

A Proposal for



Pétanque



in the

Chimacum Schools



Proposal for a
Pétanque Program
for the
Chimacum School District

presented by
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Executive Summary

Overview

Chimacum has a large, unused area west of the main campus' track. The installation of a pétanque playing field (terrain) on this site is an excellent, low-cost opportunity for the Chimacum School District to promote physical and mental well-being through active play and community enrichment. CSD#49 benefits by supporting the cross-generational teaching, skill building and practiced politeness which is intrinsic to the sport. Students benefit by being able to learn a life-long skill while at the same time, because of their youth, be immediately qualified to compete in national and international tournaments. The game promotes equal opportunities for girls, boys as well as for the physically challenged.

Pétanque World-wide

In France, where the game originated in the early 1900's, there are about 17 million players. There are 600,000 members of the International Federation of Pétanque and Jeu Provençal (FIPJP) representing 94 nations in international competitions. Beginning in 1959, clubs began to form in cities throughout the United States. The PT Pétanque Alliance was the 45th to be chartered two years ago. A new sport to the United States, there are less than 2,000 registered players in the country. Less than 200 are 19 years or younger.

The Cost

The estimated cost of a fully-realized pétanque terrain as here proposed would be less than \$2,000. We believe community suppliers would also be attracted to the project and help with donated materials. Amenities such as benches and some perimeter edging are not included in the cost estimate, but are highly desirable.

The Proposal

CSD #49 in partnership with local pétanque players will provide a low-cost, low-impact terrain which will benefit the economy and promote life-long learning while nurturing the growth of a unique sport.

What is Pétanque?

Pétanque (pay-tonk) is a French version of lawn bowling, a cousin to *bocce* and British lawn bowling, similar in play to horseshoes. It is a simple, low-cost game most often played on a hard dirt or gravel surface and it needs minimal equipment. The game requires a relatively flat, firm area on which to play, hollow metal balls about the size of a tennis ball known as



boules (pronounced boolz), and a wooden target ball about the size of a large grape known as the jack or *cochonnet* (co-sho-nay-- a piglet in French).

The game is played in teams of one, two or three players. In singles and doubles, each player throws three balls; in triples each throws only two. The object of the game is to throw your *boule* as close as possible to the jack or knock the other team's away. A coin toss decides who plays first. A small circle, about two feet in diameter, is drawn in the dirt. The first team to play throws the jack between 18 and 30 feet from the circle, then throws the first *boule*.

As in golf, the team that is furthest away from the jack continues to play until their team is again closest or they run out of boules. After both teams have thrown all their *boules*, the team with the *boule* closest to the jack receives one point for each of its *boules* closer to the jack than the opponent's closest *boule*. The next round begins with a new circle drawn around the last jack position and the jack is again thrown 18 to 30 feet away. The first team to score 13 points wins the game. Most games are completed within an hour's time.

Unlike horseshoes where the target stake is fixed in place, the thrown *boule* can move the jack and change the scoring. A thrown *boule* may also strike an opponent's *boule*, or your own team's *boule*, and can change the scoring dramatically. These two factors allow for the kind of strategic play that makes the game both dynamic and exciting.

Who Plays Pétanque?

One of the best qualities of the game is that it can be played by such a wide range of people. Players range in age from 4 to 94. If you can pick up a *boule*, you can play pétanque.

Women and men, young and old, physically challenged—all can enjoy the game together and perform well. Beginners can enjoy the



game right from the start. Those who are so inclined can spend a lifetime perfecting their skills.

By rule, the throw is made with both feet stationary, inside the small circle. This basic element of the game makes play possible for people who would find it challenging or impossible to participate in an activity requiring running, jumping, etc.; in fact, wheelchair play is written into the rules of the game.

Who Plays Pétanque Locally?

In Port Townsend the Pétanque Alliance plays nearly every day of the year at the Pourhouse Pub. Turnout is typically 8-10 players during the weekdays and twice as many on weekends. In our second year, we have over 20 FPUSA members and twice that number who play casually.

Recognizing the tourism aspect of the sport, the Fort Worden Public Development Authority recently authorized building 14 courts to attract regional, national and international players. The PT Alliance has twice hosted a “Low Tide Invitational” on the beach below Decatur Street. Money raised was donated to the Jefferson County Food Bank. The PT Alliance has also instructed students at the Port Townsend High School French classes. Last year the club used the PT Blue Heron MS softball diamond as a place to provide summer instruction.

Several of our local club players have placed highly in regional tournaments drawing attention to the rise of the game in the Port Townsend area.

Growth of the Sport

Although Pétanque is experiencing rapid growth among the baby boomers, expansion of the sport has been slower at the school age level. The entire northwest corridor from Central California to British Columbia is one of the most dynamic sectors for expansion in the sport.

In 2013, gold-medalist, seven-time French National Champion, Marco Foyot, visited a dozen clubs across the U.S. conducting clinics on skills and competing against local players. Every appearance was sold out, drawing many younger people. Over 40 FPUSA competitions are held every year as well as hundreds of club-sponsored events. The Amelia Island (FL) club hosted their first tournament in 2004, drawing 20 teams. Ten short years later 166 teams-- 332 players-- came to compete. It's time for our schools to join in!



