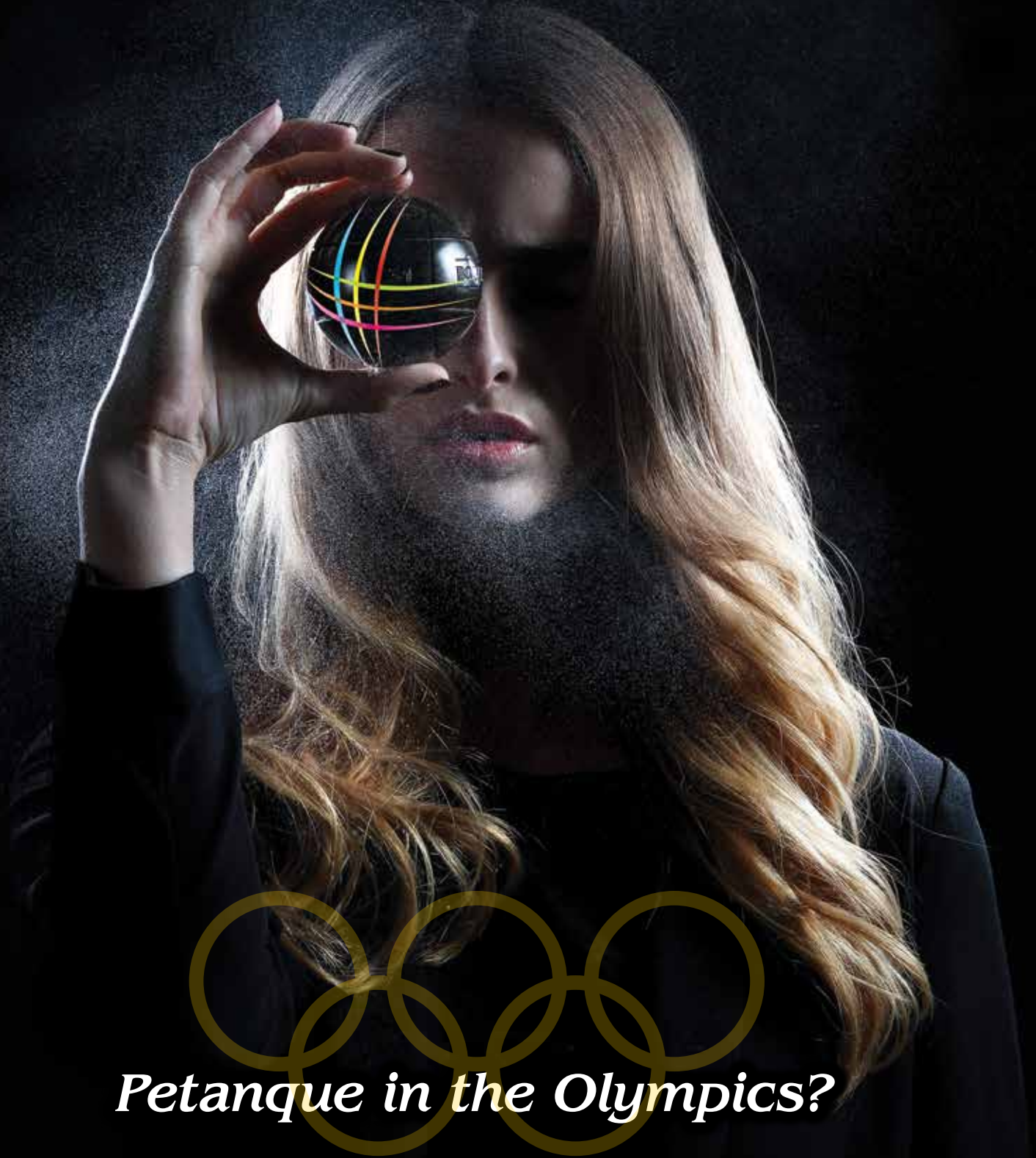


★ FP2016 ★
★ USA/17 ★

ANNUAL PUBLICATION OF THE FEDERATION OF PETANQUE, USA



Petanque in the Olympics?

Olympic Pétanque? ...peut-être

In December 1985, the *Confédération Mondiale des Sports de Boules* (CMSB) was formed by the *Confederazione Boccistica Internazionale* (CBI), the *Fédération Internationale de Boules* (FIB) and the *Fédération Internationale de Pétanque et Jeu Provençal* (FIPJP) which is FPUSA's parent organization. CBI governs the sport of *Raffa* which is an internationally recognized format of the game of *bocce* with which most Americans are familiar. FIB governs *Boule Lyonnaise*, or "*Volo*," a form of *bocce* that is played with bronze boules and has specific rules about, among other things, shooting "*au fer*."

A major goal is to have one or more of these games accepted into the 2024 Olympics.* CMSB has embarked on a promotional campaign. Its President, **Claude Azema** (also the current President of FIPJP), has met on a number of occasions with members of the International Olympic Committee (IOC) in order to lay the groundwork for a formal proposal to the 2024 organizing committee. This committee will submit sports to the IOC at the 2020 Olympics in Tokyo for proposed inclusion.

To be sure, the challenges facing CMSB's mission are formidable — IOC gets flooded with proposals from the various international sports groups for inclusion; criteria to include sports are multi-faceted; and boules sports do not receive much exposure in both sport and general media outlets. And then there is funding.

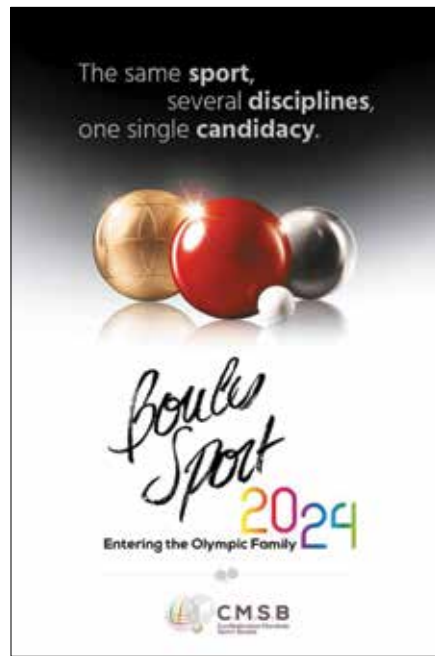
In its favor CMSB can point to a number of factors. Boules sports are precision games – comparable to archery, curling and marksmanship. They are played by over 200 million players in 165 countries via 262 national federations by both genders and across all ages and socioeconomic groups. As of 2016, 67 countries have won medals in at least one world championship. Boule sports are relatively 'host-friendly' compared to other sports that require large playing areas, large team sizes or specialized equipment. And boules sports are nearly risk free with respect to injury.

For FIPJP's part, the trend to comply with IOC standards began about a decade ago, most notably with the introduction of substance-abuse testing at its various world championships. There have been other efforts to raise standards of play, behavior and officiating. And importantly, changes have been underway to improve the presentation and exposure of the game to the general public. A few examples are the introduction of playing circles at the 2006 World Championship, the one-minute display clock and dark vs. light boules for opposing teams.

Most petanque enthusiasts are rooting for a favorable outcome and a chance to see their beloved game on the biggest of all sport stages. 2024 may seem like a long way off but, in Olympic-planning terms, the train is just pulling out of the station.

CMSB has asked all supporters to get involved in the effort. Players can help the cause by going to www.boules-sport.org and registering as an official supporter of Sport Boules' candidacy. Just type in your info and click "**JE SOUTIENS!**"

* One of the remaining proposed sites, Budapest, Los Angeles or Paris, will be announced in September 2017.



The three major boules sports represented in the CMSB are depicted in this promotional poster (l to r): *Boule Lyonnaise (Volo)*, *Raffa (Bocce)* and *Pétanque*.

