



Constitution

OF THE FEDERATION OF
PÉTANQUE U.S.A., INC.

ARTICLE I - Name

The name of this organization is Federation of Petanque U.S.A., Inc. (hereinafter referred to as “FPUSA”). This name is a provision of the Articles of Incorporation and not subject to change by Constitutional amendment.

ARTICLE II - Purpose

The purpose of this nonprofit sports organization is to build a national body of FPUSA-affiliated clubs and individuals dedicated to spreading, practicing and enjoying Petanque, a worldwide outdoor bowling game of modern French derivation via ancient Greece and Rome. A primary objective of the Federation’s endeavors is to foster local, regional and national, as well as United States participation in International tournaments and championships of this widespread amateur sport.

ARTICLE III - Membership

1. There are three categories of FPUSA membership: individual, club and commercial.
 - a. Individual Members must be approved by an FPUSA-affiliated club where the individual resides unless specifically excepted in accordance with the bylaws; and, further, individual members must otherwise be in good standing as set forth in the Bylaws and this Constitution.
 - b. FPUSA-affiliated Club Members shall consist of organized groups of individuals who share an interest in the sport of Petanque. Such memberships are subject to terms set forth in the Bylaws.
 - c. Commercial Members may include hotels, resorts and other commercial establishments where Petanque facilities are available for use of members, customers and guests, which membership applications are subject to approval by the Board of Directors on a case-by-case basis.
2.
 - a. All men, women, boys and girls who are of good character, and who are citizens of the United States and who are interested in the purposes for which this organization has been formed and to whose objectives they subscribe, are eligible for membership upon application, payment of established dues and fees, and approval of local clubs as indicated in paragraph 1 above. They remain members so long as they are not delinquent in the payment of dues or unless they are expelled from membership in accordance with paragraph 4 of this Article.
 - b. All men, women, boys and girls - who are non-nationals - are eligible for membership, with certain restrictions as prescribed in the Bylaws. All FPUSA Bylaw provisions for non-nationals must conform with FIPJP bylaws and regulations.

3. An FPUSA-affiliated Club Membership may be granted to any group of ten (10) or more FPUSA Individual Members who form an eligible organization in accordance with the Bylaws and which otherwise applies for membership to the Board of Directors, is approved by the Board of Directors, pays its dues and otherwise maintains its membership in accordance with the Bylaws. Upon approval of the Club Member application by the Board of Directors and compliance with other membership terms and conditions, a Club Membership certificate of affiliation will be issued. A Club Membership shall remain in effect as long as the club remains in good standing in FPUSA.
4. The Board of Directors is ultimately responsible for protecting the integrity and enjoyment of the game for all members. Friendly and cordial competition, good sportsmanship and respectful behavior is essential to the success of the sport. Any person, club or commercial member may be expelled from membership in the FPUSA by a two-thirds (2/3) majority vote of the Board of Directors if that member is found to have acted or to have conducted him/herself in a manner deemed threatening or harmful to the sport, to another member or official, or to the FPUSA, or in such a way as may otherwise harm the integrity of the game or the enjoyment of the game by the members. Such a vote shall not be taken, however, until after the member or club in question has been notified in writing of the proposed action and given the opportunity of being heard by the Board of Directors via formal written communication within a reasonable amount of time as described in the Bylaws. All such actions of the Board regarding expulsion, suspension and other related sanctions shall be final.
5. Admission to the FPUSA and the full privileges of membership shall be available to all without regard to race, creed, color, nationality, sex, religion, age or physical handicap.

