



## European Championship Rules 2025-26

Confédération Européenne de Pétanque  
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## Preamble

The following regulations have been adopted on the basis of Chapter VII of the CEP Statutes by the Board of Directors





**European Championship Rules**  
**2025-26**

## I. GENERAL PROVISIONS

### 1. Scope of application

- 1.01 The Confédération Européenne de Pétanque (CEP), recognised by the Fédération Internationale de Pétanque et Jeu Provençal (FIPJP), is the only administration authorised to organise European Championships and to award the title of European Champion.
- 1.02 These rules govern the rights, duties and responsibilities of all parties participating and involved in the organisation of a European Championship.

### 2. Definitions

- 2.01 For the purpose of these rules, the following definitions shall apply:
- |            |   |
|------------|---|
| CEP:       | Confédération Européenne de Pétanque.   |
| Directors: | CEP Board of Directors.   |
| Host:      | Federation or other organisation designated by the CEP to organise a European Championship. |
- 2.02 In these rules, any phrase introduced by the words "including", "include", "in particular", "for example" or any similar expression is illustrative and does not limit the meaning of the words preceding them.
- 2.03 In the context of these rules, the masculine gender used in relation to a physical person shall, unless specifically stated otherwise, include the feminine gender.
- 2.04 Unless expressly provided otherwise in writing, for the purposes of the European Championship rules, a year is a calendar year, beginning on 1 January and ending on 31 December.

### 3. Frequency of the championships

- 3.01 The Directors shall supervise the organisation of the following European Championships:
- In the even numbered years;
    - The European Championship Triples: Juniors, Boys and Girls
    - The European Championship Triples: Women
  - In the even numbered years, at the same time and venue;
    - The European Championship Singles: Men - Women
    - The European Championship Doubles: Men - Women
    - The European Championship Doubles: Mixed
  - 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
- 3.02 The Directors may organise a Precision Shooting Championship at each of these Championships, based on the rules for the FIPJP Precision Shooting World Championships.

### 4. Organisation

- 4.01 The Directors will delegate the organisation to the host, but will remain fully responsible for the supervision conduct and results of the Championships.
- 4.02 The host, having made all necessary preparations for the Championship in accordance with the CEP's Championship Specifications, shall submit a detailed programme to the CEP President or Secretary General for approval.

- 4.03 The host, through the CEP Secretary General, shall inform all participating federations of the exact location and all hotel information (including rooms and meals), at least four months in advance in order to enable them to make the necessary travel arrangements.
- 4.04 All European Championships shall be played under cover unless otherwise agreed by the Directors.

## 5. Registration

- 5.01 Only CEP member federations, having paid their fees have the right to register a team.
- 5.02 Pre-registration forms shall be sent to the federations by e-mail at least four months before the competition.
- 5.03 Federations must confirm their participation in the European Championship no later than three months before the date of the European Championship.
- 5.04 The participating federations must return the completed Accommodation and Meals Reservation Form by the deadline specified in the Reservation Form and European Championship Invitation.
- 5.05 The composition of the federation team must be pre-registered two months before the date of the championship using the European Championship pre-registration form. Partial changes may be made up to the time of registering the team at the European Championship.
- 5.06 All forms issued for the European Championship must be sent to the specific e-mail address indicated on each form and on the European Championship invitation letter.
- 5.07 The registration of the federation's team will be finalised at the championship, where the team and the coach will have to present their licences and other documents (passport, etc.) to verify their eligibility.

## 6. Participation

- 6.01 In order to participate in a European Championship, each federation shall ensure that its players, team officials or other team personnel comply with and observe the European Championship rules, including the conditions of participation and the WADA Anti Doping Code.
- 6.02 Each federation shall establish its own qualification or selection criteria to determine which team will take part in a European Championship. The application of these criteria is the responsibility of the federations.
- 6.03 Players, team officials and other team personnel participating in a European Championship may allow their name, image or sporting achievements to be used for promotional purposes during the European Championship in accordance with the principles determined by the CEP Directors.
- 6.04 The entry or participation of a team or players in a European Championship shall not be conditional on any financial consideration.

## 7. Insurance

- 7.01 Federations are responsible for and undertake to arrange, at their own expense, all necessary and appropriate insurance cover for their team, including players, coaches and officials.
- 7.02 All insurances must cover the full period of the European Championship.

## 8. Finances

- 8.01 The participating federations are responsible for ensuring that their team's accommodation meals and transfers are fully paid for.
- 8.02 The Host Federation will make every effort to provide accommodation for the delegations at a reasonable price, giving preference to group bookings.
- 8.03 All participating federations must book their accommodation through the host using the e-mail address and form provided.