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*Thank You All, for your service,
and for jobs well done!*

A Sampling of Community Outreach Events Around FPUSA, 2016

CLUB VOLUNTEERS PROMOTE THE GAME WHILE MAKING A LOCAL IMPACT

Edmonds, Washington



(May 24) The Edmonds Kiwanis Club awarded **Edmonds Petanque Club** its "2016 Edmonds Citizen of the Year." It was only the second time in the 23-year history of the award that it has gone to a group. The club "was selected for its commitment to many charities in the Edmonds community including the Edmonds Food Bank."

President **Michelle Martin** (pictured above) accepted the award on behalf of the club. "Pétanque means so much more than just a game – sharing French culture with so many people and, at the same time, helping the community."

EPC hosts two annual tournaments – one is in support of the Food Bank. Club members also host six-week summer camps for the Boys & Girls Club and the club teaches the game to exchange students from Edmonds' Sister City of Hekinan, Japan.

Sonoma, California



(June 7) **Valley of the Moon Petanque Club** hosted 20 faculty members from the Presentation School at the club's facility in Depot Park for an end-of-school-year luncheon. Club volunteers gave informal lessons and later mixed in with their guests for some friendly and instructive doubles games.

Portland, Oregon



(June 11) **Portland Petanque Club** President **Steve Walker** and a dozen trusty volunteers hosted a fund-raiser for the Duniway Elementary School in Eastmoreland, not far from the club.

It all began in Fall 2015 when the school contacted the PPC through its website. After some follow-up communications and some face time (including friendly petanque games), a plan was hatched for the club to hold an event in 2016 that the school could auction off at its annual event. And it couldn't have worked out better!

With over 50 Duniway parents participating, the club helped raise over \$2,500 to fund various teachers and programs at the school. Steve will be working with the organizers to make this an annual event, perhaps extending the offer to other neighborhood schools in 2017.

Charlotte, South Carolina



(June 19) **Carolina Petanque** co-hosted a petanque picnic with the Alliance Française of Charlotte. Both groups look forward to hosting this event again in 2017, and beginning a new tradition in order to promote petanque in Charlotte and in the state of South Carolina.

Amelia Island, Florida



Well known in the U.S. petanque community for its indispensable role in helping to host the annual *Pétanque America Open*, the **Amelia Island Boules Club** makes outreach efforts on an ongoing basis all year long. Some are intended to promote the club, others are more community-oriented. The club views them as entirely related since they all promote the game of petanque either directly, that is, in teaching and playing the game, or indirectly by enhancing relationships with various groups in the community. Below are a few highlights from 2016.

(March 2) The Fernandina Beach City Commission presented AIBC with its *Proclamation of Appreciation* in recognition of service and contribution to the community.

(May 13) AIBC held a play session with two Special Needs classes from the Nassau County public schools. Club President **Jimmy Weinsier** and **Philippe Boets** hosted ten students and four Special Ed teachers at the club's Central Park location in Fernandina Beach for a morning of fun, games and good feelings (pictured above).

(June 14) Ten club volunteers mixed in with 40 members of the European-American Business Club for friendly games at their second annual petanque demonstration.

In addition to a splash page on the official City of Fernandina Beach website, local newspapers regularly post AIBC's playing schedule, inviting readers to join in. The club has also been featured in a number of human interest articles as events occur.

Rare Gems: Club Youth Programs Flourish in two "O" States

IN PROMOTING JUNIORS' PLAY, THESE CLUBS ARE IN IT FOR THE LONG HAUL!

In 1998, two French high school teachers, **Mike Stasack** and **Ryan Baker** founded the **Eugene Pétanque International Club**. What was unique about this club was that it was based solely on the formation of a four-school petanque league.

Each high school fielded teams of 10-15 players which yielded a total of 50-75 per fall and spring seasons. Both boys and girls participated and received a varsity club sport letter. As with adults, the beauty of the game is that it is a very low cost sport which players of any age, gender, or athletic ability can learn and play successfully. It also has a rich tradition of social and inter-generational interaction. In that vein, each of EPIC's competitions was followed by a gathering where players mingle and socialize.

Unfortunately, due to budget cuts, three of the original schools have not participated for several years, but the program is going strong at Marist Catholic High School.



Sam Johnson and Grace Sim placed fourth in the Northwest Regional Juniors' Tournament held at Marist High on May 17 and 19. You can tell this pair had a blast, and won a couple of coffee cards to help get them through finals week!

A Trip Abroad

Back in 2011 Mike and Ryan trained a juniors team of two girls and one boy to compete for a chance to represent the USA at the Junior World Championship. In a rare "FPUSA Juniors' Qualification Tournament" held in San Rafael, California, EPIC faced a very good team from the Fresno Petanque Club, coached by **Paul Yang**. The Fresno team won three of the five games and thereby qualified. The competition was so tight that at the end of the day both teams' cumulative point totals were exactly the same!

Due to one of the Fresno players being unable to travel, and some unfortunate scheduling by FIPJP that put the Championship in the middle of the school year, EPIC member **Carly Stasack** joined Fresno players, **Peng Sue** and **Hai Normen** and competed at the 7th Annual Petanque International Juniors' Tournament in Kayl, Luxembourg that summer. Both Mike and Paul accompanied the team and everyone had an experience they still remember.

While international competition cannot be the sole focus of a successful juniors' program, it certainly presents an enticement for young players to apply themselves to the finer points of the sport. The few times that our kids have been fortunate enough to go abroad to play petanque, their horizons have been broadened and their understanding of the game was deepened immensely.

With an eye toward promoting petanque in his community, **Zanesfield Petanque Club President "Bo" Johns** contacted **Shannon Hodge**, French instructor at nearby Bellefontaine High School, in 2012 to invite French students to come out and play petanque. Shannon embraced the offer and the two arranged for students to visit the club for lessons and friendly games. Well, the students got hooked! And in May of 2013, the BHS French Club hosted their first tournament, with over 30 students participating.

Later that year, as part of his U.S. tour, longtime petanque standout **Marco Foyot** came to Zanesfield to teach the game to the students. Not only were the youngsters awed by his skill, they found him to be a great instructor and very approachable. Those 35 students who met Marco became the basis for what is today the largest juniors' program in the FPUSA, with ZPC averaging about 80 junior members each year. The club holds a variety of events, including socials and competitions like the French Club tournament and the FPUSA Mid-America Inter-Regional Juniors' Doubles tournament. New events are being added each year in order to attract students who may not be in the French program.



In the October 2014 online issue of *The Cardinal* (Newsletter of the Ohio Foreign Language Association) Shannon's approach to using the game as tool and context for French instruction was featured — and roundly praised!

At Bellefontaine High, petanque has become an integral part of the French language program. There is a wall dedicated to petanque with pictures of the students playing the game and posters of the tournament winners. Boules, petanque posters and medals, as well as information about the club and the game, have also been displayed at showcases in the school hallways. The game helps attract students to the French program and keeps them engaged in their language studies. The French Club meets every Friday of the month and dedicates one of those Fridays just to petanque, whether it's to watch petanque videos, discuss upcoming tournaments or plan the next petanque fête.

Back in Zanesfield, Bo has increased awareness of the game by communicating regularly with the media, including the town's newspaper and radio stations. He also uses a variety of social media to promote the game and to share all of the club's activities. The students take pride in being part of the club and they like being able to share their experiences with others through the media that Bo uses to promote the sport. We can look forward to more good things to come from this lively juniors' program.

Our New Website — It's a Beauty!

Every organization needs a solid, reliable web presence and, this past summer, the crack team of **Nan Walter** and FPUSA Secretary **Dan Feaster** (both of the Port Townsend Petanque Alliance) delivered the goods — *in spades!*

Employing Nan's keen design skills and Dan's sense of organization, this team put together a comprehensive website that not only incorporated the sport aspects of the "Landing Spot" and the content of our prior website, but rolled in more features and services for members of all stripes, as well as relevant information for nonmembers and prospective members. The result is a one-stop, all-in-one online resource.

