

Please find listed below and attached the motions received by the prescribed time for the EPA Congress of County Regions 2009.

Unfortunately 2 motions are not in line with the constitution and therefore will not be add to the agenda, below is a summary of the motions and their status.

<b>Motion</b>	<b>Proposed By</b>	<b>Status</b>
1. Schools Cup	EPA	Accepted
2. Competition Organisers	EPA	Accepted
3. Playing	East Midlands	Accepted
4. Playing Matters	Chiltern	Accepted
5. Working Groups	Chiltern	Accepted
6. Creating a Piste Register	Chiltern	Accepted
7. Grass Roots Development	Chiltern	Accepted
8. Tiered Licensing	Chiltern	Accepted
9. Constitution Amendment Art. 5.4.6	Chiltern	Not accepted The Congress of Regions does not have the authority to consider, authorise or support changes to the EPA's Constitution.
10. Constitution Amendment Art. 11 - Discipline	Kent	Not accepted The Congress of Regions does not have the authority to consider, authorise or support changes to the EPA's Constitution.
11. Discipline Procedures	Kent	Accepted

### **Motion 1 – Schools Cup and Affiliation**

After reviewing the current situation and taking into consideration which regions successfully promoted schools affiliation and the number of schools that affiliate to the EPA proposes that the following changes are made to schools affiliation.

1. To change the responsibility of Schools Affiliation from the EPA as a National body to our County Regions the same as our clubs affiliate.
2. To monitor Schools Affiliation by way of quarterly reports from the County Regions to the EPA National Coach and or YDO.
3. To re-launch the Schools Cup, in 2010 as a “National Schools Competition” held at a central location to our membership perhaps at a school or related venue.

Proposed by the Management Committee

### **EPA Motion 2 – Competition Organizers.**

The EPA proposes to recruit and train a number of regionally based ‘National’ Competition who under the authority of the Director of Playing will be appointed to run EPA National Events.

Proposed by the Management Committee

### **Motion 3 – Playing (East Midlands)**

It was decided that the present format was not encouraging teams to play in the qualifiers. At the moment it is a 2 year qualifying process to get into the International qualifying places, apart from the Home Nations.

The proposal from the EMPA is as follows:

1. There should be 3 open qualifying rounds to be played around the country. Only 1 venue available on each of the 3 days.
2. These 3 rounds to be played as leagues and knock-out seeded after the 1<sup>st</sup> round for the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> qualifying rounds. The choice of venues should take into consideration different terrains and also venues which are likely to attract more teams.
3. The top 8 teams after 3 rounds to play off with a seeded rolling barrage competition over a further 2 rounds.
4. There would be 2 further qualifying rounds for any other team.
5. The top team from the last 8 would be invited to play in the World or European Championships the next 3 to get invitations to foreign international competitions. The next 4 to play 1-4 at the Home Nations.
6. The top 4 from the other qualifying rounds to play 5-8 at the Home Nations.

#### Finance

Our current estimate for the income to the EPA for the present events charged at £30 per team is £4230. Our suggestion of charging £24 is based on the estimated entries for our proposed system of:

Round 1 35 teams

Round 2 30 teams

Rounds 3-6 25 teams

This would bring an income of £3960.

The cut in entry fees and the new format is designed to bring back teams who have entered the Grand Prix series before and encourage new teams to enter.

Proposed East Midlands Region

## **Motions 4 Playing Matters (Chiltern)**

### World Championship and/or European Championships

Streamline the national series - by either minimising the number of juniors/ladies/espoirs/ over 55s tournaments or playing some at the same time.

As the FIPJP structure is now segregating Male and female players. Single sex qualifiers can be held on same day at the same venue freeing up calendar.

Move to a system where we play 2 - 3 qualifying Grand Prix. The Top 8 from those tournaments then play 2 – 3 tournaments (at different) to select top 8. The precise number of tournaments to be decided at the Congress / AGM. Once a team has qualified for worlds/European's a coach/team manager is allocated to them to monitor their performance and arrange for them to play in top competitions. The remaining teams from the Top 8 are offered coaching opportunities to play abroad.

The top 2 from the top 8 would go straight into the following year's top 8, should they wish to.

### Nationwide Opens

The EPA to work with the regions to establish a national series of Opens (with cash prizes). Aim to establish an umbrella sponsors for the series and a sponsor for each Open.

This series to form the basis of the "EPA Masters" with a suitable reward for winning.

### Home Nations

1 day qualifier at central location. This qualification is separate to world or European qualifiers. Each team that qualifies can claim up to £80 per team in expenses against accommodation or travel.

### Champion of Champion

Only regional winners and runners up are eligible to play in this event. No regions to schedule regional tournaments that clash with the C of C. Reward to be offered to the winners (eg entry to EPA Open).

