

## **BRIEF RULES OF PETANQUE/BOULES**

### **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 3 boules; with teams of 3, each has 2 boules.

### **2. Size of boules and cochonnet (sometimes called jack or little one)**

Boules should have a diameter between 7 and 8 cm; ideally made of steel and weighing between 650g and 800g. They should be marked so each player can tell which boules belong to them. The jack 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 chooses where to draw a circle on the ground in which every player will stand to throw their boules. The circle should be about 0.5m (18") in diameter and at least 1m (1yd) from any obstacle (wall, tree, edge of playing area, etc).

### **4. Throwing the cochonnet (jack/little one)**

He/she then throws the "jack" between 6m (6yd) and 10m, or 6 to 10 paces from the circle in any direction. It also must not be closer than 1m from 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 "jack/cochonnet". Both feet must stay 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/jack than their opponent, or to knock the opponent's boule away. You must throw within 1 minute of your turn starting. The boule nearest to the jack/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 jack/cochonnet than the opponents 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 jack/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).

### **11. It is traditional to shake hands all round after a match**