Visit usapetanque.org. Nice work, Nan and Dan!



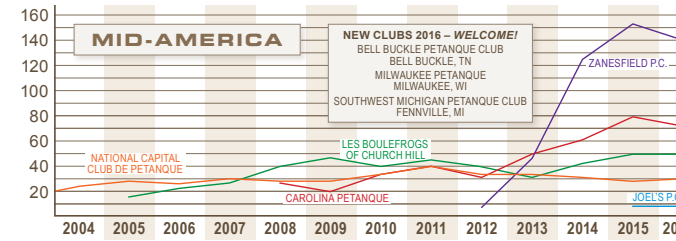
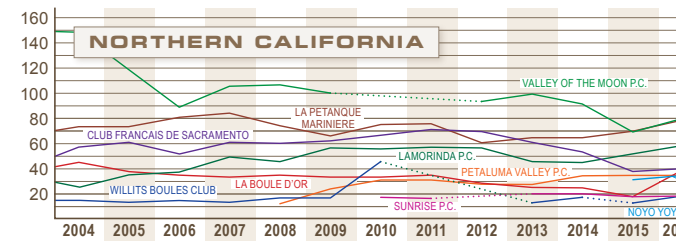
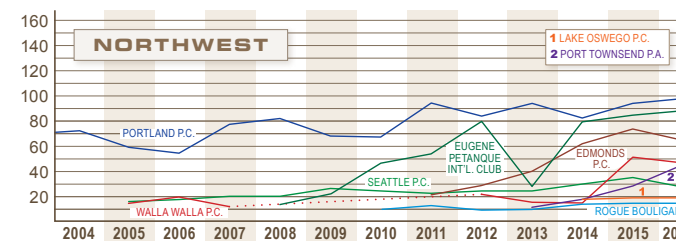
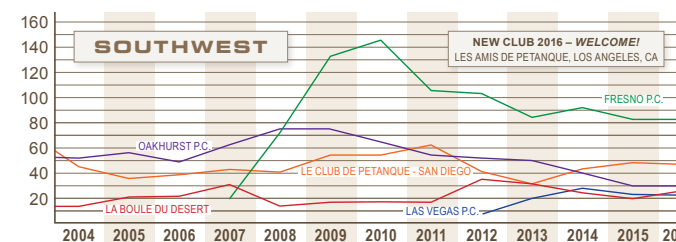
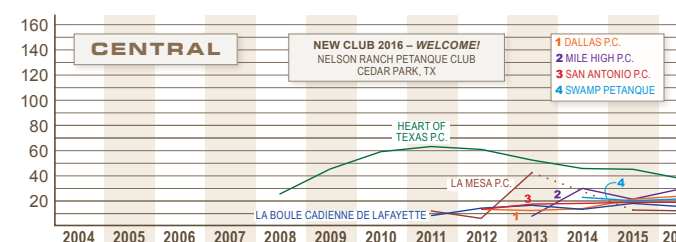
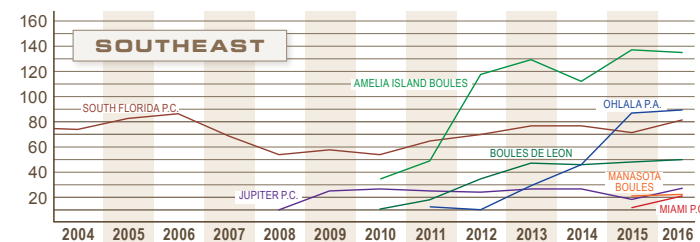
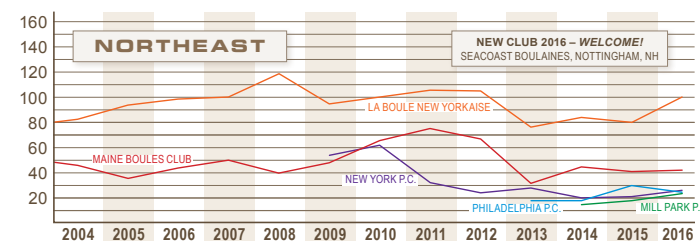
GROWTH: finding the right formula for your club is key

It is evident from the graphs on this page that every club's quest for growth can be a roller coaster ride — meteoric rises may give way to abrupt or gentle declines. Slow and steady growth seems more of an exception than the rule.

For any given club what works at one point in time may not be the right formula at others. Finding what works depends on a number of factors: the energy and availability of volunteers, interests of the club officers as well as its members, local conditions in a park and community, among others.

In discussions among concerned members, it is a common assumption to judge FPUSA by its growth in membership. Fair enough, but just as FPUSA cannot take credit for the phenomenal growth in some locales, it cannot be a panacea for the typical club's growth challenges. All growth happens locally, so paying attention to your club's culture and its program of activities is the best way to set the table for expanding membership and improving the petanque experience where you play.

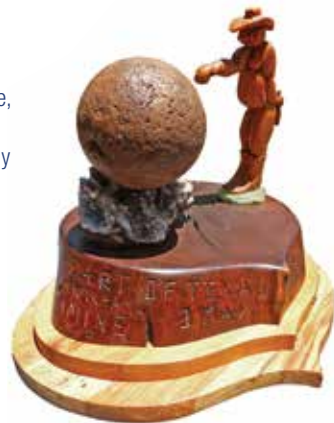
That said, members are encouraged to solicit involvement from FPUSA which can bring resources to bear in support of sound proposals for local growth and development.



DOTTED LINES INDICATE LAPSES IN FPUSA AFFILIATION. TOTAL FPUSA MEMBERSHIP AS OF 12/08/16: 2,174 SOURCE: FPUSA ARCHIVES

Art is inspired by things in life that are important to the artist. Here are some works of art and craft from around FPUSA and beyond. In a variety of ways, all are expressions of their makers' love of the game and what it represents to them, their friends and family, and the places and traditions they hold dear.

Using amethyst and local wood and stone, **Thierry Amisse** of the Heart of Texas Petanque Club made this perpetual trophy for the annual HOT Open in 2009. Each year, the winners' names are engraved onto a brass plate and fixed to the heart-shaped pinewood base slabs. *Très attrayant!* (16" x 14" x 12")



Susan Barton crafted this whimsical hook rug for her husband, Brian, of the Rogue Bouligans in Williams, OR. (36" x 24")

Mark Kindschi of Maine Boules Club does functional and decorative metal work, sometimes using petanque boules in his designs. This human scale scorekeeper (below) graces the club's court in Blue Hill.



"Boules in Flight Series, #5," ink on paper, 7" x 5" (above) silkscreen print on towel, 19" x 24" (right)

Peter Gealy of the Noyo Yoyos (Fort Bragg, CA) creates fanciful and fantastical imagery in a variety of media, expressing the lighter side of the game.



This metal scorekeeper was given to the Editor by a friendly petanque player in Barcelona, Spain in 2001. (2 1/2" x 6")



Can you guess the occupation of its maker?

In addition to hand painted cochonnets and other objects, friend of Heart of Texas P.C., **Joe Sanchez** of Ste.-Genevieve-des-Bois, France creates portraits of his petanque friends and classic imagery from France, and from the game he has played nearly all of his life.



Untitled, water color and ink, 10" x 11" (gift to the Editor, 2012).

This wood and pearl inlaid table top (date unknown) caught **Caitlin Woodbury's** eye in a French antique shop.



Representing us at "Le Mondial Ricard La Marseillaise à Petanque" in Longueuil, Quebec



Sporting snappy team shirts (l.to r.) Gina, Shannon and Tish strike a pose on the streets of Montreal.

