

To: FPUSA Board of Directors

Re: Sport Committee Approval of 2017 Official Rules of the Sport of Pétanque

In December, 2016, the FIPJP made a number of changes to the “official rules.” The Sport Committee reviewed the new rules and unanimously approved them for adoption by the FPUSA. We propose to the board that the FPUSA adopt the new rules as written. After our own deliberations and consultation with Mike Pegg, an International Umpire, we have decided that adopting the international rules as written and translated from the French by Mr. Pegg is in the best interest of our members.

For those of you who might not know, Mr. Pegg is the President of Confédération Européenne de Pétanque and an international umpire, whom, to the best of our knowledge is the only native English speaking umpire at that level. His lively Facebook group “Ask the Umpire” is regularly sought by umpires (players too) from around the world for clarification of the rules and is a source of great insight and amusement.

Currently, the FPUSA provides a document entitled “The International Rules of the Game of Petanque... as approved by the FIPJP at Izmir, Turkey, October 2010 and “adapted” for use by the Federation of Petanque USA” on the official FPUSA website.

Adopting the international rules “as written” means doing away with the italicized modifications and addendums added to the FPUSA version over the years. Doing so also means our players will learn to play per the international rules, nothing more, nothing less. This does not mean that the italicized modifications and addendums are not enforceable articles or clauses of other documents governing pétanque in the United States.

For example the “Code of Behavior of the FPUSA,” resides in the FPUSA Bylaws, and as such applies to all FPUSA members. This “Code of Behavior of the FPUSA” is not an enumerated “rule of the game” specifically, but its general understanding is covered in Article 39. A similar point can be made that the FPUSA eligibility rules, that are not covered in the “Official Rules for the Sport of Pétanque”, are addressed in the soon to be updated 1 Day Tournament Guidelines and are applicable to all members during FPUSA play.

Mr. Pegg’s advice to the FPUSA is to publish the rules as adopted in December 2016 by the FIPJP and separately publish clarification for the more ambiguous and broadly interpreted aspects of the rules or for issues unique to the FPUSA. We agree with Mike and are already in the process of updating the “2015 Interpretation’s” currently in use by the federation. We feel the 2015 Interpretations should be a living document deserving the respect it is due by utilizing the Q&A format as change occurs to keep players and umpires informed.

Thank you for your consideration,

Gilles Canesse
National Sport Director
FPUSA