



EAST KENT COASTAL PÉTANQUE LEAGUE

CONSTITUTION

1. TITLE

1.1 The league shall be called the **EAST KENT COASTAL PÉTANQUE LEAGUE** (herein after called the League)

2. OBJECTIVES

To promote the playing of the game of Pétanque by

2.1 Organising and running leagues for the playing of pétanque.

2.2 Organising and running competitions.

2.3 Encouraging good sportsmanship.

3. GENERAL

3.1 The League shall be non-political and non-sectarian.

4. MEMBERSHIP

4.1 League Boundary

The league catchment area shall normally be bounded by the Kent coast from Dover to Whitstable and then by the A290 to Canterbury and then by the A2 to Dover.

4.2 Entry

Entry to the League is at the discretion of the committee, and must be made on the official entry form and with the appropriate entry fee and be submitted to the Scores Secretary by 28th February of each year. Prior to acceptance, new entrants shall have their facilities inspected by a member of the committee to ensure that they have the required number of pistes available and that their terrain meets the required standards.

4.3 Fees

Entry fee shall be proposed by the committee at the Annual General Meeting and be applicable to the following season.

4.4 Termination

Membership shall be terminated by resignation from the League by a club, failure to pay the required entry fee, or behaviour or action likely to cause the League harm or to bring it into disrepute.

4.5 There shall be no restriction on the number of teams playing for a club, but all players must be registered members of that club.

5. MANAGEMENT

5.1.1 Committee

The League AGM shall elect officers to serve on the committee; Chairman, Treasurer, Secretary, Scores Secretary and other members to a maximum total of seven committee members. There is no restriction on their eligibility for re-election. All club secretaries shall be informed at least 28 days in advance of the AGM of any officer unwilling to remain in office. All nominations must be received by the League secretary at least 14 days in advance of the AGM.

5.1.2 Other Delegate

The committee may invite others from within the league and elsewhere who may possess specialist knowledge or expertise to attend and advise the committee as necessary.

5.1.3 Honorary President

The League may decide to honour a member who has made an outstanding contribution to the league with the title of Honorary President which must be ratified by a vote at the AGM. The Honorary President will be invited to attend committee meetings but will not be allowed to vote. Once elected the Honorary President shall retain the position for as long as he or she wishes without the need to be re-elected each year.

5.2 Meetings

The committee shall meet as often as necessary to conduct the business of the League, with a minimum quorum of four members.

5.3 Vacancies

A vacancy caused by a member being unable to continue shall be filled by the remaining officers and a new committee member will be elected at the next Annual General Meeting.

6. ADMINISTRATION

6.1 Finance

The financial year shall end on 31st October. The treasurer shall submit the accounts of the League to the auditor, who shall be chosen by the committee, for certification before presenting them to the AGM.

6.2 Minutes

The secretary shall keep minutes of all committee meetings and shall present them for adoption by the committee and signature by the chairman at the next meeting.

6.3 Annual General Meeting

Except in exceptional circumstances the AGM shall be held not later than the 30th November each year. A notice containing the Agenda, motions and nomination forms shall be circulated to the member clubs not less than 28 days in advance of the event. A quorum shall comprise one third of the paid-up clubs and four members of the committee.

6.4 Reports

Each committee member shall present a report to the AGM and the Treasurer will provide each team with a printed Balance Sheet.

6.5 Voting

Each paid-up team shall have one vote at the AGM. Each voting member must be notified to the Secretary before the commencement of the meeting. Other members may speak at the meeting but not vote. Voting will be on either a show of hands or a secret ballot as decided by the chairman. The Chairman shall have the casting vote in the event of a tied vote.

6.6 Insurance

6.6.1 General

The league will provide insurance cover for the league, the committee, all clubs, teams and registered players. Team captains will provide the names of all players on the league entry form. Players will be covered as soon as the entry fees have been paid before the start of the season.

6.6.2 Adding Players

Additional players may be added after the start of the season provided that the league has been notified by the team captain via the NEW PLAYER form provided on the league website. The team captain will be responsible for sending the fee to the League Treasurer. Insurance cover will commence for new players as soon as the notification via the website has been processed.

6.6.3 Other Provisions

Other provisions relating to insurance are as stated in the INSURANCE section of the league website and on the insurance documents and are subject to amendment without the need to be referred to the AGM but only where necessary to provide clarification or to comply with any new provisions made by the insurers.

6.6.4 Register of Players

The league will maintain a register of players as required by the League's insurers. Names of players will be placed on the register as supplied by team captains on the annual entry form and additional players as advised via the NEW PLAYER form on the league website. Team members will be covered by insurance as set out in

clause 6.6.1 Unregistered (uninsured) players may not play in EKCPL league matches, cup and plate matches, or league competitions.

6.6.5 Penalties

A team found to have included an unregistered player shall have the following sanctions imposed.

League Matches - loss of the relevant match 0-5 (0-65)

Cup and Plate Matches - loss of the match and disqualification from the remainder of the event.

In all cases the team shall have the right of appeal as defined in Clause 7.4

7. DISCIPLINARY PROCEDURES AND DISPUTES

7.1 Disputes

All disputes between teams or clubs should be resolved wherever possible by the parties to the dispute. If there is no resolution the dispute shall be referred in writing to the committee whose decision will be final.

7.2 Complaints

Any Club, Team or Player whose conduct is detrimental to the objects of the League may be reported to the committee.

7.3 Sanctions

Following an investigation of a complaint by an officer selected by the committee there shall be the power to issue a warning to the Club, Team or Player concerned. The committee may also suspend or terminate League membership of any such Club, or of participation in the League of any such Team or Player.

