

THE TALK
OF THE
TERRAIN



IN THE CIRCLE



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Addendum

Due to an oversight by the editorial staff at In the Circle an important article about the new pétanque rules by JPA chairman Derek Hart was omitted. Please find it here

Derek Hart runs the rule over the new rules



The updated rules of



PÉTANQUE

The Executive Committee of the FIPJP approved a new edition of the official rules for the Sport of Pétanque in December 2020. These are applicable to all territories of the nation federations who are members of the FIPJP. Jersey is a member.

The rules remain substantially the same as those of 2017 with some adjustments and changes.

The most obvious change is to the wording of Article 6. The last paragraph now makes it clear that players are required to mark the position of the 'jack' initially after it has been thrown or placed and then each time it is moved. This is a sensible requirement as no claims are allowed if the 'jack' has not been marked.

There is however a problem; that of marking a 'jack' on terrains laid with deep or large stone gravel where marking the 'jack' would lead to its moving. The Umpire would advise players not to mark its position (but remember you cannot replace it unless it is marked).

One other observation on marking the position of the 'jack'. It is the team that throws or places the 'jack' that has the responsibility for marking and while we are discussing marking - do not forget to mark the position of the circle when it is put down.

The 8th paragraph now allows a circle to be 1.5 metres from another circle or 'jack' as opposed to 2 metres.

Also in Article 6 there is now the prospect of a penalty being imposed by the Umpire if the 'jack' is placed incorrectly, in an invalid position, after an invalid throw by the opposition.

Article 7 now states that a thrown or placed 'jack' must be a minimum of 50 cm from any obstacle and from the end line (this was 1 metre). Please note there is no minimum distance from the 'side' line that separates the lanes or the dead boule lines at the side of the lane.

Article 16. It is no longer forbidden to moisten boules or 'jacks'.

Article 18. No one, as a test, may throw their boules during a game and this now includes " away from the lane where they are playing" **Note** - this applies during a game. You can still practice between games but do not distract players still playing their game.

The majority of games played in Jersey are played without the benefit of an umpire. The implications of this are that players need to be aware of the rules and abide by them. The opposition should not and cannot impose sanctions or penalties, that is the umpire's job. Disputes should be settled amicably and the rules should not be used as a form of gamesmanship. If you think you know the rules and want to impose them on others please come forward and take the Umpires course.

If the rules are not clear then the JPA's umpires will give clarification.

As Mike Pegg says the umpires are by necessity the policeman but they are always a teacher!