

## PETANQUE – SIMPLE RULES

### The Game:

Pétanque is a game where the goal is to throw metal balls (boules) as close as possible to a small wooden ball (jack or “cochonnet.”) While throwing a boule, a player must keep his/her two feet on the ground and within a starting circle drawn on the ground. The game is normally played on hard dirt or gravel.

### Teams:

Triples: 3 players against 3 players (two boules per player) or

Doubles: 2 players against 2 players (three boules per player) or

Singles: 1 player against 1 player (three boules per player)

### Order of Play:

- A.** A coin is tossed to decide which team goes first.
- B.** Once the starting team is known:
  - 1.** A player of the starting team draws a circle on the ground with a diameter of 35-50 cm (14-20 in.)
  - 2.** A player of the starting team throws the jack 6-10 m (20-33 ft.) away. The jack must also land at least 1m (3 ft.) away from any boundary of the play area.
  - 3.** A player of the starting team throws the first boule.

(The players in B.1., B.2. or B.3. may or may not be the same player, but they must be from the starting team.)
- C.** Then, a player from the opposing team throws a boule. If that player’s boule did not land closest to the jack, his/her team keeps throwing boules until one is closer to the jack than the best-placed boule of the opposing team.
- D.** As soon as a team gets a boule closest to the jack, it is the opposing team’s turn to play. If a team runs out of boules, then, the opposing team plays until all boules are played. In the unlikely event that the closest boules from each team are at an equal distance from the jack, then the team that played last plays again. If the boules are still equidistant then the teams play alternately until the position changes. If the boules are still equidistant at the end of the game then no points are scored by either team.
- E.** Once all boules are played, all points are scored for the round (see below.) The starting circle for the new round will be located where the jack was picked up at the end of the last round. Then, the team whose boule was best-placed in the last round becomes the starting team in the new round, proceeding with Step **B.** above.

### Scoring:

A round ends when both teams have no more boules, or when the jack is knocked out of play. At that time, points are scored: the winning team receives one point for each boule that it has closer to the jack than the best-placed boule of the opposition. If the jack is knocked out of play, no team scores unless only one team has boules left to play. In this case the team with boules receives one point for each that they have to play.

The first team to reach 13 cumulative points wins.