When **Gina DeJoy** (South Florida P.C.), **Tish Harris** (Oakhurst P.C.) and **Shannon Hodge** (Zanesfield P.C.) topped the field at FPUSA's Women's Qualification Tournament in Fresno (September 2015), they hoped to represent the USA at the 2016 FIPJP Women's Confederations Cup. But by the time the long-awaited event announcement came along, the team had made a commitment to compete in a prestigious tournament in Canada. (Note: FPUSA Teams are permitted to select an alternative tournament should there be planning or access issues with respect to the

qualifier's intended FIPJP event.) Engaging a tough cadre of twelve teams from Canada and Europe, our team recorded three victories in their four opening games, ranking them 2nd overall. In an unexpected format twist, a 'knockout round' was installed at the end of the day for teams ranked second through seventh. Our team suffered a 10-12 loss in this timed elimination game, and ended up in the consolante the next day whence they won two of three games. All three enjoyed the experience and are grateful for the support from FPUSA and its members.

National Petanque League: The Second Running

Doubles Added in 2016 • Participation Still Spotty • Changes in Store for 2017



FPUSA's National Petanque League, a grand experiment conceived and managed by **David Keil** and **Stephen Lessard** of Mile High Petanque Club continued to evolve in its second year. New wrinkles were tried, including splitting the year into two seasons, and adding a doubles format. Medals were awarded to the top finishers in each category.

Incentivizing clubs and players remain two hurdles to overcome, but the league's trusty directors look forward to further refinements and broader promotion in 2017.

Stay tuned for announcements early in the new year!

Season I Singles March 20- July 4, 2016 (81 players reported scores)

Gold: **Arsene Dupin** (Heart of Texas Petanque Club)

Silver: **Frank Guzman** (Ohlala Petanque Association)

Bronze: **Thomas Leon** (Amelia Island Boules Club)

Season II Singles July 14- November 13, 2016 (47 players reported scores)

Gold: **Joe Cortright** (Portland Petanque Club)

Silver: **Arsene Dupin** (Heart of Texas Petanque Club)

Bronze: **David Keil** (Mile High Petanque Club)

Doubles July 14- November 13, 2016 (34 teams reported scores)

Gold: **Greg Mack, Philippe Tripoul** (Ohlala Petanque Association)

Silver: **Gary Jones, Shirley Jones** (Carolina Petanque)

Bronze: **Anne Shoaf, Ed Shoaf** (Carolina Petanque)

Rules & Standards: Why have them? Why "so many?"

Addressing some questions regarding tournament standards and the Code of Behavior

Umpires, tournament directors and FPUSA officials are regularly approached by players who question a particular rule. Oftentimes questions arise when a rule has a negative impact on a player's fortunes or presents an inconvenience to a player or team. Sometimes a player brings a rule to an official's attention that s/he just doesn't agree with. It is important for officials to listen to input from players and, importantly, filter through them for possible proposals, improvements or alternatives.

It is equally important for players and supporters of our sport to realize that any rule considered in isolation may seem insignificant or dismissible, but the aggregate of the entire set of rules creates an overall atmosphere that is fair to the players, welcoming to spectators, and beneficial for the promotion of the game. Here are just a couple of examples.

Consider the playing circle. They have been an 'institution'

at international competitions for over a decade. Using non-regulation circles in official tournaments undermines the sport's image that the U.S. presents to the international petanque community. We don't see non-regulation base sizes in the various ballparks where baseball is played, or different widths to the court demarcation lines in basketball. All sports have such standards, and petanque has relatively few of them.

Smoking and consuming alcohol during games? Some may consider these habits benign enough in moderation, but the flip side is the image that these habits present to onlookers, especially youth. *Can you name one sport that allows them?*

Players should feel free to engage FPUSA officials with feedback and suggestions. While there is no guarantee that any particular idea will become a standard, the record shows examples of changes in response to good suggestions.

For such examples, please write the Editor.

Each year FPUSA holds Qualification Tournaments in order to select the teams and players who will go abroad to represent the USA at

the various FIPJP Championships held the following year. There were four such qualifiers in 2016. Medal winners are listed on page 10.

Men's Triples

LAFAYETTE, CA • AUGUST 13 & 14, 2016



Contestants sported team shirts – and those familiar Saturday morning smiles!

Twenty-seven competitors from Oregon, Washington, Texas and Northern and Central California met on a hot summer weekend in this quaint East Bay burg to compete for the honor of becoming our 2017 Men's Triples Team USA. Several factors contributed to the light turnout but mainly it was the lack of a designated location, dates and other details for the goal of the event (FIPJP's 2017 Confederations Cup), along with the enticement of playing later in the year in Sanford, FL to qualify for FIPJP's 2017 Ghent tournament.

The format was quite forgiving as eight of the nine teams advanced to Sunday's pools (per the prescribed regulations). By afternoon four teams had emerged from the two pools, but it was the 2014 Champs **John Harris, Thomas Moua** and **By Vang** who rode high in the saddle and swept the day nearly unchallenged. The trio intend to represent FPUSA at the 2017 Confederations Cup, pending FIPJP conditions.



Clockwise from upper left: Jer Thao (Fresno P.C.), Wolfgang Kurz (Petaluma Valley P.C.), By Vang (Fresno P.C.), John Harris (Oakhurst P.C.)

Women's Triples

BLUE HILL, ME • SEPTEMBER 10 & 11, 2016



33 players, 11 teams: most ever for an FPUSA Women's Triples Qualifier!

Hosting players from all over the country who made the journey to the remote central Maine coast, the **Maine Boules Club** pulled out the stops and rolled out the red carpet for a full weekend of petanque and social activities.

Competition was a bit lopsided in Saturday's qualifying rounds as six teams posted three or four wins while the remaining five won none or only once. Eight teams advanced to Sunday's pools and by late afternoon the stage was set for a captivating finale. And by all accounts it was! The team of **Gina DeJoy, Shannon Hodge** and **Shirley Jones** prevailed by shooting aggressively against the relentless pointing of some of MBC's best: **Dindy Royster, Kate Unkel** and her daughter, **Kindle Loomis**. Final score: 13-12!

This was Gina's fourth consecutive women's qualifier victory. (Her fifth is on the page to the right!) While it takes a team to win, her practice and dedication have certainly paid off. Shannon is now a repeat champ and the unflappable Shirley is a first-time winner. The team appreciates all the support from their fellow competitors and FPUSA members. They will represent us proudly at the 2017 FIPJP Women's World Championship (dates and host site TBA).



There is a camaraderie among players that gets rekindled at each qualifier — win or lose, a rewarding competitive experience for all participants.

Men's Doubles

SANFORD, FL • NOVEMBER 5 & 6, 2016



40 teams (from every FPUSA region) competed for the honor of representing the USA at FIPJP's 2017 Championships to be held in Ghent, Belgium.

It all began with five randomly-drawn games on Saturday for the 24 teams who entered the tournament. Of note were three father/son teams, one of whom went undefeated only to be eliminated the next day in the morning pools – *tough break!* The two others were in a pack of nine teams who won only two games, putting one in the consolante and the other (**Jerome and Stephan Nicolas**) making it to the semifinal.

But Sunday belonged to a team from Central California, **John Harris** and **Paul Yang**. After chalking up two wins in the pools, they cruised through the competition in the afternoon playoff, winning their quarterfinal via *fanny*, then coming from behind to win their semifinal vs. the Nicolas'. Their final opponents, **Lahouari Baba** and **Joseph Hassoune**, took their own semifinal 13-0 but could not stave off John and Paul's relentless play. The final score was 13-7.

Congratulations, Gentlemen! Well done!



Clockwise from upper left: Mickey Coughlin (VOMPC), Lahouari Baba (LBNY), Stefan Nicolas (South Florida P.C.), Joseph Hassoune (LBNY)

Women's Doubles

SANFORD, FL • NOVEMBER 5 & 6, 2016



With 16 teams competing on Saturday for eight spots in Sunday's pools, the group faced an unforgiving trial of five randomly drawn games. The pools yielded some surprise teams entering the semifinals as newcomers to the FPUSA Qualifiers tested their mettle against the country's very best on the **Ohlala** club's challenging terrain.

