

Pétanque rules for newcomers

(Short description)

Pétanque (also called boules) comes from France and is a ball game similar to bocchia. Players try to throw bowls as near as possible to **the jack**.

The game is played with **metal bowls** which have a diameter of 70.5 to 80 mm and a weight of 650 to 800 grammes. **Two teams** play against each other:

3 against 3 (triplettes):	each player has 2 bowls
2 against 2 (doublettes):	each player has 3 bowls
1 against 1 (tête-à-tête):	each player has 3 bowls

A coin is tossed to decide which side goes first (they also choose the pitch and draw the starting circle).

The jack (cochonnet) is thrown at a distance of 6 to 10 metres from a circle of 35 to 50 cm diameter (it must be at least 1 metre away from the boundaries).

Both teams now try to place their bowls as near as possible to the jack. Opponents' bowls may be pushed away. When all the bowls have been played the players receive their score. The team that has a bowl nearest to the jack scores a point, and additional points are scored if two or more bowls are nearer the jack than those of the opponents.

Only one team can win an end (mène) and the same team then draws a new circle in a place roughly where the jack ended up in the previous game.

The game lasts, which can be between 40 to 50 minutes, until one of the teams has scored **13 points**.

The winning team thanks their opponents and invites the losing team for a drink at the bar where further discussions can take place.