

PETÁNQUE

LA PETANCA

Although this game, considered as a sport, is very popular in our town, Petánque in its present form was invented in 1907 in the town of La Ciotat, near Marseilles.

As we know, many people from Callosa de Segura were forced to emigrate to France and other European countries, at the end of the 1950s, when Hemp production and manufacturing disappear overnight. People learned new customs and traditions from their neighbour country , France, and in this way Petánque became a popular game among Callosinos living & working in France. When they returned to their local town on holiday, they used to practice this game with some relatives and friends and little by little it was incorporated into Callosa de Segura traditions.

Petánque is a very popular game in our town and a local organisation has been created where some players have achieved important prizes in both national and international championships.

Boules Games have a very long history, dating back through the Middle Ages to Ancient Rome, and before that to Ancient Greece and Egypt.

The Ancient Greeks are recorded to have played a game of tossing coins, then flat stones, and later stone balls, called spheristics, trying to have them go as far as possible, as early as the 6th century BC.

The Ancient Romans modified the game by adding a target that had to be approached as closely as possible. This Roman variation was brought to Provence by Roman soldiers and sailors.



GOAL:

To score points by having *boules* (**balls**) closer to the *target* than your opponent, after all boules have been thrown. This is achieved by approaching *boules* to the *target* (also

called *cochonnet*, *bouchon* and in Spanish **boliche**), or by hitting the opponents' *boules* away from the *target*, while standing inside a circle with both feet on the ground.

WHAT YOU NEED:

- A set of Petánque boules (**balls**) made of metal with a diameter between 7.05 cm (minimum) and 8 cm. (maximum), weighing between 650 grams (minimum) and 800 grams (maximum).
- A *boliche*, which is a small wooden, colored ball, whose diameter must be between 25mm and 35mm. Another word for *boliche* is *bouchon* or *cochonnet*, which means "piglet".



TEAMS:

The game is always played by **two** teams: each team must have an equal number of players, ranging from 1 to 4 players. Each player plays with 2 to 3 *boules*. The maximum number of *boules* per team must never exceed 12. As a consequence, players in teams of 3 or 4 players must use only 2 *boules*.

PLAY AREA:

The Teams throw their *boules* in an open or closed rectangular play area, which is approximately 4 per 15 meters, delimited by an organizing committee or judge.



THROWING AREA:

Players throw their *boules* from within a circle (or half-circle) drawn on the ground, approximately 50 cm in diameter. As play proceeds, the location of this circle within the play area changes. All players must have their feet inside the circle when it is their turn to throw a *boule*. When it is not their turn, the other players should avoid interfering with each other's throws. You **must not** touch a *boule* once it has been thrown in the play area.



GAME:

- Each game begins by drawing a throwing circle.
- Then the *boliche* is thrown approximately 6 to 10 meters away from the circle. (For leisure activities, this rule may be bent to accommodate players' needs).
- The first player of Team A throws a *boule* as close to the *boliche* as possible; the boule may touch the boliche (indeed, that's ideal).
- The first player of Team B then throws a *boule*. Thereafter, which Team throws depends on which Team has the closest *boule* to the *boliche*: the Team that does **not** have the closest *boule* throws (and may have to throw several boules in a row), until either it places a *boule* closer to the *boliche* than a *boule* of the other Team, or until it runs out of *boules*.
- The order of players in a given Team does not matter, and a player may throw more than one *boule* in a row.
- The game ends when both Teams have run out of *boules*: The winning Team is the one with one or more *boules* closest to the *boliche*.

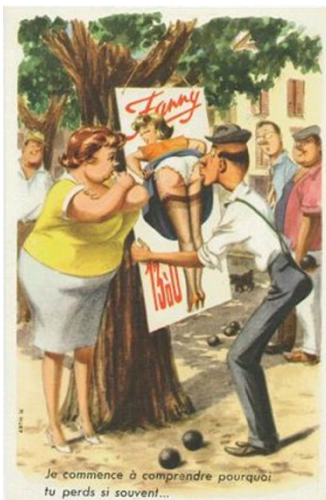
MATCH:

A match (or a *partie de boules*) consists of any number of games required to reach a target score, usually **13 points**. Points are determined as follows:

- For each game, the winning Team adds to its score the number of *boules* that are closer to the *boliche* than the closest opponent *boule*.
- If Team A's closest *boules* are 1 meter and 3 meters from the *boliche*, and Team B's closest *boule* is 5 meters from the *boliche*, Team A earns two points.
- When the 2 teams run out of *boules*, all the points are counted. The teams get points when their balls are as close to the *boliche* as possible.
- One of the players of the winner team throws the *boliche* from the point where he is and continues until one of the teams has reached 13 points.
- While in many cases, Teams can determine which *boule* is closest to the *boliche* without much argument, occasionally it becomes necessary to call upon the consensus-building talents of the participants. This usually takes the form of a measuring device or as informal as the length of a shoe

SPECIAL RULE:

- If the losing Team has scored zero points (i.e., the final score is 13 - 0), the players on the losing Team must do a "*baiser Fanny*", which means "kiss Fanny's ass". There are various ways to implement this rule: losers may be required to kiss a picture of Fanny (see image) or a little sculpture.



PÉTANQUE IS A GREAT LEISURE ACTIVITY AS

- The *boules* are not expensive and last a lifetime;
- Little or no special preparation is needed for the playing surface;
- You can play almost anytime, wind ok, umbrella ok
- Everything you need to play fits into a small box;
- No great strength or athleticism is required;
- People of all ages and gender can compete on an equal basis;
- The rules and strategy of the game are easy to learn;
- Pétanque is a wonderful centerpiece for more general social activity such as picnics, camping trips, or family outings. In French villages, the place where pétanque is played is often central and an important discussion and meeting place.