The teams of **Gina DeJoy/Shannon Hodge** and **Shirley Jones/Sue Wien** won tough but decisive victories in their semifinals, 13-8 and 13-7 respectively. The stage was set for a great final match – and it turned out to be a real nail-biter!

Shirley and Sue (who was playing in her first qualifier) took an early lead and built on it, getting up by a score of 11-6. Then things got interesting. With their backs against the wall, and with Shirley and Sue playing valiantly, Gina and Shannon thrilled the *gallerie* by shooting and pointing their way to a gritty comeback win, 13-12. *Excellent play, Ladies!*



Clockwise from upper left: Angela Gleason (Maine B.C.), Janice Bissonnette (Fresno P.C.), Stacey Linh (NYPC), Shannon Hodge (Zanesfield P.C.)



With high hopes and former World Champion **Marco Foyot** as their coach, our 2016 Men's Team USA headed off to a far-away island nation for the 47th running of the FIPJP Men's World Championship. Our team was comprised of **Pascal Corchia** (shooter, La Boule du Desert), **Walt Elder** (middle, Carolina Petanque),



Antananarivo's Palais des Sports, built in 1995, was the main venue for the event.



Juan, P.J., Marco and Walt (l.to r.) strike a pose with their host prior to the opening ceremonies.

Juan Garcia (pointer, Miami P.C.), and **P. J. Mallette** (fourth, Lake Oswego P.C.) All but Walt had experience at FIPJP World Championships but things could not have gotten off to a worse

start. Team Captain Pascal was stricken with food poisoning the day before the competition. Walt replaced Pascal in the *Tir de Précision* competition and P.J. was pressed into service from the get-go when the tournament started on Friday morning.

After suffering four consecutive defeats in the opening rounds, there was little consolation for the team when they received a win via forfeit at the close of the first day. Eliminated from the championship rounds, our men set their sights on doing better the following day in the Nations Cup.

Their fortunes improved in the early going. After a close loss to Turkey, our team rallied for blowout win in a rematch and advanced to face China in the first round of elimination. After Team USA got up 9-3, China came on strong and took the match 10-9 as the clock ran out in a timed game.

Many members are not aware of the challenges that face U.S. teams

at a championship like this. Nearly two days of air travel to a tropical location is followed by facing the best players in the world, indoors, on an installed terrain that is unlike anything available at FPUSA clubs – and in front of hundreds of spectators and TV cameras. Many of their opponents are seasoned under these types of conditions in their home countries, developing their game in mature and well-funded programs from youth on up. So, while our players give it their all, our teams are generally facing long odds in tough, unfamiliar conditions.

As for the main event, tiny Benin upset the powerful French team in their semifinal to face Madagascar who had dispensed with another strong team, Belgium, in the other semi. Madagascar then dominated the all-Africa final, 13-4. The Nations Cup was taken by Tahiti who won 13-9 over Canada in the final.



A TV camera on a boom follows the action in the semifinal between Benin and France.



Team USA faced off against Italy in their first match of the competition.

USA SCORES & RESULTS

QUALIFYING ROUNDS Swiss system 12.2.16	
U.S.A. vs. Italy	4 - 13
U.S.A. vs. Israel	4 - 13
U.S.A. vs. Czech Republic	3 - 13
U.S.A. vs. Norway	11 - 13
U.S.A. vs. —	(forfeit win)
USA RANKED: 44 OF 47	
NATIONS CUP (Pool play - 12.2.16)	
U.S.A. vs. Turkey	10-13
U.S.A. vs. Turkey	13-3
USA ADVANCED TO 1/8TH FINALS	
U.S.A. vs. China	9-10

RESULTS

Inter-regionals results on pages 11-12. Qualifier recaps on pages 7-8.

National Men's Singles May 28, 2016 (22 players)
Host: Fresno Petanque Club
Gold: By Vang (Fresno Petanque Club)
Silver: Paul Yang (Fresno Petanque Club)
Bronze: Wolfie Kurz (Petaluma Valley Petanque Club)

National Women's Singles May 28, 2016 (14 players)
Host: Fresno Petanque Club
Gold: Chia Yang (Fresno Petanque Club)
Silver: Holly Sammons (Valley of the Moon Petanque Club)
Bronze: Janet Kirtland (Portland Petanque Club)

National Mixed Triples May 29, 2016 (14 teams)
Host: Fresno Petanque Club
Gold: Philippe Agnesse, Celia Crittenden (Portland Petanque Club), Pascal Corchia (Boules du Desert) - left to right below
Silver: Fue Vang, By Vang, May Lis Yang (Fresno Petanque Club)
Bronze: Jer Thao, Chia Vang, Paul Yang (Fresno Petanque Club)

Men's Confederations World Cup Qualification Tournament August 13-14, 2016 (9 teams) Host: Lamorinda Petanque Club
Gold: John Harris (Oakhurst Petanque Club), Thomas Moua, By Vang (Fresno Petanque Club)
Silver: Wolfie Kurz, Ed Porto (Petaluma Valley Petanque Club), Jer Thao (Fresno Petanque Club)
Bronze: Dan Feaster (Port Townsend Petanque Alliance), Philippe Geraud (Seattle Petanque Club), David Johnstone (Lake Oswego Petanque Club)
Bronze: Mickey Coughlin, Peter Mathis (Valley of the Moon Petanque Club) Paul Yang (Fresno Petanque Club)



National Mixed Triples Champions.



National Men's Doubles Champions.

Women's World Triples Championship Qualification Tournament September 10-11, 2016 (11 teams) Host: Maine Boules Club
Gold: Gina DeJoy (Souh Florida Petanque Club), Shannon Hodge (Zanesfield Petanque Club), Shirley Jones (Carolina Petanque) - left to right below
Silver: Kindle Loomis, Dindy Royster, Kate Unkel (Maine Boules Club)
Bronze: Celia Crittenden (Portland Petanque Club), Tish Harris (Oakhurst Petanque Club), Lisa Skerl (La Boule New Yorkaise)
Bronze: Juanita Celix (Seattle Petanque Club), Julie-Jo Fehrle, Angela Gleason (Maine Boules Club)

National Men's Doubles Qualification Tournament November 5-6, 2016 (24 teams) Host: Ohlala Petanque Association
Gold: John Harris (Oakhurst Petanque Club), Paul Yang (Fresno Petanque Club) - left to right below
Silver: Houari Baba, Joseph Hassoune (La Boule New Yorkaise)
Bronze: Jerome Nicolas, Stephan Nicolas (South Florida Petanque Club)
Bronze: Mark Greenberg, Philippe Menier (New York Petanque Club)

National Women's Doubles Qualification Tournament November 5-6, 2016 (16 teams) Host: Ohlala Petanque Association
Gold: Gina DeJoy (Souh Florida P. C.), Shannon Hodge (Zanesfield P. C.)
Silver: Shirley Jones, Sue Wien (Carolina Petanque)
Bronze: Stacey Linh, Chrissy Lion (New York Petanque Club)
Bronze: Bo Edwards (Carolina Petanque), Jeanne-Marie Browning (Dallas P.C.)



Women's World Triples Championship Qualification Tournament winners.

2017 FPUSA National Championships Calendar

May 27 • Fresno, California
National Men's & Women's Doubles Championships
Host: Fresno Petanque Club

May 28 • Fresno, California
National Mixed Doubles Championship
Host: Fresno Petanque Club

August 26-27 • Brooklyn, New York
Men's National Triples Championships/ World Championship Qualification Tournament
Host: New York Petanque Club

November 4-5 • Sanford, Florida
National Men's & Women's Singles
Host: Ohlala Petanque Association

Please check usapetanque.org for more details and up-to-date listings of all 2017 FPUSA Regional Tournaments.

