

BRIEF RULES of BOULES or PETANQUE

1. Size of teams, number of boules

You can play the game with two teams of one, two or three players on each side. With teams of one or two, each player has three boules; with teams of three, each has two boules.

2. Sizes of boules and cochonnet

Boules should have a diameter between 7 and 8 cm; ideally be made of steel and weighing between 650 g and 800 g. They should be marked so each player can tell which boules belong to them. They will generally have a differing number of etched circles around the boule. The “cochonnet” should be made of wood, about 3 cm in diameter.

3. Choosing the throwing place

Toss a coin to choose which team plays first. Any player in this team winning the toss chooses where to draw a circle on the ground in which every player will stand to throw their boules. The circle should be about 0.5 m in diameter and at least 1 m from any obstacle (wall, tree, edge of playing area, etc).

4. Throwing the cochonnet

He/she then throws the cochonnet between 4 m and 8 m, or 6 to 10 paces from the circle in any direction. It also must not be closer than 1 m to any obstacle.

5. The first boule

Any player from the first team then throws the first boule, trying to get it as close as possible to the cochonnet. Both feet must stay together on the ground and within the circle while throwing and until the boule has landed.

6. The other team

A player from the other team then steps into the circle and tries to place a boule closer to the cochonnet than their opponent, or to knock the opponent's boule away. **You must throw within one minute of your turn starting.** The boule nearest to the cochonnet is said to be “holding the point”.

7. Who plays when

The players in the team that is not “holding” continue throwing until they place a boule closest to the cochonnet, and so on. Players on the same team do not have to take alternate throws, but a player must always play their own boules.

8. When one team has no more boules

When a team has no more boules to be played, the players of the other team throw theirs and try to place them as close as possible to the cochonnet.

9. Counting the points

When both teams have no more boules, you stop and count up the points. The winning team scores one point for each boule nearer the cochonnet than the opponent's closest. Only one team can score points in each round.

10. Starting the next round

A player from the team that has won throws the cochonnet from a new circle drawn round the cochonnet's last position. The winners are the first team to reach 13 points (or whatever total you decide).

NB There will be a number of sets of boules available to borrow from the CPFA.