ARTICLE IV - Board of Directors and Officers

1. The governing body of the FPUSA is a Board of Directors consisting of the five (5) elected officers and each of the elected Counselors. Each member (Officer and Counselor) of the Board of Directors is entitled to one vote. A Board Member who cannot attend a meeting may appoint another Member of the Board to represent and vote for him/her at a Board meeting, in accordance with FPUSA By-Laws concerning proxy voting.
2. The duties of the Board of Directors are to govern the activities and operations of the FPUSA in accordance with its Constitution and Bylaws, to act as a legislative body in preparation of or amendment of the Constitution and Bylaws, establish policies, approve annual budget and sport promotional plans, sanction national competitions, appoint replacements for Board Members who resign or are unable to complete their terms, approve all committee appointments, charters and chairpersons (except the National Sport Director who chairs the Sport Committee and who is elected by the clubs), establish club and individual member dues, serve as the Final Court of Appeals, expel clubs or individual members.
3. The President of the FPUSA serves as Chairman of the Board of Directors. For the purposes of conducting business, a quorum is deemed to exist when

at least fifty percent (50%) of the total votes of the Board are represented at the meeting.

4. The elected Officers of the FPUSA are the President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer and National Sport Director. Their terms are two (2) years each. The offices of President and Treasurer become vacant in odd numbered years and the offices of Vice President, Secretary and National Sport Director become vacant in even number years.
5. The duties of the Officers are the ones usually associated by custom with those titles, as detailed in the FPUSA Bylaws.
6. The elected Counselors shall each serve a term of two years, half of them being elected in even numbered years and half in the odd numbered years.
7. The duty of the Counselors is to represent the members of the FPUSA. The primary role of the Counselors shall be to maintain direct communication with and to aid Club Presidents within their region. Counselors will be elected as follows:
 - a. The following regions are hereby delineated: Northwest, Southwest, Midwest, Southeast & Northeast. Other regions may be established by a majority vote of the Board of Directors. For a region to be officially recognized, it must have at least two (2) affiliated clubs within its geographical boundaries.
 - b. The states and areas that lie within these regions may be set or changed by a simple majority vote by the Board of Directors.
 - c. Each region will have at least one (1), but no more than four (4) Counselor(s) each.
 - d. Each region shall have one (1) FPUSA membership-elected Counselor for each 100 members (rounded to the nearest 100, e.g., 0 – 150 members = 1 Counselor; 151 – 250 members = 2 Counselors, 251 – 350 members = 3 Counselors, 351 and up = 4 Counselors).
 - e. Membership tabulation is to take place prior to the November elections.
 - f. In the case of newly-established regions, a Counselor will be appointed by the President and approved by the Board of Directors to serve until that region's election can be included in the regular FPUSA election cycle.
8. Nominations of Officers and Counselors should be made on or before October 31 of each year and voting from all Clubs should be completed on or about November 30 of each year. The terms for all newly elected Officers and Counselors will start January 1 of each year.
9. Shortened terms of one (1) year for Officers and Counselors will be permitted as a means of phasing in staggered terms of Officers or Counselors as a first-time or extraordinary measure.
10. Election of officers for the Board of Directors and votes on FPUSA matters referred to clubs shall be by a majority of votes cast by Clubs affiliated with the FPUSA. Election of counselors shall be by a majority of votes cast by affiliated clubs in their designated region. Mail ballot shall be permitted, with each affiliated Club entitled to the following number of votes. Each club will have one vote with up to 25 members, two votes with 26-50 members, three votes with 51-100 members or four votes with more than 100 members. If the number of votes cast fails to constitute a majority vote, or if none of the

candidates for a given office receives a majority of the votes cast, election shall be by a simple plurality of the votes cast. In the event of a tie vote, runoff ballots shall be distributed to all FPUSA Clubs, which shall vote on a weighted plurality basis for the tied candidates (i.e., 3 points for the First Choice, 2 for Second and 1 for Third, if three or more candidates are tied). Any ties remaining after two runoff ballots shall be resolved by a coin-toss supervised by the Board of Directors.