NORTHERN CALIFORNIA

NorCal Inter-regional Select Triples April 3, 2016 (15 teams)
 Host: Club Francais de Sacramento
Gold: Mone Lee, Phominik Lee, Pao Ly (Club Francais de Sacramento)
Silver: Marie-Anne Curley, Tom Lee, Yor Lee (Club Francais de Sacramento)
Bronze: Paul Moua, Chong Xiong, Xua Yang (Club Francais de Sacramento)

NorCal Inter-regional Men's Doubles (Qualifier) April 24, 2016 (11 teams)
 Host: Valley of the Moon Petanque Club
Gold: Mickey Coughlin, Peter Mathis (Valley of the Moon Petanque Club)
Silver: Brendan Cohen (Club Francais de Sacramento), Carlos Couto (Lamorinda PC)
Bronze: Joe Latorre, Peter Wellington (Valley of the Moon Petanque Club)

NorCal Inter-regional Women's Doubles (Qualifier) April 24, 2016 (4 teams)
 Host: Valley of the Moon Petanque Club
Gold: Barbara Hall, Erin McTaggart (Valley of the Moon Petanque Club)
Silver: Christine Cragg (La Petanque Mariniere), Maggie Lane (VOMPC)
Bronze: Shannon Bowman, Holly Sammons (Valley of the Moon Petanque Club)

NorCal Inter-regional Mixed Doubles May 1, 2016 (20 teams)
 Host: Club Francais de Sacramento
Gold: By Vang, May Yang (Fresno Petanque Club)
Silver: Carlos Couto (Lamorinda PC), Maggie Lane (Valley of the Moon PC)
Bronze: Chong Xiong (Fresno PC), Xua Yang (Club Francais de Sacramento)

NorCal Inter-regional Mixed Triples June 26, 2016 (12 teams)
 Host: Valley of the Moon Petanque Club
Gold: Mickey Coughlin, Barbara Hall, Peter Mathis (VOMPC)
Silver: Alan Bauermeister, Kevin Evoy, Holly Sammons (VOMPC)
Bronze: Marie Anne Curley (CFS), Bee Moua, Chan Xiong (Fresno Petanque Club)

NorCal Inter-regional "65 Over/Under" Triples August 7, 2016 (6 teams)
 Host: Club Francais de Sacramento
Gold: Reed Evans, Phominik Lee (CFS) Bee Moua (Fresno Petanque Club)
Silver: Kevin Evoy, Peter Wellington (VOMPC), Wolfie Kurz (PVPC)
Bronze: Pierre Bremont, Pao Ly, Paul Moua (Club Francais de Sacramento)

NorCal Inter-regional Men's Singles October 29, 2016 (18 players)
 Host: La Petanque Mariniere
Gold: Louis Toulon (La Petanque Mariniere)
Silver: Wolfie Kurz (Petaluma Valley Petanque Club)
Bronze: Peter Mathis (Valley of the Moon Petanque Club)

NorCal Inter-regional Women's Singles October 29, 2016 (8 players)
 Host: La Petanque Mariniere
Gold: Marie-Anne Curley (Club Francais de Sacramento)
Silver: Christine Cragg (La Petanque Mariniere)
Bronze: Holly Sammons (Valley of the Moon Petanque Club)



Gold medalists – Southeast Inter-regional Select Triples.

SOUTHEAST

SE Inter-regional Select Triples January 10, 2016 (16 teams)
 Host: Ohlala Petanque Association
Gold: Michel Boisvert, Gilles Lachance, Michel Robichaud (Miami PC)
Silver: Phoun Inmala, Bernard Martin Say Thakhavong (Ohlala PA)
Bronze: Eric Moutard, Boun Insixiangmai, Kack Khotpanya (Ohlala PA)

SE Inter-regional Men's Doubles (Qualifier) January 24, 2016 (24 teams)
 Host: South Florida Petanque Club
Gold: Jerome Nicolas, Stephan Nicolas (South Florida Petanque Club)
Silver: Alain Brunette, Bernard Martin (Ohlala Petanque Association)
Bronze: Leo Fleitas, José Polo (Miami Petanque Club)

SE Inter-regional Women's (Qualifier) Doubles January 24, 2016 (10 teams)
 Host: South Florida Petanque Club
Gold: Stacey Linh, Chrissy Lion (New York Petanque Club)
Silver: Rose Hronsky, Marieke Rolland (Miami Petanque Club)
Bronze: Francoise Lamarre, Hedy Latimer (South Florida Petanque Club)

SE Inter-regional Men's Singles February 21, 2016 (33 players)
 Host: Ohlala Petanque Association
Gold: Bernard Martin (Ohlala Petanque Association)
Silver: Pnoun Inmala (Ohlala Petanque Association)
Bronze: Daniel Smith (Boules de Leon)

SE Inter-regional Women's Singles February 21, 2016 (9 players)
 Host: Ohlala Petanque Association
Gold: Gina DeJoy (South Florida Petanque Club)
Silver: Shirley Jones (Carolina Petanque)
Bronze: Debby Barrie (Boules de Leon)

SE Inter-regional Men's Triples February 28, 2016 (12 teams)
 Host: South Florida Petanque Club
Gold: Michel Boisvert, Michel Robichaud (Miami Petanque Club), Elie Ohayon (South Florida Petanque Club)
Silver: Francis Cheru, Guy Labouyrie, Gerard Reuther (South Florida PC)
Bronze: Juan Garcia (Miami Petanque Club), Jerome Nicolas, Stephan Nicolas (South Florida Petanque Club)

SE Inter-regional Women's Triples February 28, 2016 (5 teams)
 Host: South Florida Petanque Club
Gold: Sergine Giroux, Francoise Lamarre, Hedy Latimer (South Florida PC)
Silver: Gina DeJoy (South Florida Petanque Club), Michelle Healy (San Antonio Petanque Club), Shannon Hodge (Zanesfield Petanque Club)
Bronze: Jo Ella Manalan (South Florida Petanque Club), Susan Shaw, Cynthia Stroud (Maine Boules Club)

SE Inter-regional Select Doubles March 20, 2016 (27 teams)
 Host: Ohlala Petanque Association
Gold: Jon Claessens, Phillippe Tripoul (Ohlala Petanque Association)
Silver: Michel Boisvert, Gilles Lachance (Miami Petanque Club)
Bronze: Gary Jones, Shirley Jones (Carolina Petanque)

SE Inter-regional Mixed Triples* December 4, 2016 (16 teams)
 Host: Boules de Leon
Gold: Greg Mack, Joni Mack, Gilles Milon (Ohlala Petanque Association)
Silver: Larry Creasy, Lori Creasy, Rich Iullicci (Boules de Leon)
Bronze: Gilles Canesse, Eric Moutard, Hajasoa Bosela (Manasota Boules Club)

Tournaments Results

MID-AMERICA

Mid-America Inter-regional Men's Doubles (Qualifier) May 7, 2016 (9 teams)
 Host: Zanesfield Petanque Club
Gold: Mohamad Boulahoual, Abderrahim El Hadi (Zanesfield Petanque Club)
Silver: Justin Bo Johns (Zanesfield PC), Jack Vijit (La Boule New Yorkaise)
Bronze: Khalid Bouamoud (Zanesfield PC), Khalid Mesbah (Carolina Petanque)

Mid-America Inter-regional Women's Doubles (Qualifier) May 7, 2016 (4 teams)
 Host: Zanesfield Petanque Club
Gold: Shirley Jones, Sue Wien (Carolina Petanque)
Silver: Bo Edwards (Carolina Petanque), Mollie Johns (Zanesfield Petanque Club)
Bronze: Juanita Celix (Seattle Petanque Club), Angela Gleason (Maine Boules Club)