Proposed by the Chiltern Region

## **Motions 5 - Working Groups**

For the EPA to form, as part of its structure, a series of Working Groups (virtual if necessary), drawing on the expertise available in the regions.

These groups are to tackle ALL areas of the sport for example

- Finances / fund raising
- coaching and team managers
- juniors
- espoirs
- senior representation
- venues

The aim of these groups is to concentrate on improving the sport in their given section. They will work closely with all regions sharing ideas and structures. These groups will work with the national coach, YDO etc but will take on a lot of the pressure and work load.

Proposed by the Chiltern Region

## **Motion 6 - Creating a Piste Register**

For the EPA to create a register of pistes for national competitions (to be administered by the umpiring community) - in terms of size and difficulty (with the EPA laying down some guidelines).

Long term aim would see us start to work together (regions/EPA) to develop pistes of the right standard, but we have to document what we have first.

Proposed by the Chiltern Region

### **Motion 7 - Grass Roots Development**

For the EPA to work with the regions to generate and implement a strategy for the development of grass roots boules in the country. Such a strategy to encompass youth development, shared learning, promotional activities and "grass roots" competitions.

This would be a mixture of freeing up the calendar (see above) to allow the local opens to begin flourishing again, advertising campaigns, school initiatives etc. Basically, for the EPA to offer a proposition to players no matter at what level they play.

Proposed by the Chiltern Region

### **Motion 8 - Tiered Licensing**

For the EPA to conduct a feasibility study in implementing a tiered licensing (eg 3 tiers for club, regional, national) with the bottom level being (eg) £5). The study would look at the feasibility in terms of how this will affect membership and (importantly) income needs and report back to Congress next year.

The aim of this would be to tap into the vast unlicensed swathe of players. Get them into the structure, offer coaching and help them develop. We could then start to run competitions by license type (as well as Opens) which would create a progression.

Proposed by the Chiltern Region

### **Motion 9 - Amendment to the Constitution**

Amendment to Clause 5.4.6

Add ", subject to any amendments as may be agreed at the AGM" to the end of the last sentence.

Proposed by the Chiltern Region

### **Motion 10 – Amendment to Constitution**

#### **Proposed Amendment to the Constitution**

The existing Article 11 to be replaced with the following:-

- **Discipline**

- **Introduction**

This Disciplinary Code forms part of the terms and conditions of membership of the EPA. It also forms part of the terms and conditions of participation in tournaments, competitions and other events organised and /or sanctioned by the EPA or in which the member is representing the EPA.

- **Conduct**

Each member, player and official is responsible and accountable for his own conduct in connection with the sport of pétanque. They must conduct themselves at all times in accordance with the highest standards of disciplined and sporting behaviour. Any conduct that falls below these standards and that harms or undermines the sport of pétanque in any way shall constitute a Disciplinary Offence under this code.

- **Commencement of Disciplinary Proceedings**

Any act or omission by any member, player and / or official that constitutes or is capable of constituting a Disciplinary Offence shall in the first instance be considered by the National Umpire of the EPA, acting either on his own motion or on referral or complaint from a third party. The National Umpire shall undertake such investigations as he may deem necessary, and every member, player and / or official (whether or not they are the subject of the complaint) shall be obliged to co-operate with such investigations. A failure to cooperate with such investigations may itself constitute a Disciplinary Offence under this code. If the National Umpire decides to charge a person with a Disciplinary Offence under this code, then he shall send a report to the Chairman of the Disciplinary Panel together with all the relevant evidence.

- **Composition of the Disciplinary Committee**

The disciplinary panel shall comprise a chairman and not less than 4 other members elected at the AGM in accordance with article 7.1.5. The Chairman shall not be a member of the MC. The MC may appoint one or more EPA members of suitable standing to fill any vacancies should the number of panel members fall below 5. For the avoidance of doubt, with the exception of the National Umpire, members of the MC may be members of the Disciplinary Panel. When the Chairman of the Disciplinary Panel receives a complaint from the National Umpire, the Chairman shall convene a three-person Disciplinary Committee from the members of the Disciplinary Panel to hear the complaint. No person with a close interest in the matters that are the subject of the complaint may sit on the disciplinary Committee hearing the complaint.

- **Proceedings of the Disciplinary Committee**

The Proceedings of the Disciplinary Committee shall be in accordance with The Disciplinary Committee Procedures as approved by the AGM from time to time.

- **Appeal**

Either the Defendant or the National Umpire may appeal against any aspect of the decision of the Disciplinary Committee. Such appeal shall be resolved by Arbitration in London by and in accordance with the rules of the Sport Dispute Resolution Panel. Notice of the appeal, including a copy of the decision being appealed against, a specification of the particular aspect(s) of the decision being appealed against, and a statement of the full grounds on which the appeal is based must be filed with the Sports Dispute Resolution Panel, with a copy being served on the MC, within twenty one days of the date of the written decision.

