



European Championship Rules

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RULES

1. GENERAL

- 1.1. All "European Championships" are organised in accordance with the rules established by the Confédération Européenne de Pétanque (CEP) Board of Directors.
- 1.2. The CEP is the only European Pétanque Confederation recognised by the Fédération Internationale de Pétanque et Jeu Provençal (FIPJP), empowered to organise European Championships and to award the titles of European Champions.
- 1.3. The CEP Board of Directors shall supervise the organisation of the following European Championships:
 - 1) In the even numbered years:
 - The European Championship Triples: Juniors
 - The European Championship Triples: Women
 - The European Championship Singles: Men
 - In the odd numbered years:
 - The European Championship Triples: Veterans
 - The European Championship Triples: Men
 - Every year:
 - The European Championship Triples: Espoirs, Men and Women
 - The European Cup for Clubs (EuroCup) Championship - see separate rules for the EuroCup
 - The CEP Board of Directors may organise a "Precision-Shooting" Championship at each of these Championships.
- 1.4. The CEP Board of Directors will entrust the organisation to a member Federation but will remain entirely responsible for supervising and running the Championships and for the results.
- 1.5. The host Federation, having taken all the necessary preparatory measures for the Championship competition (see Championship Specification), shall submit to the CEP President or General Secretary, a detailed programme conforming with the instructions provided by the CEP Board of Directors.
- 1.6. The host Federation will inform all participating Federations about the exact place, the programme (following a model from the CEP Technical Commission) and all hotel information (including rooms and meals), at least four months in advance in order to enable them to take the necessary travel arrangements.
- 1.7. All European Championships shall be played indoors unless otherwise agreed by the CEP Board of Directors.

2. REGISTRATION

- 2.1. Only CEP Member Federations or probationary Federations, having paid their fees, have the right to register a team.
- 2.2. Registration forms shall be sent to the Member Federations by email at least four months before the competition.
- 2.3. The participating Federations must return their completed entry forms at least three months before the competition and specifying, if possible, the number of people, the number and nature of the bedrooms and the number of nights' accommodation, so that the host Federation can take the necessary steps to organise their stay.

- 2.4. The composition of the teams must be registered at the latest two months before the competition's date. A partial modification may be made later.
- 2.5. All these forms must be sent to the host Federation and to the CEP General Secretary.

3. PARTICIPATION in a EUROPEAN CHAMPIONSHIP

- 3.1. To participate in a European Championship, a player, team official or other team personnel must respect and comply with the CEP Rules, Regulations and the World Anti-Doping Code, including the conditions of participation established by the CEP, as well as with the rules of the relevant Federation.
- 3.2. Each Federation establishes its sport's rules for participation in a European Championship, including qualification criteria.

The application of the qualification criteria lies with the Federations.
- 3.3. The entry or participation of a player in a European Championship shall not be conditional on any financial consideration.

4. NATIONALITY of PLAYERS

- 4.1. Any player in a European Championship must be a national of the country of the Federation which the player is representing.
- 4.2. All matters relating to the determination of the country which a player may represent in the European Championship shall be resolved by the Board of Directors.
- 4.3. A player who is a national of two or more countries at the same time may represent either one of them, as they may elect. However, after having represented one country in the European Championship they may not represent another country unless they meet the conditions set forth in the paragraphs below that apply to persons who have changed their nationality or acquired a new nationality.
- 4.4. A player who has represented one country in a European Championship and who has changed their nationality or acquired a new nationality, may participate in the European Championship to represent their new country provided that at least three years have passed since the player last represented their former country.

This period may be reduced or even cancelled, with the agreement of the Federations concerned, by the Board of Directors, which takes into account the circumstances of each case.
- 4.5. If an associated State, province or overseas department, a country or colony acquires independence, if a country becomes incorporated within another country by reason of a change of border, if a country merges with another country, or if a new Federation is recognised by the Board of Directors, a player may continue to represent the country to which they belong or belonged.

However, they may, if they prefer, elect to represent their country or be entered in a CEP Championship by their new Federation if one exists. This particular choice may be made only once.
- 4.6. In all cases in which a player would be eligible to participate in the European Championship, either by representing another country than theirs or by having the choice as to the country which such player intends to represent, the Board of Directors may take all decisions of a general or individual nature with regard to issues resulting from nationality, citizenship, domicile or residence of any player, including the duration of any waiting period.

4.7. If required by the CEP, Federations shall provide a certified copy of all documentation on which it seeks to rely in demonstrating the player's eligibility under these rules.

4.8. The burden of proof in establishing whether a player is eligible rests with the Federation and the player concerned.

The Federation must provide the CEP with valid and authentic documentation demonstrating the player's eligibility and such other evidence as may be necessary to prove the player's eligibility on a definitive basis.

4.9. In accordance with these rules, the eligibility of a player shall at all times be guaranteed by the Federation to which the player is representing.