## II. FEDERATION TEAM

### 9. Eligibility of players

- 9.01 Every player taking part in a European Championship must be a national of the country they are representing and must have held a valid licence, with a European Federation for at least six months at the time of the championship.
- 9.02 All matters relating to the determination of the country which a player may represent in the European Championship shall be resolved by the Directors.
- 9.03 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, once they have represented one country in a European Championship they may not represent another country unless they fulfil the conditions set out in the following paragraphs, which apply to persons who have changed or acquired a new nationality.
- 9.04 A player who has represented one country at a European Championship and who has changed their nationality or acquired a new nationality, may participate in the European Championship as a representative of their new country provided that at least three years have elapsed since the player last represented their former country.

This period may be reduced or even cancelled by the Directors, with the agreement of the federations concerned, taking into account the circumstances of the individual case.

- 9.05 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 Directors, a player may continue to represent the country to which they belong or belonged.

However, they may, if they prefer, choose to represent their country or be entered in a CEP Championship by their new federation if one exists. This special choice may only be made once.

- 9.06 In all cases in which a player would be eligible to participate in the European Championship, either by representing a country other than their own or by having the possibility to choose the country they wish to represent, the Directors may take all general or individual decisions on matters relating to the nationality, citizenship, domicile or residence of a player, including the duration of any waiting period.
- 9.07 At the request of the CEP, federations shall provide a certified copy of all documentation on which the CEP intends to rely in establishing the player's eligibility under these rules.
- 9.08 The burden of proof in determining a player's eligibility rests with the federation and the player concerned.
- 9.09 The federation shall provide the CEP with valid and authentic documentation of the player's eligibility and such other evidence as may be required to establish the player's eligibility on a definitive basis.

- 9.10 In accordance with these rules, a player's eligibility shall be guaranteed at all times by the federation they represent.

## 10. Age limits

- 10.01 Championships under these rules may be divided into age group classifications as follows:
- Juniors: aged 17 years or under, in the year of the championship.
  - Espoirs: aged 18 years or over but under the age of 23 in the year of the championship.
  - Veterans: aged 55 years of age or more in the year of the championship.
- 10.02 A player is eligible to compete in an age group championship under these rules if they are within the age range specified in the relevant age group classification.
- 10.03 A player must be able to provide proof of their age by presenting a valid passport or other form of identification as permitted by the applicable rules of the championship.
- 10.04 A player who fails or refuses to provide such proof will not be eligible to compete in the championship.

## 11. Coaches

- 11.01 Each team must have a coach who is not a player but holds a valid licence with a European Federation.
- 11.02 The coach is responsible for the team and in particular for their good sportsmanship and appearance as described in these rules.
- 11.03 The coach shall respond to any appeal or request from the control table or host federation and shall participate in any random draw for their team.
- 11.04 During the championship, the coach shall be present with the team at the playing area assigned to them by the control table or the umpire.
- 11.05 The coach must not move or gesticulate during the match, and under no circumstances are they allowed to intervene on the terrain. However, at the request of the players, the coach may give advice, provided that this does not lead to an extension of the time allowed for throwing the jack or a boule.

## 12. Singles and Doubles

- 12.01 Each federation may only register a maximum of 4 players, 2 women and 2 men.
- 12.02 Each player may only participate in a maximum of two events.
- 12.03 A singles team will consist of 1 player and a coach
- 12.04 A doubles team will consist of 2 players of the same gender and a coach.
- 12.05 A mixed doubles team will consist of 1 male player and 1 female player and a coach.

## 13. Triples

- 13.01 A triples team will consist of 3 or 4 players with a coach.
- 13.02 During the Triples Championship, the coach is permitted to change a player during a game, but only the once and then only between two ends, before the jack has been thrown and after informing the opposing team.
- The change of a player must be recorded on the scorecard for that game.

## 14. Team Clothing

- 14.01 Throughout a European Championship, the players and coach shall wear clothing that is clean and designed and worn in such a way as not to be offensive.
- 14.02 The players and coach must wear matching team clothing. The tops (jackets, shirts, etc.) must have at least short sleeves and the bottoms (shorts, trousers, etc.) must be no shorter than the player's fingertips with the arms and fingers extended at the player's side.
- 14.03 The logo or badge of the federation must be displayed on the front of the tops and the name of the nation on the back. The player's family name and first initial may appear on the back of the tops but must be smaller than the name of the nation
- 14.04 Denim or Jeans, regardless of colour, are not permitted.
- 14.04 Federation teams may display a maximum of THREE (3) names or logos of commercial sponsors on their clothing for promotional purposes. Alcohol and tobacco advertising is prohibited.
- 14.06 These names or logos must be identical for each of the players and the coach and be displayed only on their tops. Each name or logo must be limited to 40cm<sup>2</sup> / maximum height 5cm and comply with the laws and regulations of the nation hosting the European Championship. The logo of the kit manufacturer is not considered as advertising.
- 14.07 Any player or team, who after a warning from the umpire, fails to comply with these team clothing rules, will be fined (max. 100 euros per person) or disqualified from the European Championship.