NORTHEAST

NE Inter-regional Men's Doubles (Qualifier) April 30, 2016 (13 teams)
 Hosts: La Boule New Yorkaise and New York Petanque Club
Gold: Mark Greenberg, Philippe Menier (New York Petanque Club)
Silver: Ernesto Santos, Xavier Thibaud (La Boule New Yorkaise)
Bronze: Emile Boujeke (LBNY), Jean-Pierre Subrenat (New York Petanque Club)

NORTHWEST

Northwest Inter-regional Men's Doubles (Qualifier) April 17, 2016 (18 teams)
 Host: Portland Petanque Club
Gold: Dan Feaster (Port Townsend PA), Philippe Geraud (Seattle Petanque Club)
Silver: Shaughn McClurg, John Prince (Lake Oswego Petanque Club)
Bronze: Joe Cortright (Portland Petanque Club), Van Woolfe (Walla Walla PC)

Northwest Inter-regional Women's Doubles (Qualifier) April 17, 2016 (4 teams)
 Host: Portland Petanque Club
Gold: Rebekah Howe, Gerda Jorgenson (Port Townsend Petanque Alliance)
Silver: Celia Crittenden (Portland PC), Michelle Healy (San Antonio Petanque Club)
Bronze: Janet Kirtland, Barbara Kongsbak (Portland Petanque Club)

Northwest Inter-regional Juniors Select Doubles May 17&19, 2016 (6 teams)
 Host: Eugene Petanque International Club
Gold: Luke Gary, Jonathan Vankinkle (Eugene Petanque International Club)
Silver: Levi Gray, Anthony Stephano (Eugene Petanque International Club)
Bronze: Ramiz Rantisi, Sage Schauer (Eugene Petanque International Club)

Northwest Inter-regional Mixed Triples July 30, 2016 (16 teams)
 Host: Port Townsend Petanque Alliance
Gold: Mickey Coughlin, Nicole Coughlin (VOMPC), Dan Feaster (PTPA)
Silver: Neil Bastian, Pierre Brun, Denise Campbell (Portland Petanque Club)
Bronze: Michelle Martin, Mike Martin, Ron Shea (Edmonds Petanque Club)

Northwest Inter-regional Men's Triples July 31, 2016 (10 teams)
 Host: Port Townsend Petanque Alliance
Gold: Neil Bastian, Pierre Brun, Dick Viskov (Portland Petanque Club)
Silver: Greg Conyers, Lee Harris, John Hunt (Seattle Petanque Club)
Bronze: Pierre Agnesse, Scott Muir (Portland PC), David Johnstone (Lake Oswego PC)

Northwest Inter-regional Women's Triples July 31, 2016 (6 teams)
 Host: Port Townsend Petanque Alliance
Gold: Loli Jacobsen, Karen Crabb, Michelle Martin (Edmonds Petanque Club)
Silver: Linda Conyers (Seattle Petanque Club), Bekah Howe, Gerda Jorgensen (Port Townsend Petanque Alliance)
Bronze: Cherry Britton, Barbara Kongsbak (Portland Petanque Club), Chris Fadden (Port Townsend Petanque Alliance)

CENTRAL

Central Inter-regional Men's Doubles (Qualifier) April 30, 2016 (16 teams)
 Host: Heart of Texas Petanque Club
Gold: Arsene Dupin, Amine Najah (Heart of Texas Petanque Club)
Silver: Ed Porto (Petaluma Valley Petanque Club), Jim Schwobel (HOTPC)
Bronze: Richard Fernandez, Karim Moumouni (Dallas Petanque Club)

Central Inter-regional Women's Doubles (Qualifier) April 24, 2016 (4 teams)
 Host: Portland Petanque Club
Gold: Gina DeJoy (South Florida PC), Shannon Hodge (Zanesfield PC)
Silver: Marion Bermondry (HOTPC), Linda Schryver (Nelson Ranch PC)
Bronze: Amy Bienvenu (San Antonio PC), Jeanne-Marie Browning (Dallas PC)

NE Inter-regional Select Triples September 17, 2016 (12 teams)

Hosts: Philadelphia Petanque Club
Gold: Emile Boujeke, Philippe Hemery, Ti Meas (La Boule New Yorkaise)
Silver: Esat Alijaj, Rafik Blida, Joseph Hassoune (La Boule New Yorkaise)
Bronze: Loris Humbert Jean-Pierre Subrenat (NYPC), Pharide Roufai (Philadelphia PC)

SOUTHWEST

SW Inter-regional Men's Doubles (Qualifier) April 16, 2016 (10 teams)
 Host: Fresno Petanque Club
Gold: John Harris (Oakhurst Petanque Club), By Vang (Fresno Petanque Club)
Silver: Jer Thao, Paul Yang (Fresno Petanque Club)
Bronze: Mike Lee, Pao Ly (Club Francais de Sacramento)

SW Inter-regional Women's Doubles (Qualifier) April 16, 2016 (4 teams)
 Host: Fresno Petanque Club
Gold: Janice Bissonnette, May Yang (Fresno Petanque Club)
Silver: Tish Harris (Oakhurst PC), Teri Sirico (Petaluma Valley Petanque Club)
Bronze: Karen-Michele Bull (La Boule du Desert), Diana Jacobs (Oakhurst PC)

SW Inter-regional Select Triples April 17, 2016 (10 teams)
 Host: Fresno Petanque Club
Gold: John Harris (Oakhurst PC), By Vang, Fue Vang (Fresno Petanque Club)
Silver: Mark Greenberg, Scott Sheehan (NYPC), Anousone Khamnuengthai (CPSD)
Bronze: Mike Lee, Pao Ly (Club Francais de Sacramento), Chan Xiong (Fresno PC)

SW Inter-regional "65 Over/Under" Select Doubles September 18, 2016 (10 teams)
 Host: Fresno Petanque Club
Gold: John Harris, George Lewis (Oakhurst Petanque Club)
Silver: Patrick Bourrel, By Vang (Fresno Petanque Club)
Bronze: Michel Yang, Paul Yang (Fresno Petanque Club)



Bronze medalists – Northwest Inter-regional Women's Triples.

National Umpires Gary Jones and Joe Martin explain where the playing circle may be placed.

If you are a regular tournament participant, you might have observed some players exercising their 'creativity' in determining where to place the circle after an end is over. Despite a pretty clear rule on the matter (see box at lower right), some people do take liberties. Sometimes it is an unconscious act stemming from lax playing habits developed during casual play; other times it could be deliberately done in order to avoid, or to access, a preferred area of the terrain. And sometimes it could be just a 'gentleperson's agreement' among players to get some shade on a hot day, or to avoid a puddle on a rainy one.

The intent of the rule is to prohibit players from choosing an area of the terrain that may be beneficial to them. On a typical court at a tournament, this may not seem so important but could you imagine players in a final match walking from one end of double- or triple-wide court to the other to place a circle where they prefer? No, sorry, while petanque is an 'all-terrain' game, players cannot 'cherry-pick' where they play in any given end.

In the illustrations below, the jack ends up in about the middle of a marked-off court at the finish of an end. Let's say it's about 6 meters to the end line (out-of-bounds). In this case, the first section of the rule (placing the playing circle at the jack's position) is suspended so that a player may 'back up' the circle to allow for a full 10-meter jack placement. At the discretion of the player or team making the toss, the circle may be moved back to any distance up to, but not beyond, the maximum distance allowed: 11 meters (10 meters plus one meter distance to the out-of-bounds line). *Back up, yes, but, which way?*

The step-back must be in the line of play of the previous end – whether the line of play was parallel to the sidelines or on a diagonal (as in the examples below, #1 and #2 respectively). In some cases, as in example #3, following the line of play to achieve a longer distance would mean crossing into an adjacent court. Well, that can't be done, so it would be acceptable to follow the line of play up to the sideline, then proceed parallel to the sideline until a desired and legal distance is achieved.

