



Code of Conduct

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CODE OF CONDUCT

1. INTRODUCTION

The Pétanque Devon Region and its affiliated clubs are committed to creating a welcoming, inclusive, respectful and enjoyable environment for everyone involved in the sport of pétanque.

This Code of Conduct sets out the standards of behaviour expected from all members, players, officials, volunteers, coaches, spectators and visitors participating in regional and club activities.

Everyone involved in the sport has a responsibility to uphold the values of fairness, sportsmanship, respect and integrity.

2. SCOPE

This Code applies to:

- all members of affiliated clubs;
- players participating in regional or club competitions;
- committee members and volunteers;
- coaches and umpires;
- spectators and supporters attending events;
- anyone representing the Pétanque Devon Region or affiliated clubs.

The Code applies during:

- competitions and leagues;
- training sessions;
- meetings and social events;
- travel connected to events;
- online activity and social media connected to the sport.

3. GENERAL PRINCIPLES

All participants are expected to:

- treat others with courtesy, dignity and respect;
- behave honestly and fairly;
- support an inclusive and welcoming environment;
- respect differences in age, ability, gender, background, identity and experience;
- promote the good reputation of pétanque and the region;
- comply with club, regional and governing body rules and policies.

4. EXPECTED STANDARDS OF BEHAVIOUR

Members and participants should:

- show good sportsmanship both in victory and defeat;
- respect opponents, team-mates, officials and volunteers;
- accept umpire and organiser decisions respectfully;
- communicate politely and constructively;
- arrive on time and prepared for competitions or duties;
- help maintain a safe and friendly atmosphere;

- support new players and encourage participation;
- respect venues, terrain, equipment and facilities.

Healthy discussion and differing opinions are part of sport, but disagreement must always remain respectful.

5. BEHAVIOUR THAT WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED

The following behaviour is unacceptable:

- abusive, threatening or aggressive conduct;
- bullying, intimidation or harassment;
- discriminatory or offensive language or behaviour;
- deliberate cheating or serious unsporting conduct;
- excessive arguing with officials or organisers;
- damaging property or facilities;
- conduct that brings the sport, club or region into disrepute;
- misuse of social media, including personal attacks or inflammatory comments;
- behaviour that makes others feel unwelcome, unsafe or uncomfortable.

This includes behaviour occurring both in person and online.

6. SOCIAL MEDIA AND ONLINE CONDUCT

Members are encouraged to use social media positively to support and promote the sport.

When engaging online, members should:

- communicate respectfully;
- avoid personal criticism or public disputes;
- avoid posting misleading or inflammatory comments;
- respect confidentiality where appropriate;
- remember that online conduct may affect the reputation of the sport and the region.

The same standards of behaviour expected in person also apply online.

7. EQUALITY, INCLUSION AND RESPECT

The Pétanque Devon Region and affiliated clubs are committed to ensuring that everyone can participate in the sport free from discrimination, harassment or exclusion.

All participants should:

- respect individual differences;
- avoid assumptions or stereotypes;
- contribute to a friendly and inclusive atmosphere;
- support the well-being and confidence of others.

Nobody should be made to feel uncomfortable because of their appearance, personality, background, beliefs or personal choices.

8. SAFEGUARDING

All participants share responsibility for helping to create a safe environment, particularly for children, young people and adults at risk.

Any safeguarding concerns should be reported promptly to the relevant Club Safeguarding Officer, Regional Safeguarding Officer or to the appropriate authorities where necessary.

Safeguarding concerns will always take priority over sporting matters.

9. ALCOHOL, SMOKING AND VAPING

Members are expected to behave responsibly at all times.

Smoking and vaping should only take place in permitted areas and with consideration for others, particularly during competitions and around spectators, juniors and indoor facilities.

Alcohol consumption must never negatively affect behaviour, safety or the enjoyment of others.

10. RESPONSIBILITY OF CLUBS AND OFFICIALS

Affiliated clubs, organisers, committee members and officials are expected to:

- lead by example;
- apply rules fairly and consistently;
- treat members respectfully;
- address concerns promptly and appropriately;
- support a safe and inclusive culture;
- avoid conflicts of interest where possible.

11. BREACHES OF THE CODE

Where behaviour falls below the standards expected, the matter may be addressed through:

- informal advice or guidance;
- a verbal or written warning;
- club or regional disciplinary procedures;
- referral to safeguarding or governing body procedures where appropriate.

Serious or repeated breaches may result in suspension or exclusion from activities.

12. COMMITMENT TO THE SPORT

Pétanque is a sport built upon friendship, mutual respect and enjoyment.

All members are encouraged to:

- play competitively but fairly;
- support fellow players and volunteers;
- contribute positively to the regional pétanque community;
- help ensure that pétanque in Devon remains welcoming and enjoyable for everyone.

13. ACCEPTANCE

Participation in Pétanque Devon Region activities and affiliated clubs is considered acceptance of this Code of Conduct.

All members and participants are expected to uphold both the spirit and the wording of this Code at all times.

14. REVIEW

This Policy will be reviewed at least every two years or sooner where necessary.



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