What Does Pétanque offer the Chimacum School District?

Community Life-long Learning: There are very few outdoor activities that provide for friendly competition between young and old, women and men, physically-challenged and able-bodied. It provides the opportunity for a new kind of sociability that brings together people from all walks of life. It is customary to form teams by random selection of *boules* from a bag, with new selections occurring after each game. A bank president may be teamed with a grandmother, playing against a grade school teacher and a carpenter. These individuals may have never met, and now will spend an hour or so getting to know one another.

In the Schools: A tournament-worthy pétanque terrain would prove a boon for the entire Peninsula area. The sport can be taught and promoted both intramurally and interscholastically. French and Spanish language classes can learn while competing against each other. Creating a pétanque terrain to teach students the sport is seminal and visionary. Less than fifty years ago there were no programs for soccer. Now there are youth leagues everywhere and the U.S. is competitive on the world stage. In the past 60 years of international pétanque competition, the U.S. has never medaled. We can change that!

What are the costs involved?

A major advantage of a pétanque terrain is the simplicity and low cost of installation. The terrain as proposed would cost around \$1,000-2,000. This cost estimate is based on the following assumptions:

1. Minimal grading work to be done with District machinery
2. Volunteer labor to help spread the material and provide maintenance
3. Approximately \$1,000 in delivered rock and sand
4. Treated 4x4's to form perimeters (not figured in cost at this point)
5. Pétanque boules (not figured in cost at this point-- \$25 for six)



What maintenance is needed?

Maintenance of a pétanque terrain is easy and inexpensive. The surface is groomed regularly with a heavy-duty landscape rake to keep it smooth and even for play. Weeding and debris removal is done periodically. Generally, a pétanque club designates a member who handles most of the maintenance along with two or three helpers.

We Envision

- Creating numerous and strategic multi-age opportunities for pétanque instruction: The United States has never won an international medal-- together, we can help change this
- Partnering with language classes: Currently France (with 90 medals) and Spain (with 30 medals) are 1 and 3, respectively, in world competition. A key reason for this is that the sport is family oriented and youth begin to play at an early age.
- Sequential Skill Building: Students in early grades can be taught the fundamentals of the game on grassy areas using colorful plastic balls-- no special surface or court is needed.
- Skills that Last a Lifetime: Endemic to the sport is a practiced civility. It is customary after every game to shake the hands of all players on your team and on your opponents' and comment, win or lose, "Good game". Students learn teamwork, strategy and the applied physics of mass and trajectory. Different skill levels become part of a team that needs-- and values-- the contributor. In Thailand (the 2nd highest international medal winner) pétanque is part of their army's training for teamwork.



Our Commitment

We appreciate your consideration of this proposal. CSD#49, the community, local pétanque players and the sport itself all win if we make this work. We are committed to:

- Donating labor to help install the terrain
- Teaching in the school and to the community
- Being proactive in promoting local and interscholastic tournaments and events.

Insurance

The 501(c)3 non-profit parent body, Federation of Pétanque USA, provides insurance to clubs and their sponsors for activities related to regularly scheduled tournaments and supervised play.

A Military Legacy

Pétanque has its roots among soldiers and sailors who served their countries. There is a rich, well-documented history of the game spontaneously being reinvented whenever and wherever round objects and plenty of time were available. Maybe Indian Island can adopt us!



The Proposal

We propose the installation of a terrain that would accommodate several games simultaneously. The proposed size, roughly 5,000 sq. ft., would facilitate 6 regulation tournament courts 13ft × 50ft (4m × 15m). Some room could also be built in for walkways between the courts. Teams are usually three on three or two on two. With six courts, enough to accommodate most class sizes, 24 to 36 students can play at the same time. The installation is relatively simple, swift, and inexpensive. Maintenance is also easy and inexpensive. Once approved and funded, the installation can be accomplished and the courts ready for play in as little as a week's time.

Project Outline

The installation of a pétanque terrain doesn't have to be perfect, in fact imperfections are desired and are very much a part of the "infinite variety" of the game.

Installation would go as follows:

1. Mark the perimeter of the area
2. Scrape to to form a level base
3. Spread 2 inches of $\frac{3}{4}$ inch-minus granite
4. Apply clean sand to fill in and just cover
5. Top dress the terrain with the playing surface material with quarter-minus granite
6. Fine tune the surface by leveling and compacting the upper layers



Labor and Materials for the Proposed Courts

$\frac{3}{4}$ minus granite	38 cubic yards
clean sand	15 cubic yards
top dressing	8 cubic yards

Site Map, Court Arrangement, Construction Close-up



Historical Pétanque in Public

Parks & Places



Other resources

www.usapetanque.org
www.petanque.org
www.petanque.us/map

the USA Pétanque Federation
international online magazine
map of public pétanque spots in the USA



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