Proposed by Kent Region

### **Motion 11 – Proposal for Disciplinary Procedures**

1. Once the Disciplinary Committee has been convened, its chairman shall send a written notice to the National Umpire and the defendant
  - (a) identifying the members of the Disciplinary Committee
  - (b) detailing the complaint which the defendant must answer
  - (c) specifying a venue, date and time at which attendance is required for a hearing of the complaint
  - (d) specifying a deadline by which any challenges to its composition must be made
  - (e) specifying a deadline by which requests for the attendance of witnesses should be made.
  - (f) specifying a deadline by which the defendant must submit a written reply to the complaint and any other evidence upon which he intends to rely in his defence

The notice to the defendant shall be accompanied by all of the evidence on which the charge(s) are based.

2. If either the National Umpire or the defendant requests attendance of any of the witnesses the chairman of the disciplinary committee shall send a notice to the witness requiring his or her attendance at the hearing.
3. If a member of a Disciplinary Committee is unable or unwilling for whatever reason to hear the complaint, then the Chairman of the Disciplinary Panel may at his absolute discretion appoint another member of the Disciplinary Panel as a replacement or appoint a new Disciplinary Committee
4. The defendant may attend the Disciplinary Committee for a hearing of the complaint. For the avoidance of doubt however, provided that due notice of the hearing has been given, if the defendant fails to attend, the hearing may proceed in his absence.
5. The procedures applicable in respect of the hearing before the Disciplinary Committee shall be determined by the Disciplinary Committee as it shall see fit, provided always that such procedures shall be consistent with the requirements of fairness. The procedures shall be advised to the parties at the beginning of the hearing, and the parties shall be entitled to propose amendments to the procedures in the particular circumstances of that case.

6. It is hereby acknowledged that requirements of fairness are not fixed, but depend for their content on the particular facts and circumstances of the case in question. Nevertheless, they shall usually include at a minimum the following:
  - 6.1 The defendant shall be entitled to be accompanied at the hearing by a person of his choice who may speak on behalf of the defendant. The defendant and his chosen person shall be entitled to be present for the whole of the hearing other than the private deliberations of the Disciplinary Committee.
  - 6.2 The National Umpire shall bear the burden of proving, on the balance of probabilities, that the Defendant has committed a Disciplinary Offence.
  - 6.3 The Defendant may admit the charge at any time, in which case the Disciplinary Committee shall proceed immediately to hear submissions as to what sanctions (if any) should be imposed.
  - 6.4 The National Umpire may present oral, written or video evidence from third parties. In such cases the Defendant (or his representative) shall be given a reasonable opportunity to cross-examine (through the Chairman of the Disciplinary Committee) those who have given oral evidence and to make representations as to the contents of any written or video evidence.
  - 6.5 The Defendant may present oral, written or video evidence from himself or from third parties as he thinks appropriate, in which case the National Umpire shall be given a reasonable opportunity (through the Chairman of the Disciplinary Committee) to cross-examine such witnesses and to make representations as to the contents of any written or video evidence.
  - 6.6 Members of the Disciplinary committee may ask questions of any of the witnesses at the hearing, including the defendant.
  - 6.7 After all evidence has been heard the National Umpire and the Defendant will be entitled to make submissions to the Disciplinary Committee.
  - 6.8 The Disciplinary Committee is entitled to take account of hearsay evidence and written evidence from parties not present at the hearing but where such evidence conflicts with first hand evidence or evidence from parties present at the hearing the Disciplinary Committee has a duty to attach greater weight to first hand evidence or evidence from those present at the hearing. Subject to the foregoing the Disciplinary Committee shall decide in its absolute discretion what weight, if any, to give to evidence presented to it.
  - 6.9 The Disciplinary Committee shall decide all of the issues presented to it fairly and impartially
7. The Chairman of the Disciplinary Committee shall be entitled to suspend or adjourn the hearing for the purposes of investigating any matters arising in the course of the hearing or for any other reason. Such suspension or adjournment shall last only for as long as shall be reasonably necessary.
8. At the conclusion of the disciplinary hearing, the Disciplinary Committee shall confer in private in order to reach a decision. Decisions of the Disciplinary Committee shall be made by majority vote, without right to abstain.
9. Where the disciplinary Committee is satisfied on the balance of probabilities that the Defendant has committed a Disciplinary Offence, then the Disciplinary Committee shall impose such sanction(s) as it shall see fit, ranging from take no further action to expulsion from membership of the EPA. In its discretion, it may invite further submissions from the parties as to what sanctions if any should be imposed prior to making that decision.
10. The Chairman shall inform the defendant of the Disciplinary Committee's decision, including the reasons for it, in writing within 24 hours of the decision being made, and in any event prior to any public announcement being made. The decision shall be binding upon notification to the Defendant. The EPA may publicise the decision after it has been notified to the defendant.