11. Any member of the FPUSA in good standing, who is 21 years of age or older and meets the requirements set in the Bylaws, may be a candidate for any position of Officer or Counselor, with the exception that the President and Vice President must be United States citizens. This citizenship requirement is a provision of the Articles of Incorporation and is not subject to change by Constitutional amendment.
12. Should an Officer or a Counselor not be able to complete his or her term of office for any reason, a replacement will be appointed in accordance with procedures prescribed in the Bylaws.
13. The position of President of Honor is hereby established as a lifetime appointment honoring an individual who has made preeminent contributions to the sport of Petanque in the United States. Mr. Alfred Levitt, founder of Federation of Petanque, U.S.A., Inc., shall be the Federation's first lifetime President of Honor. Subsequent appointments to this position are at the discretion of the Board of Directors. Only one President of Honor shall hold office at a given time. The provisions of this paragraph are specified in the Articles of Incorporation and are not subject to change by Constitutional amendment. In September 2001 at a presentation ceremony in Sonoma, California, former President of the FPUSA and La Boule New Yorkaise, Hans Jepson, was honored and named FPUSA President of Honor. Subsequent appointments to this position are at the discretion of the Board of Directors. Only one President of Honor shall hold office at a given time. The provisions of this paragraph are specified in the Articles of Incorporation and are not subject to change by Constitutional amendment.

ARTICLE V - Board of Director Meetings

1. A regular meeting of the Board of Directors shall be held annually. The time, place and conduct of this annual meeting are detailed in the Bylaws. The Secretary will notify Board members at least forty-five (45) days in advance of the meeting and provide Directors with an agenda at least fourteen (14) days prior to the meeting.
2. Special meetings of the Board shall be on call of the President.
3. Any one-third (1/3) of the membership of the Board of Directors may, by signed petition, instruct the President to call a special meeting of that body, or conduct a written-based proceeding, indicating in the petition the reason therefor. On receipt of such a petition, the President will expeditiously call a special meeting or procedure.

ARTICLE VI - Dues and Arrears

1. The Board of Directors is authorized to set individual, club, and commercial membership dues, including assessment for membership in La Fédération

Internationale de Pétanque et Jeu Provençal, with which the FPUSA is voluntarily affiliated.

2. No candidate for club or individual membership may be entered on the rolls of the FPUSA until established dues and fees are paid.
3. A club or individual in arrears on established dues and fees may be suspended from the privileges or membership and may be dropped from the FPUSA rolls.
4. Provisions concerning dues, fees and the handling of delinquencies are contained in the Bylaws.

ARTICLE VII - Amending Constitution and Bylaws

1. The Constitution and Bylaws of the FPUSA may be amended by the Board of Directors at a special or regular meeting or through documented written procedure.
2. To amend the Constitution: whether the vote takes place in a meeting or through a documented written procedure, the number of affirmative votes must equal or exceed three quarters (3/4) the total number of Directors on the Board.
3. To amend the Bylaws: whether the vote takes place in a meeting or through a documented written procedure, the number of affirmative votes must equal or exceed two-thirds (2/3) the total number of Directors on the Board.

ARTICLE VIII - Political Neutrality

The FPUSA shall never take part in any political movement of any persuasion or party. FPUSA members and clubs shall never use the name of the FPUSA or exercise any prestige or privilege derived from this organization for political purposes.

ARTICLE IX - Autonomy of Clubs

1. Each club shall govern its own local affairs in accordance with the rules and regulations adopted by its members for its own uses and practices. Each club shall elect its own officers, finance its own activities, and govern its own existence as it sees fit, providing that it remains in good standing with FPUSA and conducts itself in a manner consistent with the Constitution, Bylaws and Codes of Conduct of FPUSA and the best interests of the sport of petanque.
2. Any and all activities and practices of each club shall be based upon and adhere to the provisions contained in the Constitution and Bylaws of the FPUSA, which shall take precedence over conflicting club practices.

ARTICLE X - Official Language

1. English is the official language of all communications, announcements, etc. within the FPUSA, to the American press and to the United States public. This is a provision of the Articles of Incorporation and is not subject to change through Constitutional amendment.
2. This English language provision does not preclude supplemental translations of the above communications, announcements, etc. into other languages for simultaneous release.

ARTICLE XI - International Affiliation

Federation of Petanque U.S.A., Inc. is affiliated with La Fédération Internationale de Petanque et Jeu Provençal; as a member, it will adhere to the rules, regulations and responsibilities related to this voluntary affiliation.