7.4 Right of Appeal

Before such power is exercised on any occasion not less than fourteen days' notice in writing shall be given to the Club, Team or Player concerned and an opportunity shall be accorded to them of showing cause before the committee why such action is inappropriate.

8. LEAGUE PLAYING RULES

8.1 Official Rules

The rules of play are as published in the Official International Rules of the Game of Pétanque as adopted by the English Pétanque Association on 14th November 2008 and as amended from time to time. A copy of these rules shall be available on the League website.

8.2 Playing Nights

Matches shall be played on a Tuesday night, commencing at 1930.

Teams unable to play their matches on a Tuesday night must nominate Thursday as their home night on their entry form, subject to agreement with the committee.

8.3 Fixtures

The fixture list will ensure that all teams in each division play each other both at home and away during the season. Teams that are new entrants to the League shall start in the lowest Division. League positions shall be decided based on matches won, and if equal followed by games won and if still equal followed points difference.

8.4 Promotion

The winners and runners-up of Divisions 2 and 3 shall be promoted to Divisions 1 and 2. The teams which finish last and second-last in Divisions 1 and 2 shall be relegated to Divisions 2 and 3. These provisions are at the discretion of the Scores Secretary.

8.4 Match Format

A match shall consist of 3 games of doubles and 2 of triples. In league matches the home team shall decide whether doubles or triples is to be played first. In Cup and Plate matches triples must be played first.

8.5 Scoring

Score cards for use during matches will be available for download from the League website and shall be signed by both captains and retained by the home team captain after the match. Scores must be reported by the home team within 7 days of the match being played using the online facility on the League website. A team that fails to submit scores as defined above shall lose the games and points that were scored in the match. The opposing team will retain their games and points.

8.6 Postponements

8.6.1

Captains are expected to take a common-sense approach to ensuring that their team turns out each week and to organise teams far enough in advance in order that problems do not occur. Where there are difficulties in raising a full squad of 6 players, it is possible for a team to field fewer than 6 players. The reduced team will play fewer boules but still have a chance of gaining games and points, rather than having all games and zero points awarded against them. Remember that a squad of only four has an even chance of winning three games and the match. The normal rule applies of two boules per player for triples and three boules per player for doubles.

8.6.2

All matches, without exception, must be played on the date given in the League Fixtures List unless exceptional circumstances, such as extreme weather conditions or loss of floodlights, dictate that a match cannot possibly be played on the scheduled night. In these circumstances both Captains must agree to rearrange and play the fixture within 3 weeks of the original date. If agreement cannot be reached between the two captains within that time, then the match will be voided. In the case of an abandonment due to unforeseen circumstances

Captains may agree to -replay the fixture in full - re-commence with the scores at the point of abandonment - recommence at the start of any games in process if other games have already been completed. If a team is unavailable for any fixture the captain must inform the opposing captain a minimum of 24 hours before the match is due to start.

8.6.3

For the reasons given in 8.6.1 above unavailability of players is not a sufficient reason for a match to be postponed. As match dates can only be changed in exceptional circumstances the defaulting team will be deemed to have conceded the match and a penalty of loss of match will be applied immediately.

- On the first occasion that a team defaults a score of 0 games and 0 points will be recorded to them.
- On any subsequent occasion that a team defaults in the same season a score of 5 games and 65 points will be recorded against that team.
- In all cases the opposing team will have a score of 3 games and 20 points recorded in their favour.

These provisions apply only to League matches, no postponements will be allowed in Hatton Cup or Plate Matches.

8.7 Start of Matches

Any incomplete team may play/start without waiting for other members, but each player can only use the designated number of boules appropriate for the game being played, i.e., 3 for doubles and 2 for triples. Any incomplete team may start without waiting for their partner but may not use his/her boules. If after an end has started, the missing player arrives, he/she may not take part in that end but is only allowed to participate as from the following end. If the missing player arrives more than one hour after the game has started, he/she loses all right to participate in that game. He/she may take part in the following game.

8.8 Changing Clubs

No player can play for 2 clubs in the same season without permission from the committee.

8.9 Playing Up

When more than one team is entered by a club, teams will be designated A, B, C, etc in order of seniority based on the previous year's final table. Players may play for a more senior team than theirs on no more than two occasions in a season, but no team may include more than 2 such players for 1 match. Players may not play for a more junior team. A third game will result in that player/s remaining in the higher team/division.

8.10 Hatton Cup

The League shall run a knockout competition during the season for the Hatton Cup using the same format as league matches. The winners shall progress to the next

round, the semi-finals and finals shall be played on neutral ground. First round and preliminary round losers (when applicable) will compete in a Plate competition, the semi-final and final to be played on neutral ground. At matches played on neutral ground the team captains will independently nominate in writing their players for each piste in the triples games and the players for both teams will then be announced. The same procedure will be used for the doubles games.

8.11 League Competitions

The League shall run Singles, Doubles and Triples competitions during the season.

Clause 8.12 - Withdrawal of a team

When a team withdraws from the league after the season has commenced all matches, whether played or not by that team, shall be null and void. No games or points shall be awarded to that team or to their opposition in respect of matches which have already been played.

This rule shall also apply to Hatton Cup matches where there is a group stage of the competition; during the knock-out stage the match shall be awarded to the opposing team.

OCTOBER 2010

(Amended November 2011)

(Amended November 2013)

(Amended November 2014)

(Amended November 2015)

(Amended November 2017)

(Amended January 2022)