

MATCH RULES 2026

The THREE SHIRES PÉTANQUE LEAGUE shall abide by the rules of the game of Pétanque as approved by the Federation Internationale de Petanque et Jeu Provençal (F.I.P.J.P) December 2020 by the English Pétanque Association EPA Subject to the modifications and additions set out below.

The following rules apply to the Summer League Competition. Rules pertaining to the Winter League, League Cup Competition, Club 321 Competition and Open Doubles and Triples Competition are published on the Three Shires Website and are available by request from the Competition Secretary.

RULE 1 - LEAGUE FIXTURES:

- 1.1. The League fixture list will be drawn up on a weekly basis for the season. Matches must be played during the specified week (the week being from Monday to the following Sunday).
- 1.2. All teams will play each other on a home and away basis.
- 1.3. Matches will be played on the nominated "HOME" match day (all teams to notify the Competition Secretary of their "HOME" match days). **The nominated home days for the Three Shires League shall be Mondays, Thursdays and Fridays** and all team's home days will be published annually with the List of Divisions.

1.4 Re-arrangement or postponement of matches

Teams will be able to rearrange dates for the playing of matches at any time during the season up to the closing date which will be set by the Competition Committee each year.

If a team wishes to rearrange a match, they should first contact their opposing team captain. The new date will only become operational when agreed and accepted by the Competition Secretary. Postponement of matches will not be granted within 48 hours of the date of the fixture except in the circumstances of force majeure

If a match is postponed without recourse to Clause 1.4(except in the circumstance of force majeure) it will be declared null and void; both parties will be considered to be culpable as both will be aware of the rules.

All postponed league match fixtures must be played on the date agreed between the two parties or, failing agreement on a date, by a date set by the Competition Committee.

Postponed cup match fixtures are to be played before the final date set for the relevant round unless agreed beforehand by the Competition Secretary.

The new date (which can be at any time up to the end of the season) must be finalised before the cut off date for the League Season as detailed in Rule 1.8 and must be agreed between both teams except in the case of cup matches when the above paragraph regarding cup matches will apply. Failure to do so will render the fixture null and void and neither team will receive any points.

The procedure for all teams for the rearrangement of matches should be as follows

Phase 1 The team (Team A) which is unable to play the match on the allocated date will contact the opposing team (Team B) to advise them that they want to rearrange the match and Team A will provide alternative date or dates for the rearranged match to be played. This must be done no later than 48 hours before the scheduled start of the match.

Phase 2 Team B will then reply accepting one of the dates for the rearranged match. If the dates supplied by team A are not acceptable then Team B must offer alternative dates.

Phase 3 If an agreement for an alternative date cannot be reached between the 2 teams the matter will be referred to the Competition Committee for a decision. The committee will decide whether to set a date for the match to be played or for the match to be declared null and void. In the first case if a team does not attend on the specified date 2 league points but no games or game points will be awarded to the team that does attend. In the second case no league points games or game points will be awarded to either team.

Throughout Phase 1&2 the Competition Secretary must be informed of all communications by e-mail to northend1960@gmail.com, stevensfamily2@hotmail.co.uk or threeshiresinfo@active-results.com

Failure to do so will result in the match being awarded to the team which was able to play on the original fixture date.

If the Competition committee decide a date for the match to be played it will be set on a Monday, Thursday or Friday and both teams will be notified. Failure to play on this date will result in the team or teams having 1 point deducted from their league score. If only one team appears on the set date then this team will win by default and receive the **match points only, but no games & games points.**

- 1.7 Failure to play or re-arrange the match will result in the team who postponed forfeiting the match and the team not at default will receive **2 match points only. But no games or game points.**
- 1.8 The cut off date for the League Season shall be **midnight on 18th October.** Any matches outstanding after this date shall be considered null and void.
- 1.9 Should a team concede a match to their opponents for whatever reason, their opponents will receive **2 match points but no games or game points.**

RULE 2 - MATCH COMPOSITION:

- 2.1. Each League match will consist of FIVE games:-

TWO games of Triples, each player to throw only 2 boules.

THREE games of Doubles, each player to throw only 3 boules.

NOTE: The number of boules each player may throw still applies even if a team has to play with players short.

- 2.2. The Triples games will normally be played first unless altered on the night with the agreement of both Captains. All games are played to THIRTEEN points.

