



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) 2016 EuroCup and
- (b) the best club from those who do not qualify for the EuroCup qualification final, to be awarded the EPA Cup for 2016

1. Entry

- 1.1 All Clubs registered with the EPA will be invited to register 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 team only.

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 rounds 1 and 2 will be confined to clubs within the same region.
- 3.4 The finalists in the EPA Club Team Tournament in 2014/2015 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 – August 31st 2015
 - Round 2 - September 30th 2015
 - Round 3 – October 31st 2015
 - Round 4 Group Heats – November 2015 (dates to be confirmed)
- 3.8 The EuroCup qualification Finals day will be held at a suitable venue in March 2016 after which the overall winner will be invited to represent the EPA at the CEP 2016 tournament.
- 3.9 The EPA Cup quarter finals, and final will be held at suitable venues in March 2016.

4. Matches

- 4.1 For the first 3 rounds the “Home” Club Team is responsible for liaising with their opponents and agreeing a mutual convenient time and date to play
- 4.2 For the first 3 rounds the actual date of the fixture must be communicated to the EPA Cup Competition Organiser by the 15th day of the month in which the match must take place.
- 4.3 In the event of a Club withdrawing or declining to play then their opponents will win by a walkover. The withdrawing Club must inform their opponents and the EPA Competition Organiser by the 15th day of the month.
- 4.4 In the event of Clubs not being able to agree a date the EPA Playing Commission will arbitrate, their decision will be without appeal.
- 4.5 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.
- 4.6 The Home Club is responsible for the organisation on the day and for submitting the match results to the EPA Competition Organiser within 7 days but each Club Team Captain is responsible for ensuring that the correct details are on the scorecard before they sign it.

- 4.7 For Round 4 and subsequent stages the Umpire's Commission will appoint an umpire.
- 4.8 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 can enter one team consisting of 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 is awarded 1 Game Point for each game won. Each Club Match may therefore end in 5-0, 4-1, or 3-2.

6. Round 4

- 6.1 The 12 Clubs 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 knockout.
- 6.3 The form of play will be consistent with that of 5.2 to 5.7 above. .
- 6.4 The winners of the first matches will play a second match to decide the winner of the group who will qualify to take part in the EuroCup qualification final. The loser of that match will qualify for the EPA Cup quarter finals. The losers in the first matches will play a second match and the winner of that match will also qualify for the EPA Cup quarter finals.

7. EuroCup Qualification Final

- 7.1 The EuroCup Qualification Final will be between the top 4 Clubs from the EPA Cup Competition as determined in accordance with article 6.4.
- 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. The club winning each Club vs Club match is awarded 1 Match point.
- 7.4 The club with most match points will be the overall winner.
- 7.5 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

8. EPA Cup Quarter Finals

- 8.1 The quarter finals will be between the 8 clubs qualifying in accordance with article 6.4.
- 8.2 The quarter finalists will be randomly divided into 2 groups of 4 so that clubs which played against each other in Round 4 will be placed in different groups.
- 8.3 Each club will play against each other in a round robin format within each group.
- 8.4 The form of play will be consistent with that of 5.2 to 5.7 above. The club winning each Club vs Club match is awarded 1 match point.
- 8.5 The winner and runner-up of each group 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 7.5.
- 8.6 The winners and runners-up of each group will qualify for the EPA Cup Final.

9. EPA Cup Final

- 9.1 The EPA Cup Final will be between the top 4 clubs from the EPA Cup Quarter finals as determined in accordance with articles 8.5 and 8.6.
- 9.2 Each club will play against each other in a round robin format.
- 9.3 The form of play will be consistent with that of 5.2 to 5.7 above. The club winning each Club vs Club match is awarded 1 match point.
- 9.4 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 7.5

10. Conventions

- 10.1 Clubs are responsible for their own travelling costs.

10.2 Host (Home) 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.

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

11. Rules

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