



EPA Cup Competition

The EPA Cup Competition is a competition to find:-

- (a) the top 4 Club teams who will then play off in a Final (article 7), to decide who will represent the EPA at the Confédération de Européenne Pétanque (CEP) 2017 EuroCup and
- (b) the best club from those who do not qualify for the EuroCup qualification final, to be awarded the EPA Cup for 2017

1. Entry

- 1.1 All Clubs registered with the EPA will be invited to register one or two teams for the tournament. The winning Club progressing through to the European stage must be registered with the EPA for the calendar year of the European Championship
- 1.2 Each Club is allowed to enter one or two teams.

2. Players

- 2.1 All players must hold a valid EPA licence registered with the Club they are representing, signed by the player and not defaced in any way. Players taking part in the Round 4 groups or subsequently must hold a valid EPA Licence complete with a recent photograph or a temporary licence accompanied by suitable photographic I.D.
- 2.2 The Players (male and female) of the same club taking part in the Round 4 groups or subsequently must be clothed in matching strip with the badge or logo of the club they represent on the front of their shirt.
- 2.3 Players can only play for one Club during the Tournament.
- 2.4 Any Club fielding a player(s) other than the EPA members registered to their Club will be penalised by forfeiting all games in which that player(s) took part.

3. Structure

- 3.1 The Draw will be conducted under the direction of the EPA Playing Commission.

- 3.2 Each Club will be drawn into a knockout grid for the first 3 rounds.
- 3.3 Rounds 1, 2 & 3 will be drawn (where possible) geographically so as to limit the travel requirements. Fixtures in round 1 will be confined to clubs within the same region. Rounds 2 & 3 will be played on the same day and at the same venue in groups of 4 on dates and at venues fixed by the EPA Cup competition organiser.
- 3.4 The finalists in the EPA Cup Competition in 2015/2016 will be seeded and will receive byes in rounds 1 to 3.
- 3.5 Round 4 onwards will be re-drawn nationally.
- 3.6 In Round 4 the 16 Clubs will be drawn randomly into one of 4 groups each consisting of 4 Clubs. The seeded clubs will be placed into separate groups.
- 3.7 The required dates by which each round must be completed are:
 - Round 1 – September 30th 2016
 - Rounds 2 & 3 - October 2016 (dates to be confirmed)
 - Round 4 Group Heats – November 2016 (dates to be confirmed)
- 3.8 The EuroCup qualification Finals day will be held at a suitable venue in March 2017 after which the overall winner will be invited to represent the EPA at the CEP 2017 tournament.
- 3.9 The EPA Cup final will be held at a suitable venue in March 2017.

4. Matches

- 4.1 For the first round the “Home” Club Team is responsible for liaising with their opponents and agreeing a mutual convenient time and date to play. In the event of Clubs not being able to agree a date the EPA Playing Commission will arbitrate, their decision will be without appeal.
- 4.2 Rounds 2 & 3 will be played on dates and at venues fixed by the EPA Cup Competition Organiser.
- 4.3 In the event of a Club Team withdrawing or declining to play then their opponents will win by a walkover.
- 4.4 For the first 3 rounds the matches will be self-governed by the Clubs and it is the responsibility of the Club Team Captains to ensure that their team members hold valid EPA licences for their Club. However the Umpire’s Commission may appoint an umpire for any match in the competition.
- 4.5 The Host Club is responsible for the organisation on the day and the designated “Home Club Team” captain is responsible for submitting the

match results online on the EPA website within 7 days but each Club Team Captain is responsible for ensuring that the correct details are on the scorecard before they sign it. The Home Club Team Captain should retain the signed scorecards in case of query.

- 4.6 For Round 4 and subsequent stages the Umpire's Commission will appoint an umpire.
- 4.7 For Round 4 and subsequent stages the EPA Playing Commission will appoint an Organiser and decide the venues and dates.

5. Form of Play

- 5.1 This EPA event is played according to the format of the EuroCup established by the CEP.
- 5.2 Each Club Team can enter a squad of six, seven or eight players for each match. In a squad of six, at least one player must be of the opposite gender to the remainder of the team. In a squad of seven or eight, at least two players must be of the opposite gender to the remainder of the team. The Club Teams form into one (1) open triple, one (1) mixed triple, two (2) open doubles and one (1) mixed double.
 - 5.3 Each match will consist of five games played over two rounds:-
 - Round 1 - Triples – two games (one Mixed & one Open)
 - Round 2 - Doubles – three games (one Mixed & two Open)
- 5.4 In Round 1 the two triple games will be played simultaneously, with the corresponding team combinations competing i.e. Open v Open and Mixed v Mixed.
- 5.5 In Round 2 the three doubles games will be played simultaneously, with the corresponding team combinations competing i.e. Open 1 v Open 1, Open 2 v Open 2 and Mixed v Mixed.
- 5.6 Players may not be changed during a game.
- 5.7 The Club Team is awarded 1 Game Point for each game won. Each Club Team Match may therefore end in 5-0, 4-1, or 3-2.

6. Round 4

- 6.1 The 12 Club Teams qualifying to Round 4 will be allocated to one of 4 groups as determined by a random draw. The 4 seeded clubs will each be allocated to a different group by a random draw. Each group will consist of 4 Clubs.
- 6.2 The playing format will be round robin.
- 6.3 The form of play will be consistent with that of 5.2 to 5.7 above.
- 6.4 Club teams will be awarded 1 Match point for each match won.

6.5 The Winner and Runner-Up of each group will be decided according to the number of match points scored

6.6 In the event of a tie the following formula will be applied to decide the result:-

- The number of game points
- Points difference
- The number of game points between the tied clubs

6.7 The winners of each group will qualify to take part in the EuroCup qualification final and the runners-up in each group will qualify to take part in the EPA Cup final.

7. EuroCup Qualification Final

7.1 The EuroCup Qualification Final will be between the top 4 Club Teams from the EPA Cup Competition as determined in accordance with article 6.7.

7.2 Each club will play against each other in a Round Robin format.

7.3 The form of play will be consistent with that of 5.2 to 5.7 above.

7.4 The club with most match points will be the overall winner.

7.5 In the event of a tie the result will be decided according to the formula set out in article 6.6 above.

8. EPA Cup Final

8.1 The EPA Cup Final will be between the runners up in each round 4 groups determined in accordance with article 6.7.

8.2 Each club team will play against each other in a round robin format.

8.3 The form of play will be consistent with that of 5.2 to 5.7 above. The club team winning each Club Team vs Club Team match is awarded 1 match point.

8.4 Placings will be decided according to the number of match points scored. In the event of a tie the result will be decided according to the formula set out in article 6.6

9. Conventions

9.1 Clubs are responsible for their own travelling costs.

9.2 Host Clubs will provide refreshments as appropriate; refreshments can vary depending on facilities. Hosts need to ensure that their visitors know what the refreshment arrangements are and of any costs.

9.3 If Clubs travelling long distances need overnight accommodation, host Clubs should do all they can to facilitate arrangements.

10. Rules

10.1 All games will be subject to the Official Rules of the Game of Pétanque and EPA Competition Rules of which these form a part.