 7.1. The Organiser of the day, after consultation with the Umpire (if present), has the right, subject to the number of entries, to alter the format of play, which may include timed games.
- 7.2. A lunch break may be held at the discretion of the Organiser and Umpire (if present). In this case the Organiser and/or Umpire will blow a whistle to start the break, which will be for approximately 30 minutes. The end in progress must be completed, with no players allowed on the terrain during this break. The Organiser and/or Umpire will blow a whistle to indicate the re-start of play.
- 7.3. The WPA National Singles, Doubles, Mixed Doubles, Triples, Women's Triples, Veterans Triples Championships and other open competitions organised by the WPA the format will be, subject to the number of entries, League and Knock Out and may include a Plate competition.
- 7.4. The Grand Prix Series will consist of 2 sets of 2 Grand Prix. The preferred format for the Grand Prix will be the Swiss System using the Fine-Buchholz Number (fBHN); the results shall be combined to decide the final ranking of the registered teams.

The Grand Prix Series is used to qualify and place in order teams for both the Home Nations GP1&2) and English Pétanque Association (EPA) Inter-Regional Championships (GP 3&4) up to the required number of teams in each event. Teams may be mixed or all the same gender.

8 4th Team Member (Substitute)

- 8.1. A 4th Team Member will be allowed within the WPA competitions except under rule 8.1.1.
- 8.1.1. Substitutes cannot be accepted in the National Singles, Doubles and Mixed Doubles or Celtic Challenge competitions.
- 8.2. An individual can be named as a 4th team member by one team only.
- 8.3. The common practices of the FIPJP will be used for the deployment of 4th team member (substitutes) during play.
- 8.4. Teams can name a 4th team member, but the 4th team member does not have to be present at each qualifier. However, 4th team members must be fully paid for, whether or not they are in attendance at the first qualifier.
- 8.5. The 4th player of a team entered into the GPS or a qualifying National Championship must play at least one game to qualify with the team.
- 8.6. If a 4th player is anticipating to play later in the day e.g. in afternoon, then the 4th player must be registered with the team, see item 6.2. Failure to register the 4th player will result in that player being unable to participate in the days play.

9 Standards

- 9.1. When playing in all WPA competitions, players within a team will be required to wear matching tops. A 'top' may be a shirt, polo shirt, T-shirt, fleece, jacket, blouson, jumper or any similar garment. 'Matching' is defined as of the same colour and design.

At this time, the WPA does not require players to enter competitions wearing matching trousers. When playing in a representative capacity for the WPA, players will be required to wear the approved uniform for those events.

No official WPA representative "tops" shall be allowed (those tops worn for the Home Nations Championship, European Championship, World Championship and Invitations). WPA current National title holders can wear their National title "tops" at any event for the year.

- 9.2. In the event of inclement weather, waterproof tops and trousers may be worn these do not need to be matching.
- 9.3. All players are to wear enclosed footwear.



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- 9.4. Any player failing to comply with the standard of dress will be fined £10.00, and may be disqualified from the competition.
- 9.5. At all WPA Competitions, the drinking of alcohol, smoking or the use of mobile hand held devices by competitors is forbidden during play in the designated playing area.

Notes:

For the following reasons, additional guidance is attached at Appendix A. This is intended for WPA organised or sponsored events, though it is hoped the principles may be generally adopted by players and clubs as part of the promotion of our sport.

There is the likelihood that in some of our major events, including the Home Nations, but also some league matches, may be filmed by television this season; and also in preparation for those teams representing Wales in other international competitions. There is also a continuing effort to include our sport in the Olympic Game, and so attention to dress and behaviour while taking part in our sport is important, and it is hoped all those taking part will try to co-operate in achieving these broad aims to improve the presentation of the sport to the public.

10 Qualification

- 10.1. The qualification process for international representation is as described above for the Home Nations and, if the WPA is invited to attend, the Inter Regional. The process for qualification for other international championships is by qualification in the relevant WPA National Championships. The detail of the latter process is set out below and in further detail in Part 3 of this document.

11 Representation

- 11.1. The 1st placed teams from the WPA National Men's and Women's Triples Championships may each be invited to represent the WPA at different nominated events. For further detail see Part 3. Additionally, depending on invitations received by the WPA for competitions organised by the FIPJP, CEP and other governing bodies, and which the WPA Executive deem suitable, the WPA may invite other teams placed in order in these Championships to represent the WPA. See Part 3 for details.
- 11.2. In even numbered years, the first placed team in the Veterans Championship will be invited to represent the WPA at the CEP's Veteran's European Championships.
- 11.3. The top 8 placed teams from the Grand Prix 1 & 2 will be invited to represent the WPA at the 2016 Home Nations Championship.
- 11.4. The top 8 placed teams from the Grand Prix 3 & 4 will be invited to represent the WPA at the 2016 EPA Inter-Regional Championship (subject to the WPA receiving an invitation to take part).
- 11.5. The top 8 placed teams from the Celtic Challenge Qualifier will be invited to represent the WPA at the 2016 Celtic Challenge.
- 11.6. Players' attention is drawn to the fact that they are likely to have to meet all costs associated with representing the WPA at ALL International or Invitational events for which they qualify, but see Part 3.