Note: The CEP is neither responsible nor liable for any disputes which may arise from advertising contracts between CEP member federations on the one hand and advertising companies or sponsors on the other.

## 15. Discipline

- 15.01 In the event of a licence holder breaching the published rules and regulations, the CEP will notify the licence holder's federation of their violation; the federation will be responsible for imposing the sanctions, in accordance with its rules and regulations.
- 15.02 The CEP reserves the right to exclude from a European Championship any license holder whose conduct is in breach, or repeatedly in breach, of the published rules and regulations or which, in the opinion of an appointed umpire or official of the CEP is sufficiently serious to constitute an act of misconduct.
- 15.03 It is prohibited to smoke (including electronic smoking devices), to consume alcohol, or use mobile/smart phones in the area of play.
- 15.04 Doping controls and/or alcohol breath tests may be carried out during the European Championship.

## III. CHAMPIONSHIP

### 16. Draw

- 16.01 The draw will take place in the presence of an umpire at such time and place as deemed convenient by the Directors.
- 16.02 The top 4 federations, from the previous year's championship, will be seeded from 1- 4. The remaining federations will be randomly drawn for positions 5 and onwards.
- 16.03 The Directors reserve the right to change the number of seeded teams to suit the number of participants.

## 17. Rules and structure

- 17.01 The rules for play shall be the "Official Rules for the Sport of Pétanque" as established by the FIPJP and any variations set out by the Directors in these and any other specific rules.
- 17.02 Each championship will comprise of two stages, the Swiss System with time limited games and the Direct Elimination.
- 17.03 The Directors reserve the right to alter the format of any championship to suit the number of teams.

## 18. Swiss system

- 18.01 The Swiss system will consist of 5 or 6 rounds, depending on the number of teams, which will be played in order to rank the teams according to their number of wins.
- 18.02 In the event that teams have the same number of wins, they will be ranked according to the Buchholz system and then, if they are still tied, according to the difference between the number of points won and the number of points lost (e.g. won 13, lost 9 = Points Difference +4).
- 18.03 The time limit for each game is:
- Singles: 45 minutes
  - Doubles: 60 minutes
  - Triples: 75 minutes
- 18.04 In each format, the teams will be informed that the time limit has expired.
- 18.05 At the end of the time limit, the current end will be completed and if no team has reached 13 points, two more ends will be played.
- 18.06 If the score is tied, after the two additional ends, the teams play an extra end.
- 18.07 During this extra end, the jack cannot become dead (out of play). If the jack goes out of the defined playing area it is returned to its original position.

## 19. Elimination

- 19.01 All games will be played in a single elimination format to 13 points and with no time limit, to determine the overall winners.
- 19.02 Based on the results of the Qualification Swiss system, teams will be seeded with the top 16 progressing to the Championship. The remaining teams will proceed to the Nations Cup where, if necessary, a preliminary elimination round may be held to reduce the number of teams to 16.
- 19.03 The winners of the Championship shall be announced as the "European Champions" for that year.
- 19.04 The winners of the Nations Cup shall be announced as the winners of the Nations Cup for that year.

## 20. Awards

- 20.01 Players participating in the semi-finals and finals of the European Championship must attend the award ceremony in accordance with the instructions given by the CEP delegation, including, but not limited to, wearing the correct style of clothing (e.g. team uniform).
- 20.02 Medals are presented to the top 4 teams in both the Championship and Nations Cup as follows:
- Winners, a gold medal for each player and the coach

- Runners-up, a silver medal for each player and the coach.
- Losing Semi-Finalists, a bronze medal for each player and the coach.

22.03 At the discretion of the host organisation, cups or similar trophies may also be awarded to the top 4 teams of the Championship and Nations Cup.

#### IV. CLOSING PROVISIONS

##### 21. Implementing provisions

21.01 The CEP Championship delegation are entrusted with the operational management of the championship and are therefore authorised to take the decisions and adopt the detailed provisions and guidelines necessary for implementing these rules.

##### 22. Jury

22.01 The jury will consist of the official representative appointed by the CEP, the umpire, a member of the host federation (other than the President) and a member of the Organising Committee, one of whom will be designated as Jury President, will decide on matters not covered by these rules or by the authority of the Control Table.

22.02 In the case of a split vote, the president of the jury has the casting vote.

22.03 The decisions of the Jury are without appeal.

##### 23. Unforeseen circumstances

23.01 All matters not provided for in these rules, such as cases of force majeure, will be decided by the control table after consultation with the umpire and, if deemed necessary, the jury. These decisions are final.

##### 24. Non-compliance

24.01 Any breach of these rules may be dealt with by the CEP in accordance with these rules and the CEP Statutes.

##### 25. Annexes

25.01 All annexes form an integral part of these rules.

##### 26. Authoritative version

26.01 If there is any discrepancy in the interpretation between the English and French versions of these rules, the English version prevails.



Notes:



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