While this may sound a bit complicated, it becomes second nature to the experienced player. So if a disagreement occurs over where a player places the circle it is usually because Article 7 suffers a bit from 'benign neglect' when learning the game during friendly, casual play.

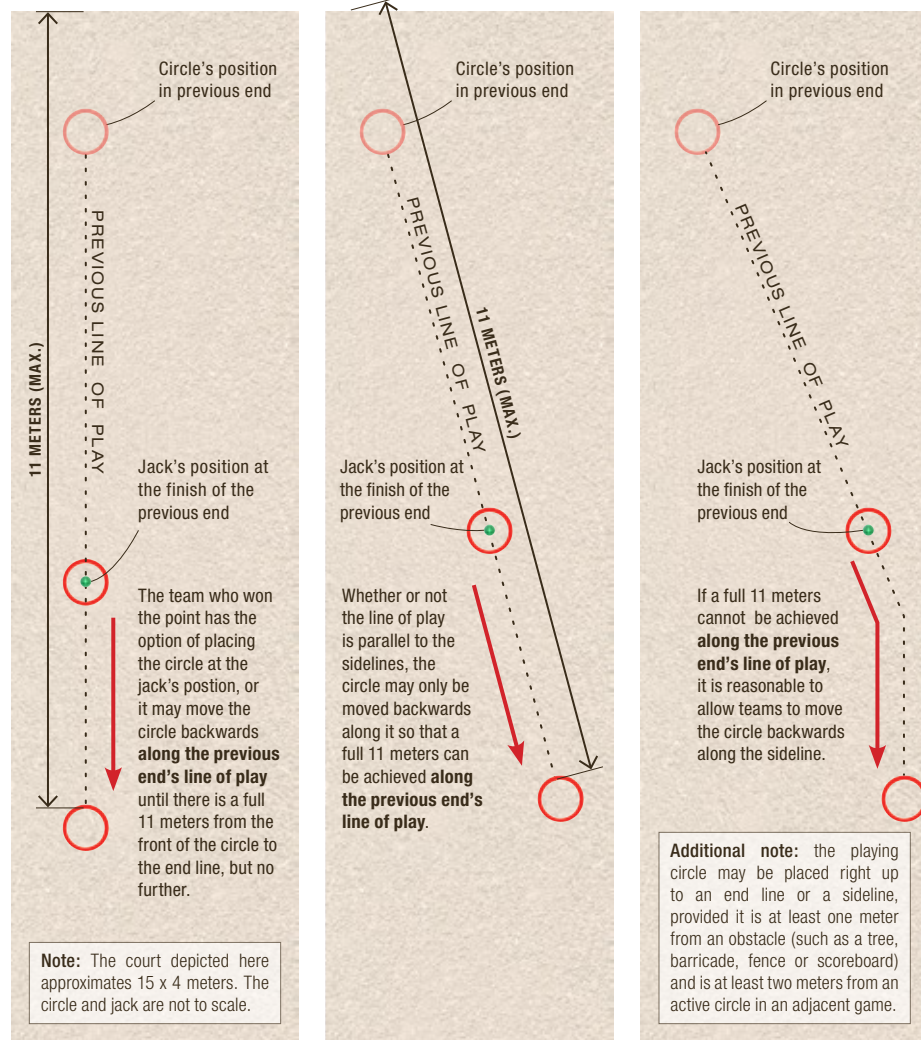
Editor's note: As of press time, FIPJP was considering a number of rule changes for 2017. FPUSA will issue revised rule books when available.

Article 7 — Jack Placement

From item (4):
For the following end, the jack is thrown from a circle drawn or placed around the point where it was at the completion of the previous end, except [if] the jack cannot be thrown out to all valid distances.

The player may step back, in line with the previous end's line of play, until he or she is able to throw the jack any valid distance up to, and not beyond, the maximum distance allowed. This may only be done if the jack cannot be thrown to the maximum distance in any other direction.

Additional note: the playing circle may be placed right up to an end line or a sideline, provided it is at least one meter from an obstacle (such as a tree, barricade, fence or scoreboard) and is at least two meters from an active circle in an adjacent game.



Example #1: The line of play was parallel to the sidelines.

Example #2: The line of play was on a diagonal.

Example #3: The line of play was on a more severe diagonal.

WATCH AND LEARN FROM THE PROS — ON YOUTUBE!

Undoubtedly an essential element to improving your game is to practice regularly. Playing with people who are at or above your skill level can also pay dividends in the long term. Tournament play is valuable as it provides opportunities to deal with in-game pressures that are not experienced in less formal games. And getting advice on technique and strategy from accomplished players can help to fast-track your development as a player.

In addition, new players can help themselves by adopting a few simple practices that require no advanced skills or techniques. All are there for the viewing on a variety of sites on the internet. While the skill level of the players depicted in championship videos is far above the average American player, watching them can provide some basic tips that can improve your performance — as well as your won/loss record! Here are three... *très simple!*

Tip #1: Take Your Time

Despite recent trends to establish time limits at some tournaments, petanque games, like those of baseball, tennis, cricket and other sports, are open-ended. Petanque rewards players who take their time, plan their next moves carefully — and slow their heartbeats down! Remember, there is no advantage to turning the circle over to your opponents quickly and absolutely nothing to be gained by rushing into a tactical mistake. Even in a timed game, each team has one minute to play the next boule.* But many players, whether in pick-up games at their club or in untimed games at tournaments, play their boule within 20 seconds, with some playing three in that span! *Not good.* Watch the big games and you will see: no one plays quickly.

Tip #2: Stand by Me – but not while I'm in the circle!

Have you ever seen a chess player play with his/her chin on the table? It sounds rather ridiculous. But how many players who you know stand behind or near the playing circle as the end progresses? (And how many ask: "Who has the point?")



By rule, opposing players may not stand anywhere between the circle and the jack, and must be two meters or more to the side of the line of play.

Many players learn the game in a social setting in which people congregate in a gregarious little group near the playing circle while they 'wait for their turn' to play. But in order to see the lay of the boules, assess game situations and choose an effective strategy, players should always stand near the jack when others are in the circle.

Who has the point?

These two photos of the same array of six boules demonstrate the limitations of assessing the game while standing in the playing circle. Visual foreshortening can trick the eye into thinking boules in line with the jack are closer than they really are.



Bump and nudge plays are better elucidated from a top-down perspective, as are the risks and rewards of taking a shot. Boules farther away from the main cluster can also be eyeballed or measured for potential plays and for possible implications later in the end.



A good player is an observant player. So, be smart, and stand where the pros stand: *alongside the jack!*

Tip #3: Walk the Walk

Do you have anything against a little exercise? Well then, put a few hundred steps on that *Fitbit*® each game you play and you will take much more control of your on-court fate. Walking to the jack helps you to see nuances in the playing surface and (see Item 1) helps to slow down your pace.



Approaching the jack as a team is a common practice among many of the better players.

It helps build team consensus so that everyone is "on the same page" before the next boule is played.

No matter what your skill level, tips like these and others that you can observe on the internet will help to improve your command of the game. So, stay tuned and learn from the best to improve your game.

* Note: per FPUSA regulations, the Tournament Director may reserve the right to reduce the 1-minute limit if the tournament is running behind schedule.

FEDERATION OF PETANQUE, USA

P.O. Box 180

Kenwood, CA 95452



Maine Boules Club members Uwe Langmesser and Mia Kanazawa share a moment during a friendly game in Blue Hill, Maine. Would it come as a surprise to know that Uwe plays with 80mm diameter boules and Mia with 70.5's? (The largest and smallest regulation sizes!)

Parting shot...

*by William Hansen,
Lamorinda Petanque Club*



Boules after the rain, Lafayette, California.