

BOULES IN GWENT

RULES OF ENGAGEMENT & CODE OF CONDUCT 2016

The attached is a summary of the key rules associated with the administration of the Boules in Gwent (BIG) Petanque league. They shall be reviewed annually and amended/agreed at each AGM.

The Secretary shall keep Clubs informed of future developments/proposals which may materially affect the league structure and rules of engagement.

Rule 1 – Scheduled League Matches

The BIG league fixtures will run from April to August/September each year. Once divisions are agreed at the AGM, a full set of league fixtures will be published and circulated to all participating clubs.

All league matches are scheduled weekly on Monday evenings, except for Bank Holidays when matches will be scheduled for Tuesday evenings.

Matches shall not be played in advance, in order to preserve the integrity of the competition.

League matches shall start at 7pm (subject to Rule 2).

Rule 2 – Variations to Scheduled 7pm start/Late Arrivals

Teams shall have the flexibility, without penalty, to vary the 7pm start time in the event of forecast adverse weather conditions/poor light, late arrivals etc.

Where a team is aware of its late arrival leading to the delay of a match, they should make best endeavours to inform their opponents in advance.

If a team starts a game without a full complement of players, and a missing player arrives after the end has started, the player will only be accepted into the game only from the following end.

Rule 3 – Incomplete/Unplayed Matches

This rule applies to matches which have started but are not completed – eg due to deteriorating weather conditions, bad light, late arrival etc.

Each fixture is worth 4 points - to reflect 4 games each worth 1 point. If any of the games are not started, or are curtailed, the result shall be determined by the team leading at the time of termination.

Rule 4 – Postponed/Rearranged Matches

Teams have the flexibility, without penalty, to request a postponement (via the Secretary). Such requests shall be limited to circumstances where teams are unable to fulfil the fixture (taking into account overall club resources). Postponements shall not be granted due merely to the absence of players with higher abilities.

A requested postponement, based on the criteria above, must not be unreasonably refused by its opponent, and should be played by the end of the week (i.e. Sunday) in which the game is scheduled (or the following week in exceptional circumstances).

Where a postponement is due to 'force majeure' (e.g. flooding), without attribution to either team, both parties are allowed the option of switching the home venue on the same evening, or to rearrange the match in the same week (or the following week in exceptional circumstances).

Rule 5 – Default

The overall aim, in order to preserve the integrity of the competition, is to eliminate matches won by default. All fixtures shall be played, with no points awarded for default.

Unless otherwise rearranged, teams may field a team of less than 4.

Defaulting teams shall be subject to investigation by the Committee who shall decide on whether sanctions are appropriate.

Rule 6 – Team Composition/Substitutions (League)

For league competitions, players are allowed to play for more than one team within the same club (but not for a different club unless transferred). This rule is to allow some flexibility to cover for player absences within teams in the same club.

To encourage as wide a representation of players as possible, teams are allowed to field additional/substitute players in the third and fourth games of a fixture – up to 8 players in total. Teams must declare the use of substitutes prior to the start of a match. Where practical, matches against the same pairs should be avoided and away players should not play on the same piste in both matches.

Rule 7 – Cup Competition

For cup competitions, players are deemed to be cup-tied once they have played for a competing team (and therefore ineligible to play for other teams).

Excluding rounds with fixed dates, each round shall designate a target completion date. Home teams are responsible for contacting their opponents and both teams are encouraged to play matches promptly. In exceptional circumstances, a short extension to the deadline (via the Secretary) may be requested.

Where games are drawn 2-2, the result shall be determined by points countback. If teams are still level, the winning team shall be the away team.

Rule 8 – Publication of League Tables

Where possible, the aim is to publish league tables weekly, subject to the prompt lodging of results with the Secretary.

5. CODE OF CONDUCT

5.1 MEMBERS

- 5.1.1 Each player is personally responsible for their own conduct when participating in organised events under the control of the BIG League.
- 5.1.2 All players have a responsibility to exercise a duty of care, and high standards of discipline and sporting behaviour, towards the safety and well-being of competitors and visitors to minimise risks of personal injury.