

THE SELECTION PROCEDURE FOR THE SOUTHERN COUNTIES

SENIOR SQUAD FOR THE INTER-REGIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS

1. The Regional Qualifying Series will consist of two separate Preliminary Rounds each played according to the Swiss System Format, but where winners play winners and losers play losers irrespective of points differential. Each separate days play will start with a random draw for the first round.

The Qualifying rounds will be followed by a Masters Final between the top twelve teams and will be played on two consecutive days using a round robin format. The top eight teams will form the Main Regional squad; the remaining four teams will form the team for the Challenge competition.

If at any time additional teams, whether Adult or Junior are requested by the EPA organising committee, these teams will be selected in positional order or at the discretion of the playing committee.

2. Team Strip: It is preferable for all teams taking part in the preliminary rounds to have a team strip, but this is not essential. Those who qualify for the Masters Final must have matching tops – Polo shirts, sweatshirts or equivalent, these must be worn for the duration of play, but teams may wear an alternative matching strip for the second days play. Any team not complying with the above during the Masters Finals will be fined £15.00 per team (£20 if a team of 4).
3. Licences: EPA licences must be produced at the first qualifying round for those team members present and on the first day of the masters final. If a fourth member is not registered at the first days play he/she must produce their licence at the first stage that they play in, failure to do so will resulting a £5.00 fine being levied.

REMEMBER the umpire can ask to see your licence at any time, and an opponent, before play starts (Rule 3. The Official Rules of the Game of Petanque)

The signature of the team captain on the team sheet at registration confirms acceptance of all conditions and competition rules by members of the team.

4. The Regional Qualifying Series is played as a triple that may be selected from a team of four at all stages. The fourth players need not be registered or play until the Masters stage.

If the team only uses three players throughout the qualifying series then at least two of the team must be available to play at the Inter-Regional Competition. The use of a substitute player or the introduction of a 4th player for the Inter-Regional must be agreed by the Playing Committee. If two or more players are unavailable then that team will be replaced.

If a team uses four players during the qualifying series then at least three of that team must be available to play at the Inter-Regional Competition. The Playing Committee must agree the use of a substitute 4th player. Should two members of a four-player team not be available then the playing committee will have the right to select any suitable substitute or to replace the whole team.

Any replacement team shall be selected by the playing committee from the next non-qualifying teams (as appropriate) in descending order, subject to the team being available as specified above. Should none of these teams be available the Playing Committee can, at their sole discretion, select complete teams or any individual to ensure the strength of the squad. The playing order of the regional squads will then be adjusted as deemed necessary by the playing committee to take account of the replacement team.

"The purpose of the qualifying series is to find the strongest squad to play for the region. Teams are asked to act in the interests of the region at all times."

4a The playing committee will select the team managers.

5 In the event of a tie after the two preliminary rounds then precedence will be established by:

- a) Games won
- b) Points difference
- c) Points for

If after applying the above there is still a tie then:

- d) A play off, consisting of one game to thirteen points.

6 Rank in the Regional Squad will be determined by the final positions achieved in the Masters Finals, although the playing committee shall be empowered to amend the playing order of the squad. The Chairman of the playing committee will notify any team affected

In the event of a team not arriving at the venue for the Inter-Regional Competition then the Team Manager shall take whatever action is deemed necessary to ensure that the squad is at full strength.

7. The Playing Committee shall comprise of the Competitions Secretary, Regional Coach, Regional Umpire and the League Fixtures Secretary. The Chairman shall be the Competitions Secretary who in the event of a tied vote shall a casting vote. The Junior Coach may be co-opted onto the Playing Committee for the sole purpose of selecting the junior team.

8. If a team is unable to play in the Regional Masters Competition by reason of International Duty, then the team members should be eligible for selection and would be ratified by the Playing Committee - with the proviso that the team qualifies for the last twelve. In the event that this rule needs to be applied the thirteenth team from the Preliminary rounds will play at the Masters Final to alleviate a bye in each round, but only the top seven teams will go forward into the main squad.

9. Those teams qualifying for the Inter-Regional Squad are responsible for ensuring that all its members have transport to and accommodation at the Championship venue. All players must register with IOW Tours and should contact IOW Tours to arrange accommodation. The contact telephone number and reference will be available from the SCPA website.

10. They are also responsible for the team strip loaned to them for the competition, which should be returned clean, bagged and clearly labelled saying who is returning it, or alternatively it may be purchased. The SCPA will ensure that where necessary appropriate arrangements will be made for the junior team.