12 Authority

- 12.1. Where the competition is disrupted by teams or players being absent on the day or leaving before completing all their games, the Organiser, in consultation with the Umpire (if present), may call the Jury and request a change of the format of the competition and these Rules as appropriate, and in any case the Umpire (if present) and/or Organiser must make a full report to the WPA Executive within 24 hours.
- 12.2. Any infringement of these Competition Rules or the Official International Rules of the Game of Pétanque will be reported to the WPA Executive and may invalidate entry, result in



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disqualification, may lead to disciplinary action and/or necessitate the forfeiture of any position or prizes previously awarded.

- 12.3. During any event, the Umpire (if present), the Jury or Organiser is responsible for the interpretation of these rules.



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Part 2

1. Post Qualification for Grand Prix Series and Inter-Regional Championship's

- 1.1. Qualification to represent the WPA will be attained by teams and not by individuals.
- 1.2. Players shall be required to represent the WPA at the events for which they qualify.
- 1.3. Players are to ensure that they are available to play at the qualifying event and to the best of their knowledge will be physically able to complete the qualifying event before entering.
- 1.4. The results attained at the qualifying event will be final for the purposes of qualification.
- 1.5. Teams that qualify will be those that have met the qualifying criteria at the end of the event.
- 1.6. Where a team qualifying includes a 4th team member, the entire team will qualify.
- 1.7. Between qualification and the event, if a team should lose players (e.g. a three player team loses one player and a four player team loses one or two players). The team may then choose to:
 - 1.7.1. Once qualified under Part 2, Clause 1.8.1, a four member team that loses one player may not elect a further substitute (i.e. a new 4th team member).
 - 1.7.2. For the event, where a three player team does not have a substitute, another player can be called upon who has played in the qualifying competition, but who has not qualified themselves or they may also use a substitute from another team who played in the qualifying competition with the permission of that team.
 - 1.7.3. A four player team that loses two players may only elect one replacement as defined in Part 2, Clause 1.8.
- 1.8. Where a team of three loses two players or a team of four players loses three players a reserve side may be called into represent the WPA. This will be the team that came immediately below 'the cut' for those qualifying teams in the qualifying event. Sides in the reserve pool will be drawn from in the order in which they finished the qualifying event. Where possible, the reserve side may be encouraged by the WPA and should endeavour to include the remaining player(s) from the originally qualified team.
- 1.9. Under extenuating circumstances the positions at which the teams qualify may not be the positions at which they will play. The WPA Executive and/or the Team Manager may decide placement of qualified teams for some events, if they consider it is in the best interests of the National Teams overall.
- 1.10. The WPA Executive reserves the right to select teams in exceptional circumstances, e.g. insufficient qualified teams are available for an event. (Precedent being: Home Nations, Scotland, 2001)
- 1.11. Once entered, teams are expected to attend. Entry to qualifiers indicates that individuals and teams are available to represent the WPA. The event details appear on the pre-entry form at the bottom of the event boxes. Qualifying teams or individual players must be able to attend the events they indicated they would attend.



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Part 3

Teams entering qualifying competitions for the World and European Championships.

1. Introduction:

- 1.1. The WPA National Triples competitions for Men and Women provide the mechanism for qualifying the teams to represent Wales at the Women and Veterans European Triples Championships and the Men & Women European Singles Championships in 2016.

2. Entry forms:

- 2.1. The winning team in each event is eligible to be invited by the WPA to represent Wales at the relevant event.

- 2.1.1. A team remains "viable" according to the current rules, namely that if two or more players in the original team are able to accept the invitation, then that team may choose from among the other players who registered for and played in the qualifying event (i.e. played in at least one game) to fill the third and or fourth position in the team as necessary.

However, the team will first consult with the WPA Executive and seek its advice and assistance in choosing the third and or fourth player. The decision will be made by consensus between the team and the WPA. If possible, this will be done with the assistance of any person chosen as Team Manager. The decision on choice of these players is to be made at the earliest opportunity following the qualifying event.

- 2.2. If the winning team is unable to meet the commitment, or is not viable, the runners up are then eligible to be invited in its place.

- 2.2.1. The same rules apply as in 2.1.1 to finding the replacement team.

- 2.3. If neither the first nor replacement teams are able to accept the invitation or are not viable, as defined above, the WPA Executive in its sole discretion may consider whether or not to invite another team from among the qualifying teams to go to the relevant event. If it does invite another team it will also apply the same rules as in 2.1.1 above if necessary.