RULE 3 - BOULES:

- 3.1. All Clubs and players will play with Authorised Match Boules approved by the F.I.P.J.P. unless it is their first season when unofficial ~DOG~ Boules will be permitted provided that they are commercially available steel or steel alloy ~DOG~ Boules. The use of unofficial ~DOG~ Boules will not be permitted by any player who registered and played with a Club in a previous season or by any Club who have played in The League for more than one season.
- 3.2. Any persons playing with ~DOG~ Boules do so at their own risk. All players are strongly advised to use Authorised Match Boules.

RULE 4 - BEFORE START OF PLAY:

- 4.1. Before the match starts, the HOME team must explain any local rules regarding boundaries, trees etc and advise the AWAY team of Piste numbers. The HOME Captain will advise the AWAY Captain which piste(s) the Triples/Doubles games will be played. They must also provide the Match Report Form to record all details of the Match before the start of play.
- 4.2. The **full names** of the sets of players to represent each team in the doubles and triples games must be entered legibly on the Match Report Form. Team Captains are responsible for ensuring that all named players are registered members of their Clubs.
- 4.3. The opposing sets of players to form each game will then be drawn "out of a hat" and play can start.

RULE 5 - SCORING:

- 5.1. The HOME team shall provide scoreboards such that the score of each match being played can be seen clearly at the opposite end of the piste(s).
- 5.2. The winning team will be awarded two match points. The scores will be recorded on the Match Report Form to show:-
 - a. The number of games won by each team.
 - b. The points scored by each team.
- 5.3. The **winning** team must enter the result on the Three Shires Website or send the match result to the Competition Secretary **within 3 days** of the fixture date by email / text / phone photograph. If the **website does not show the result** or the Competition Secretary **has not received the result within 7 days of the match date**, the winning team shall forfeit **one Match Point**. The match result form must be retained by the winning team in case the Competition Secretary wishes to see it in case of dispute.
- 5.4. The League positions will be determined by the Match points scored by each team. In the event of a tie, the number of games won by each team will determine the position. If a tie still exists the position will then be determined by the points difference of each team.

RULE 6 - NUMBER OF PLAYERS:

- 6.1. At any one fixture, each team shall have a maximum of TWELVE players. A player may not play more than ONE game of doubles and ONE game of triples.
- 6.2. Substitutes will not be allowed during a match, as per Article 1 & Article 33 of the Official Rules of Petanque. If a player has become ill, and the said team have a player to cover for this eventuality, he/she may be substituted with the agreement of both Captains. Triples will comprise of three players only and no subs and Doubles two players only.

RULE 7 - TIME OF MATCHES:

- 7.1. Both teams shall be at the match venue by 19.30 hrs. All players available shall start playing by 19.45 hrs, following Rules 2 and 6.
- 7.2. If, by mutual agreement between both teams, matches can be played at an earlier time on the fixture date, at a time agreed by both teams. Play shall then start within 15 minutes of this agreed time as above.
- 7.3. Players arriving late may join the game at the completion of the end in play.

RULE 8 - PENALTIES FOR LATE START OF PLAY:

- 8.1. If the start of a game is delayed because a team has no players available, Rule 8.2 will apply

8.2. If the team has no players available after 20:15, according to Rules 2 and 6 they will be deemed to have lost the match and the Match Result Form will be so marked. The team that attended the event will be awarded 2 league points but no games or game points.

RULE 9 - FORCE MAJEURE:

- 9.1. In the event that the team Captains agree that "Force Majeure" prevents the completion of a match, it shall be reconvened within **three weeks**.
- 9.2. If the match is re-convened at a later time on the same day, the scores of all games completed or uncompleted will stand and the uncompleted games continue from the score at the time that they were stopped.
- 9.3. If the match is reconvened within **three** weeks the scores for the completed games will stand but uncompleted games will be restarted. The players involved in the original match shall, wherever possible, be used in the reconvened match. The home team Captain is to contact the Competition Secretary regarding the status of the fixture.

RULE 10 - UMPIRING:

- 10.1. Arbitration in any one game may be delegated to any player not involved in that game.
- 10.2. The HOME team is to ensure that suitable measuring equipment is available if arbitration is requested.

League Name Changed to Three Shires Petanque League – January 2003

Rules 1.4 to 9.3 Amended & Ratified at the Captains Meeting on 21st March 2016.

Rules 1.4 Amended & Ratified at the Captains Meeting on 26th March 2017.

Rules 1.4 and 8.2 Amended & Ratified at the Competition Committee Meeting on 4th February 2019.

Rule 1.4 Amended & Ratified at Extraordinary General Meeting and confirmed at the Captains' Meeting on 7th March 2022

Rule 1.4 Amended & Ratified and confirmed at the Captains' Meeting on 2nd March 2026

Richard Stevens Secretary, Three Shires Petanque League.