



WELLINGTON PÉTANQUE CLUB

RISK ASSESSMENT

INTRODUCTION

Wellington Pétanque Club (WPC / the Club) is required by Pétanque England (PE) to perform a Risk Assessment for every event at National, Regional and Club Level, including club closed events and coaching sessions, as a condition of PE Insurance.

The following assessment sets out the risks and mitigations that are applicable to any Pétanque event hosted by WPC. This is published on the club's website and is available for inspection by PE or their insurers.

In the event of an incident requiring a claim to be lodged, then this document will be produced in evidence that WPC took appropriate precautions and cannot be considered as negligent.

RISKS CONSIDERED

- 1 WPC plays on a purpose-built terrain adjacent to the Wellington Basins ponds and behind the Wellington Sports Centre. The terrain was provided by and is owned by the Local Authority. WPC has a licence from the Local Authority to play on designated club days and is responsible for maintenance of the terrain. The terrain is available for public use at other times. The public play on the terrain at their own risk.
- 2 The terrain is bounded by a wooden fence. The entry to the terrain leads to a paved area where there is some seating. The other three sides are grassed. All four sides of the terrain are bounded by a wooden edge which can become slippery when wet and is a potential trip hazard. Members and visitors are reminded of this at the start of a session.
- 3 The grassed areas are mown regularly and the mower is used in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions.
- 4 The terrain comprises a light covering of gravel on top of a solid surface. The playing surface is regularly raked or smoothed over by dragging a carpet.
- 5 During club sessions the pistes are marked by blue strings which may be slightly raised above ground level. Players are reminded to be aware of the strings when playing. The strings are removed at the end of play.

- 6 When playing there is a risk of a boule striking a player or a spectator. We mitigate this risk by ensuring that all players are aware of the principles of good play and encourage players to remain at the throwing end unless checking the position of thrown boules
- 7 Racks are provided so that boules can be left away from the playing area until needed. If the racks are not used boules should be left at the edge of the terrain, away from play, until needed.
- 8 If a player is shooting they should advise other players that so that they can move away from the line of the shot.
- 9 New or potential members are invited to play initially at the Thursday session when fewer members are playing. They are introduced to the game and made aware of the points in this risk assessment.
- 10 WPC has between 40 – 50 members and no junior members at present. There is a safeguarding policy on the club's website and any junior members would have to be accompanied by a parent or responsible adult when playing.
- 11 WPC hosts regional, invitational and club competitions and occasional events for local organisations to try the game. Participants are informed of potential hazards as outlined above and any special rules of the day.
- 12 Some seating is available on the paved area and spectators are discouraged from walking on the terrain.
- 13 Members are advised that open-toed footwear must not be worn on the terrain.
- 14 WPC does not have a clubhouse. Membership of WPC includes social membership of Wellington Bowling Club (WBC). By prior arrangement WPC is able to use their facilities, as members of the Bowling Club, for occasional meetings, social events and catering for competitions.

WPC uses WBC's facilities in accordance with WBC's Health and Safety guidelines as published on their website.

- 15 WPC stores some equipment in a shed on WBC's grounds. A pull trolley is available to transport items to the terrain.
- 16 Occasionally hot water is available on the terrain to make tea/coffee. This is in sealed units.
- 17 There is no electricity within the confines of the terrain.
- 19 First Aid facilities are available at the adjacent Sports Centre.

- 20 Access for emergency services – the nearest tarmac access is the sports centre car park, approximately 100m. Grass access is adjacent.

RISK MANAGEMENT

WPC considers that this Risk Assessment covers aspects specific to playing pétanque for any event held at or hosted by the club. It is not considered that any special arrangements are needed for a particular event provided that the mitigations stated are implemented,

WPC has a capacity of five concurrent triples matches and does not feel it necessary to notify local emergency services of such events with a maximum of thirty players plus officials and limited spectator facilities.

This Risk Assessment will be reviewed by the Committee on an annual basis and is published on the club's website

Agreed and approved by the Committee of Wellington Pétanque Club

9 April 2025