- 2.4. Team Managers will be appointed by the WPA Executive for each team but in consultation with each team, and will make such appointments at the earliest opportunity after the qualifying event.

- 2.4.1. Any team Manager to be appointed must agree to commit to the support of the team to which he or she is appointed, and be willing to attend events at which the team concerned is training, or competitions which it is taking part in as preparation for the relevant Championships.

- 2.4.2. Team Managers or Coaches are expected to brief players at the end of each match, and where statistics or other performance guides are taken to be able to provide the relevant information to the players as part of such match de-brief, or as soon as possible after the match.

- 2.5. Where possible both the qualified teams will be given the opportunity to play together in training and preparation sessions which will primarily cover match situations and tactics, unless individual players ask for specific coaching in playing techniques or other aspects of the game.

- 2.6. Where possible the representative teams will be offered opportunities to play in competitions outside Wales as preparation for the Championships.

- 2.6.1. Teams which took part in the qualifying events but which are not invited to play for Wales in these two Championships ("additional teams") may also be offered by the



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WPA the opportunity to play in such other competitions and represent Wales as "Wales 2" or such similar title. If both a representative side and an additional team are playing in the same competition, then the first or representative team will be designated "Wales Men 1" or "Wales Ladies 1" as appropriate.

- 2.6.2. The WPA will endeavour as described below to provide some level of financial assistance to players, Team Managers and Coaches attending competitions in preparation for these two Championships, and the Championships, and if possible some assistance with travel or subsistence, either from WPA funds allocated for those purposes or by obtaining sponsorship.
 - 2.6.3. If there are sufficient funds available, then similar support will be provided to the second teams, but the priority will be the first teams.
 - 2.6.4. However, qualifying teams must expect to have to find their own funding. Those teams that qualify and agree to represent Wales will be given financial support of up to £100 per player provided they have carried out their own funding raising. The WPA will provide a bursary of up to £100 per player per event to match the same sum raised by each player. So if a player raises no such support there will be no bursary, but if a player raises £50 they will receive £50, and so on up to £100.
- 2.7. The highest standards are expected of those who represent Wales, and they should be aware of the terms of their contracts and of the disciplinary procedures which are available to the WPA, the FIPJP and the CEP if the competition's requirements and standards of conduct are not met.

Reviewed By:
WPA Executive
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Appendix A

Pétanque and the Public: The Way Forward! Guidance Notes for Players

In trying to get the media to pay more attention to our sport we need to look at how we project ourselves to the wider World. A new local BBC TV channel, Made in Cardiff, has shown interest in filming and broadcasting our events. All the major Championships such as the Worlds, Europeans and Veterans are regularly televised.

We are also aware the international bodies are trying to get our sport recognised so it can take part in the Olympic Games.

So here are some guidelines for Players to consider if we want to present the best image we can of a real international sport when we are playing in our top events and also in our league matches when the public can see us at play at our sport. Today, anyone can be filming and broadcasting any match!

1. **Team Names:** Please think carefully about the name you pick for your team. A name that is amusing to you may well not translate to the wider World, which may not share your sense of humour – or decency. You all know what we mean!
2. **Shirts:** Teams should be proud to take part and show that they have an identifiable visual image – easily achieved by wearing Club or Team shirts. Where teams comprise members from different clubs it is not difficult or expensive to get cheap matching polo shirts. Help the media and the public identify you as distinct teams!

Perhaps it's also time to retire those old shirts of times past, and invest in new one? Some from nearly 20 years ago **are** getting to look well past it! It is best not to wear "Representative" shirts since that could confuse any media or public into thinking that current "GB" or "Wales" teams are taking part. For other clothing, please try looking smart in terms of the trousers, footwear and other clothing that you wear whilst playing since you may be on TV next day!

3. **Rings and Jacks:** Spectators and the media can easily be confused by what is going on if the playing area is not clearly marked; whilst strings may not be obvious to the outsider, where the player is standing and where they are throwing their boules ought to be clear so the public can see there is some sort of defined structure to the game. Scratched circles again don't give the impression this is a "proper" game. A plastic circle immediately proclaims this is a "proper" sport with rules. Likewise, a near invisible ancient jack (and we are not being personal about anyone) does not give the impression this is a real game.
4. **Alcohol and Tobacco:** Please respect the playing area and the other players, smoke or drink well off the playing terrain. Darts and Snooker have increased in popularity and media appeal since they have removed alcohol and cigarettes from the openly visible playing area.
5. **Banter:** This is all part of the game, and much of its funs and charm, but it can also become an issue where it is regarded going beyond what is socially acceptable today. What we say is easily picked up and re-broadcast. The simple rule is, if you wouldn't want that comment directed at you; do not say it to anyone else!

Director of Public Relations
March 2015