5. AGE LIMIT

5.1. Championships under these Rules may be divided into age group classifications as follows:

- Juniors – aged 17 or less in the year of the championship
- Espoirs – Adults licence players under the age of 23 year* in the year of the Championship.
- Veterans - aged 55 or above in the year of the Championship.

* The CEP Board of Directors may allow a Federation to include one player that is no younger than 15 years in the year of the Championship subject to the Federation in question confirming that they have only 5 or less licences in the category (gender) and age range for Espoirs.

5.2. A player shall be eligible to compete in an age group championship under these Rules if he or she is within the age range specified in the relevant age group classification.

5.3. A player must be able to provide proof of his age through presentation of a valid passport or other form of evidence as permitted by the applicable regulations for the championship.

A player who fails or refuses to provide such proof shall not be eligible to compete in the championship.

6. TEAMS

6.1. A Triples team will consist of 3 or 4 players with a Head of Delegation and/or coach.

6.2. A Singles team will consist of 1 player with a Head of Delegation and/or coach.

6.3. All players, Heads of Delegation and Coaches must have a valid international licence for a period of not less than 6 months at the time of the Championship.

6.4. The Head of Delegation and Coach are responsible for their team and in particular their good sportsmanship and appearance as described in the previous articles.

They must respond to any appeal or request from the control table or host Federation and participate in any random draw for their team.

6.5. During the Championship, the coach must be with the team at the playing area assigned to them by the control table or umpire.

The coach may not move or gesticulate during play, and under no circumstances are they allowed to intervene on the terrain. However, at the players' request, the coach may give advice, provided that this does not lead to extending the time prescribed for throwing the jack or a boule.

6.6. During the Triples Championships, the coach is permitted to change a player during a game, but only the once and then only between two ends after informing the opposing team.

The change of a player must be recorded on the scorecard for that game.

7. PLAYERS CLOTHING

7.1. In all championships, players must wear clothing which is clean, and designed and worn so as not to be objectionable.

7.2. The players of each team must wear matching team kit, tops (jackets, shirts etc.) and the same coloured trousers or shorts (the length must be below the knee).

The tops, with at least short sleeves, must be identical and display the logo or badge of the Federation they represent on the front and the name of their nation on the back.

7.3. Jeans are not permitted.

7.4. Advertising is permitted on the players' tops but is limited to a maximum of 3 and each no larger than 30 cm².

The advertising will be identical for each of the players in the team and must comply with the laws and regulations of the nation hosting the championship.

The logo of the kit manufacturer is not considered as advertising.

7.5. A player, or team, who after a warning from the umpire, does not respect these rules concerning team clothing, will be disqualified from the championship.

8. DISCIPLINE

8.1. Should a licence holder violate the published Rules and Regulations, the CEP may notify the licence holder's Federation of their violation; the Federation shall then be responsible for imposing the sanctions, as called for in their Rules and Regulations.

8.2. The CEP reserves the right to exclude from a championship any license holder whose conduct is in breach, or multiple breaches of the published rules and regulations or which an appointed umpire or official of the CEP considers may be sufficiently serious to constitute an act of misconduct.

8.3. It is prohibited to smoke (including electronic smoking devices), to consume alcohol, use cell phones in the area of play.

8.4. Doping Control and/or alcohol breath tests may take place during the Championship.

9. THE DRAW

9.1. The draw will take place in the presence of an umpire at such time and place as deemed convenient by the CEP Board of Directors.

9.2. The top 8 Nations, from the previous year's Championship, will be seeded 1- 8.

The remaining Nations will be randomly drawn for positions 9 and onwards.

9.3. The CEP Board of Directors reserve the right to change the number of seeded teams to suit the number of participants.

10. COMPETITION

10.1. The regulations for play shall be the "Official International Rules of the Game of Pétanque" set by the FIPJP and any variations set out by the CEP Board of Directors in these and any other specific rules.

10.2. The Triples and Singles Championships will comprise of 3 stages:

- 1) Qualification phase: using the Swiss System, 5 rounds will be played to rank the teams based on their number of wins.

In the event that teams have the same number of wins, they are first classified by the Buchholz system and then if still equal by:

(i) points difference, (ii) points for, to determine their ranking order.

- 2) Poules: where all the teams will be seeded in accordance with their results from the Qualification phase into either the Championship or Nations Cup where they will play to find the top 8 teams in both events.
 - 3) Finals: based on the results from the poules system, teams are seeded 1 - 8 for the 1/4 finals in both the Championship and Nations Cup where they play in a direct elimination format to find the overall winners.
 - 4) The winners of the Championship shall be announced as the European Champions for that year.
- 10.3. The CEP Board of Directors reserve the right to set a time limit for the Qualification phase and to change a championship format to suit the number of participants.

11. FINANCING

- 11.1. The participating Federations will fully cover their own travel and accommodation costs (hotel and meals).

