



2019 National Playing Programme

1. Senior Men's and Women's National Playing Programme 2019

1.1 The following national competitions will form the PE National Rankings:

- **Ranking Triples – 11th May 2019** (venue tbc);
- **National Singles – 25th May 2019** (Gravesend) – finds PE National Singles Champions (Men & Women);
- **National Doubles – 26th May 2019** (Gravesend) – finds PE National Doubles Champions (Men and Women);
- **Rankings Triples – 16th June 2019** (venue tbc);
- **Rankings Doubles – 29th June 2019** (venue tbc);
- **National Triples – 30th June 2019** (venue tbc – **Change for 2019:** the winners of this event will be the PE Men's and Women's National Triples Champions 2019 – a title which we do not have at present).

1.2 National Team requirements and objectives 2019:

- **Women** – FIPJP World Triples Championships (4 players), Phnom Penh, Cambodia, 8 – 11 November 2019.
Primary Objective: Quarter Final of World Championships.
- **Men** – CEP European Triples Championships (4 players), Albena, Bulgaria, 19 – 22 September 2019.
Primary objective – Qualification for Championship after preliminary stages (Swiss/barrage); and
Secondary objective - top 24 placing to qualify England for FIPJP World Championships 2020).

1.3 Underlying principles of Men's and Women's National Playing Programme 2019:

- **Change for 2019:** precision shooting removed from the National Rankings to place emphasis on competitive play in principal playing formats of the sport;
- **Change for 2019:** Extra Triples competition introduced, replacing one of the Singles competitions carried out in 2018 to apply increased weight of Rankings towards Triples (the only format for which we are selecting in 2019). This changes the proportion of Triples competitions from 2/7 in 2018 to 3/6 in 2019;
- Although more weighted to Triples, programme still works on principle of giving opportunity to players to demonstrate skills/performance in three formats;
- All competitions count;
- No restriction on who plays with who in any competition. Triples teams can only enter as a three;
- Allocation of rankings points same as used in 2018 (and described in the 2019 National Competition Rules);
- **Change for 2019:** Members of Selection Panel with extra assessors as required present at all competitions – agreed assessment system used (stats/video). No-one on panel can compete in competitions;
- Preference expressed to PE Events Group (responsible for organisation/delivery of national competitions) for technical pitches consistent with those encountered at international tournaments but reliant on availability of and sufficient capacity at venues;
- Playing format in each competition dependent on entries but default approach will be the same as used in 2018 (poules/knockout). Continued use of seedings at the poule stages in all tournaments as set out in the 2019 National Competition Rules but (**Change for 2019**) restricted to only one seed per poule (unless number of entries demand larger poules);
- **Change for 2019:** Only top 6 ranked players in each gender category will be considered for national representation at the respective CEP and FIPJP championships. PE's approved selection criteria (see separate document updated for 2019) will be used by the Selection Panel in formulating a recommendation to the National Performance Panel on the selection of the four players for each of the teams;

- **Change for 2019:** The final selection process allows for all members of the National Performance Panel to review the Selection Panel's recommendation by inviting the Top 6 players to attend an interview after the conclusion of the programme in early July. This gives the opportunity to players to give their input and respond to key matters directly to the National Performance Panel prior to the confirmation of the final selection decision;
- **Future expected change:** PE currently in the planning stages of introducing Squad System for Men and Women to apply in 2020. The emerging plan is to use the rankings points achieved in both 2018 and 2019 in reaching a decision on 2019/20 Squads selection (details on operation of this to follow and will be made publicly available by end of April 2019). Players should bear this in mind now in planning their involvement in the national competitions, but final confirmation will be in place prior to the commencement of the National Playing Programme.

2. Veterans (+55) Playing Programme 2019

2.1 The aggregate results (and ranking points achieved by individual players) in the following national competitions will form the National Veterans Rankings 2019:

- **Veterans Triples Rankings 1 – Saturday May 18th** (venue tbc);
- **Veterans Triples Rankings 2 – Saturday June 1st** (venue tbc); and
- **National Veterans Triples – Saturday June 22nd** (venue tbc - the winners of this event will be the PE Veterans' National Triples Champions 2019 – a title which we do not have at present).

2.2 National Team requirements and objectives 2019:

- CEP European Veterans Triples Championships (4 players), Albena, Bulgaria, 16 – 18 September 2019.

Primary Objective: Quarter Final of European Championships.

2.3 Underlying principles of domestic playing programme:

- **Change for 2019:** Three separate triples competitions on different days with teams being restricted to playing as a three (2017 involved a single day's qualifier with teams only allowed to play as a four). No restriction on who plays with who in any of the three competitions;

- The format of these competitions will be decided once final entries are confirmed for each one, but default position will be poules/knockout;
- No seeding of poules will be used in the Triples Rankings 1 as PE does not possess sufficient data. Seeding of the poules in The Triples Rankings 2 and the National Veterans Triples will be based on the ranking positions of players after Triples Ranking 1 and 2. Seeding will be restricted to only one seed per poule (unless number of entries demand larger poules. Knockout will be seeded depending on the results of the poules;
- Points will be allocated in the same way as the National Rankings and this will identify the top ranked players;
- The Top 3 ranked players will be invited to represent England at the CEP Veterans Championship;
- The fourth player in the team will be the subject of a selection recommendation made by the Lead Member and assistants and subject to NPP review;
- The NPP's approved selection criteria will be used in reaching a recommendation on the selection of the 4th player and in particular a careful analysis of the strengths of individual players and how they could meet a particular weakness or deficit in the team will be undertaken;
- Consultation by the Lead Member will be undertaken with the Top 3 ranked players in reaching a recommendation and their views will be reported to the NPP as part of the selection review process; and
- Only players ranked 4 to 6 in the Veterans Rankings will be considered for the 4th position in the team and the Lead Member will take the necessary steps to ensure that appropriate assessments will be made of players at the three competitions.

3. Precision Shooting

- 5.1 As discussed above, the Precision Shooting tournament (Rankings) which featured in 2018 is removed from the overall Rankings.
- 5.2 Precision Shooting in the World Championships for both genders will be considered as part of the team selection needs and using any relevant performance data collected during 2019.

- 5.3 The objective will be for the relevant Lead Member to make the recommendations on the player to compete at the relevant FIPJP and CEP tournament at least one month prior to the tournament concerned to allow for preparation/training. This recommendation will be subject to NPP review.
- 5.4 The PE National Precision Shooting Title is proposed to be contested at the inter-regional championships at Hayling from regional champions only.

NOTE

This National Playing Programme is a summary of the approach being followed to assist PE members. It should be read in conjunction with the 2019 National Playing Rules and National Selection Criteria (both documents available on the PE website) which all players competing in PE National Competitions are recommended to review before participation.

Any queries regarding the programme should be directed in the first instance to vp@englishpetanque.org.uk