



BASIC GAME & BEHAVIOUR RULES

Pétanque Union Bois le Duc has a social and open character. The association is there for society, not specifically for recreational or competitive players. Sociability is paramount, but just like any other sports association, the game/sport is the common denominator. Whether you want to throw a boule in an accessible way or are competitive: you are very welcome with us! 😊

Because jeu de boules (officially called 'pétanque') is often played very freely, it is good to know the basic rules of the game and behaviour to ensure that the game/sport is played and experienced in the same way. Mind you, rules have no effect if you don't treat each other pleasantly, but above all respectfully. After all, we are all human and we each have our own instructions for use. You will notice that by applying these rules you will like the game even more. You create peace and overview for yourself and others. In that respect it is just like in traffic: if everyone follows the rules, you are relaxed in/on your vehicle and you drive a lot better! Oh yes, for 'road safety', playing with open footwear such as sandals is not allowed. 😊

The throwing circle

- We play from a round throwing circle, not from a horseshoe or a 'helicopter platform' and certainly not from the sidewalk.
- The throwing circle to be drawn has a diameter of 35 - 50 centimeters and is drawn with a finger or stick, not with a foot.
- The throwing circle is at least 1 meter from an obstacle. On our terrain this means that the throwing circle must be drawn at least 1 meter from the curb (or further into the court).
- The jack must be thrown (for seniors) between 6 and 10 meters, measured from the inner edge of the throwing circle.
- We play without intermediate lines to prevent 'bathtubs' due to wear and tear. So there are actually no sidelines because you can play in all directions. The jack should therefore be at least 50 centimeters to be ejected from all lines.
- After the throwing round: close the previous throwing circle.
- The new throwing circle must be drawn on the place where the jack ended in the previous throwing round or in line with the throwing line of the previous throwing round, in order to allow a maximum playing distance of 10 meters. Only if other matches are hindered do you go back to 'your court'.

The jack (target ball)

- The jack is thrown from a valid throwing circle.
- If a jack is thrown too short (< 6 meter) or too far (> 10 meter) by team A, then team B ('the opponent') must place it in its desired position/distance (no kicking or throwing). Team A then starts the throwing round. This also applies the other way around, of course.
- If the jack is shot away during the match, it remains valid up to 20 meters (if within the lines). This also applies if the jack, as it were, returns towards the throwing circle (minimum 3 meters).



- If the jack goes further than 20 meters or if it comes closer than 3 meters from the throwing circle, the jack is 'out' and the scoring of the relevant throwing round must be made as follows:
 - If both teams still have boules or no boules left at all, no one has any points. The next throwing round is then started by the team that scored the last point(s).
 - If one team still has boules, then all boules of this team count as a point. This team also starts the next throwing round.
- The jack is only 'out' when it has completely crossed the line.

The throw

- When playing the jack or a boule, both feet are in the throwing circle, not on/over the edge. The feet should not be lifted until the jack or boule has touched the ground.
- Only at the place where you want your boule to land ('la donnée') you may flatten the court.
- It is only allowed to make the entire track smooth before the game. During the game, the playing surface may not be modified with the exception of the aforementioned donnée. For example: removing twigs is also not allowed.
- A boule played at the wrong time ("it was not your turn") may not be taken back. Of course if both parties solve this sportively you will not hear anyone (except the arbitrator if he sees it!).
- A boule is only 'out' when it has completely crossed the line.
- Oh yes, not entirely unimportant: each player can spend 1 minute playing the jack or a boule. That does not seem like much, but in practice it is very long. So think before you shout for someone to hurry up, probably not even 20 seconds have passed. 😊

Positioning

- When it is the opponent's turn, you must not be between the throwing circle and the jack. Then stand behind the opponent or behind the jack. An official distance of 2 meter applies to both. A teammate is allowed to be in the game during the throw.
- By not standing between the throwing circle and the jack you also prevent (unintentionally) disturbing neighbouring matches (or worse, getting struck by a boule).
- When the opponent plays you stand and are 100% still. So no gesturing or talking.
- As an opponent, you only re-enter the game/court when the opponent indicates that she is on point or when the opponent wants to start measuring.

Measuring

- Don't endlessly philosophise who has the point: measuring = knowing! Leave the philosophising at the bar where you report that are here for 'jeu de boules', this due to the bar payment. 😊
- If the opponent says he has the point and you disagree, the opponent must measure first to prove it. Then don't all stand around it: one person measures and one person from the other party looks over their shoulder.
- You have the right to perform the measurement again. If you still don't agree, ask a third party to measure or, in the case of a tournament, the arbiter.
- Measurements are taken between the center of the boule and the center of the jack. Read: the shortest distance between the two (for clarification: no measurements are taken on top of the boule or jack).



Official competition boules

Within 3 months after joining the association, the association member must be in possession of official competition boules. Our association regularly has second-hand boules for sale, which are sold with a minimal profit with the aim of providing as many players as possible with sound material. Check www.puboisleduc.nl/sales.htm for the current stock.

Household rules

- It is not allowed to smoke on the accommodation of the association. The starting point here is that 'sport' and 'smoking' do not fit together. There is a general smoking ban on the grounds assigned to the association.
- The use of food and drinks on the courts is not allowed.
- Glassware and crockery are not allowed on and around the courts.

Various links

- La Fédération Internationale de Pétanque & Jeu Provençal (F.I.P.J.P.): www.fipjp.org.
- Dutch Pétanque Association (NJBB): www.njbb.nl.
- NL Pétanque - The NJBB sports platform: www.nlpétanque.nl.
- Pétanque Union Bois le Duc: www.puboisleduc.nl.
- OnTip - Tournament calendar: www.ontip.nl.
- Game rules pétanque (RPS): www.puboisleduc.nl/spelregels/rps.pdf

Tip: go to www.youtube.com and enter the search term 'masters petanque'. Also look up 'Marco Foyot Ma Method', an old but very clear instruction on how to play the game.

Nice to know: pétanque was first called 'avoir les pieds tanqués' (read: 'having both feet next to each other') which was then shortened to 'pieds tanqués' ('closed feet'). 'Jeu de boules' is a collective name for all kinds of ball games and literally means 'a game with balls'.