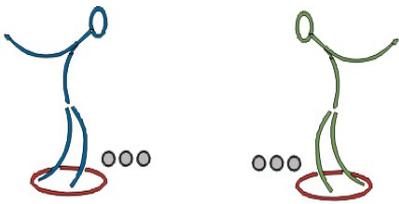


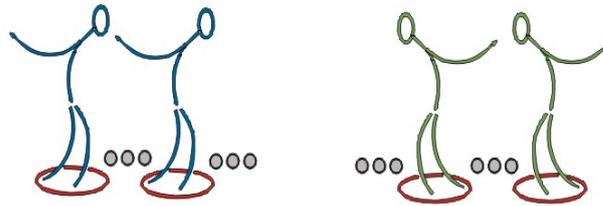
Basic Rules of Pétanque

Teams comprise of either

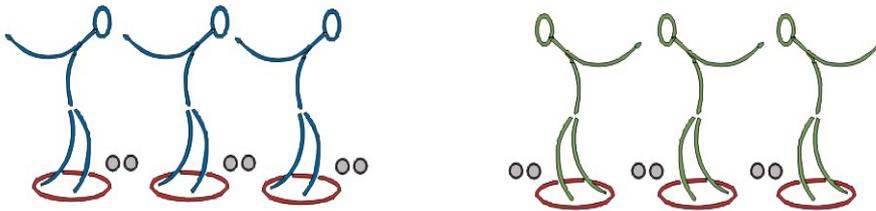
1 v 1 (3 boules per player);



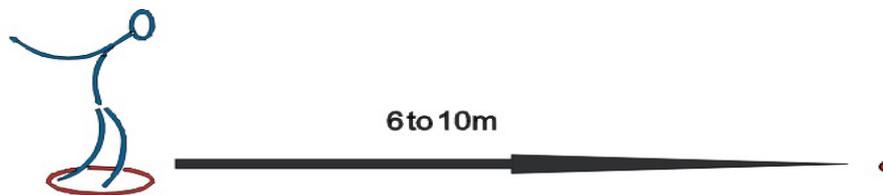
2 v 2 (3 boules per player);



or 3 v 3 (2 boules per player).

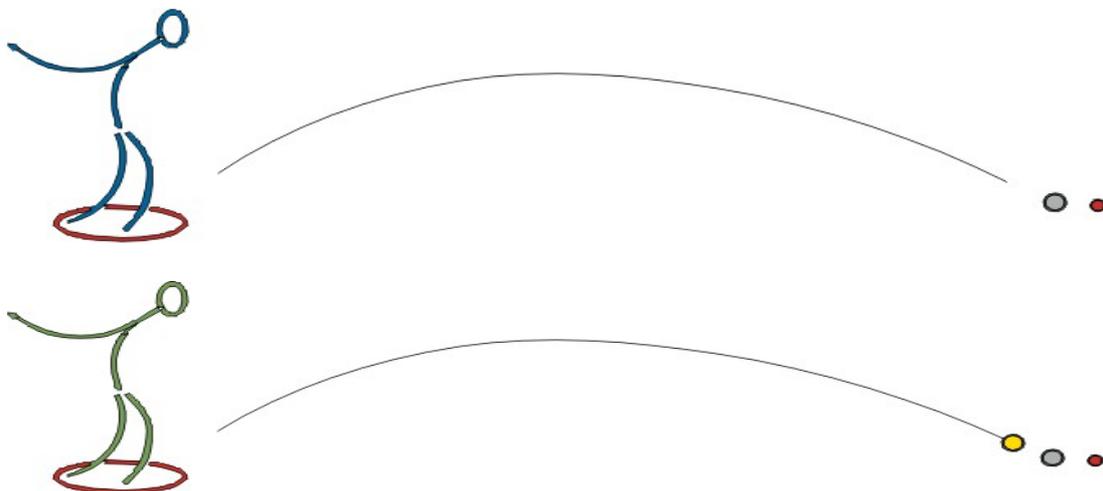


Teams flip a coin to see who starts then the starting team draws or places a circle on the ground between 30cm & 50cm diameter then throws the jack between 6m & 10m. The jack must be at least 1m from any obstacle.



The starting team then throws their first boule, trying to get as close as possible to the jack.

Then the 2nd team's player tries to get their boule closer to the jack than the opposing team. They can do this by rolling their boule, lobbing it or even shooting at the opposing team's boule moving it away.



If that team does get a boule closer than its opponents it's called "holding the point" and then the opposing team has to attempt to throw a boule closer.

The team which does not have the closest boule (to the jack) keeps throwing boules until either they are closest or they run out of boules to throw. Then the other team can play the rest of their boules. If you can't tell by eye which is nearer then you can measure with a tape to decide which boule is nearer.

The team which wins starts a new end, drawing or placing a circle around the position of the jack and uses that as the new throwing circle, usually playing back the way you came.

When all boules are thrown, only the boules of the one team that are closest to the jack (red) are added to the score. If team A is "holding the point" and has 2 of its 3 boules (grey) closest to the jack before then opposing team's boule (yellow) so Team A gets 2 points added to their score. You can keep score on a bowls hand scorer or clubs will often provide a scorer at the side of the terrain.



Teams continue to play until a team wins by reaching 13 points.

Players have different throwing styles. After some practice, a player can be a Pointer (one who can roll; throw; lob a boule close to the jack); a Shooter (one who is good at throwing or rolling a boule to hit an opponent's boule); or a Milieu (both a Pointer and a Shooter).

It is OK, after the initial throwing of the jack, that a boule can (while being played) move the jack to another position.

Boules are usually thrown with the palm down. This allows for use of some backspin (which helps to stop the boule from rolling too much on a smooth surface).

There can be different strategies used when playing Pétanque. Defensive "walls" of boules in front of the jack (for example) block an opponent from rolling in and "getting the point" or throwing the jack long if your opponents prefer it short.

There is a set of rules devised by the Federation Internationale de Pétanque et Jeu Provençal which apply to high level competitions. If you do play for your county or country you'll need to know these but for beginners basic rules will do.

If you meet a situation where you don't know what to do just ask.

Enjoy your game!