

IPA COMPETITION POLICY

(Up-dated at March 2010 to reflect 'World' and European C'ships issues discussed at the AGM 20 Feb 2010)

1. Background: The IPA's competition policy has developed from experience as annual programmes have been completed. At its AGM, a draft Irish Pétanque Calendar is discussed and normally accepted in principle, subject to any changes which the assembled may agree. The Calendar can include the timing and venues of competitions for International representation (World C'ships, European C'ships, Home Nations and Celtic Challenge) and National awards (IPA Singles, Doubles and Triples) The venues can be 'neutral' or at the premises of affiliated clubs. The final Calendar is agreed by the Council and is distributed via email, in the main, by the Hon.Sec. to IPA members and non-members (of whom the Hon.Sec is aware). It also published on the IPA website.

2. Timing: In setting dates for the competitions, the months of July and August are avoided. In addition, every effort is made to avoid 'clashes' with other events eg. major GAA, football and rugby fixtures, club competitions etc. with a view to maximising the number of entrants and minimising access/egress problems to/from competition venues. The IPA Council has agreed that, once set in the Calendar, the dates for competitions will not change. If insufficient entries (see Para 7. below) are received before the deadline, a competition will be cancelled for that Calendar year. The competition will similarly be cancelled, if a withdrawal of a properly entered team occurs, before the day of the competition, leaving insufficient entries.

2.1 Time of day: Commencement times for competitions will be 10.30 am, unless otherwise agreed by the Council. The Hon. Sec will notify competitors, if the start time is other than 10.30am.

3. Entry: Competitions are only open to fully paid-up members. Entries for **all** International and National competitions must be with the Hon. Sec. 2 weeks before the competition date. Those due dates are published on the Calendar, however, separate invitations will also be issued by the Hon. Sec. to IPA members and non-members, in sufficient time to allow interested parties to apply by the due date. Entries must be made by the individual (s) concerned (ie. no proxies) and must be complete, in that, the names of each team member must be given (ie. no a.n.others) Entries can be made in writing, by telephone or by email. Whatever method is chosen, it is an entrant's responsibility to ensure that the entry reaches the Hon. Sec by the due date. **Entries not received by the due date will not be considered in any circumstances.**

4. Post-entry issues: In the event that, for whatever reason, a member of a properly entered team is unavailable to play in an IPA domestic Triples or Doubles competition, a case can be made to the IPA Council, for a substitute (nominated by the team concerned) to be considered. The Council's decision on whether or not to allow the substitute is final. In a Triples competition, where 2 team members withdraw, for whatever reason, then that team is required to withdraw, however,

providing that sufficient time remains before the deadline for entry, the remaining team member can enter another team.

5. Entry fees: These are established by the IPA Council. They are to be paid to the Hon. Treas. or his delegate, by or on the day of the competition. In addition to the entry fee, those entrants who may be non-members at the time of application to the competition, must pay the requisite IPA membership fee before being allowed to compete.

6. Number of entries required: Depending on the venue for a competition, time and distance may be significant factors for potential entrants and, therefore, the numbers of entrants and attendant quality of competition can be key considerations in their decision as to whether or not the time and distance are worthwhile. In order to render a competition ‘viable’ the criteria and formats at Paras 8 to 10 below have been agreed by the Council.

7. Standards of behaviour: The IPA’s published Code of Behaviour sets out standards of behaviour required at all times, including during competitions and Para 11. of the Code refers to the powers of the ‘organisers’. For the purposes of competitions played under the auspices of the IPA, the ‘organisers’ are deemed to be the full complement of Executive and ordinary members of the IPA Council present on the day of competition. Any breaches of good behaviour brought to the attention of the organisers, will be considered immediately by them, and penalties imposed immediately, if considered appropriate. Penalties may necessitate some re-arrangement of the competition schedule, to be decided by the organisers. In any event, an agreed report of any breach of behavioural standards will be provided to the full Council within 2 weeks of occurrence and, within a further month, the Council will appoint a Disciplinary Committee to consider the matter as provided for under Para 4.3 of the Constitution.

8. IPA SINGLES/DOUBLES/TRIPLES

8.1. Minimum number of entries 4

8.2. A ‘Final’ is played, to 15 points, between the individual/teams finishing first and second (in Round Robin formats) or first in each group. If, after completion of the pre-Final games, first and/or second place cannot be determined on the basis of ‘wins’, then the net ‘points difference’ over all the games will determine the finishing order. If this still fails to identify first and second, then the winner of the ‘head to head’ during the competition will take precedence.

8.3. Structure

ENTRIES	FORMAT	GAMES (pre-Final)	FINALISTS
4	Double Round Robin	6	The individuals or teams with the most and second most wins
5	Round Robin with 2 additional * games	6	“

6	Round Robin with 1 additional * game	6	“
7	Round Robin	6	“
8	‘Open draw’ into 2 Groups of 4. Round Robin in groups, with additional * games against 3 of the individuals/teams from the other group.	6	The individual/team with the most wins in each group.
9	‘Open draw’ into 2 Groups of 4 and 5. Games against 3 of the individuals/teams in the ‘common’ group, with additional * games against 3 of the individuals/teams from the other group.	6	“
10	‘Open draw’ into 2 Groups of 5. Round Robin in groups, with additional ** games against 2 of the individuals/teams from the other group.	6	“
11	‘Open draw’ into 2 Groups of 5 and 6. Games against 4 of the individuals/teams in the ‘common’ group, with additional * games against 2 of the individuals/teams from the other group.	6	“
12	‘Open draw’ into 2 Groups of 6. Games against each of the teams in the ‘common’ group, with an additional * game against one of the individuals/teams from the other group.	6	“

*** These additional games will be determined by a pre-competition ‘draw’. In order to observe fairness in the allocation of opponents, this will take place before individuals/teams have been allocated individual/team numbers.**

*** One of these games will be with the individual/team ‘sitting out’ each round.**

8.4 Awards for National competitions: A ‘Perpetual’ trophy is awarded to the successful individual or team and, additionally, winners are presented with small trophies to keep. The Hon.Sec. is responsible for the procurement of the latter.

9. CELTIC CHALLENGE

9.1 The IPA Calendar includes both the date of the Challenge and the agreed date for a 'qualifying' competition.

9.2 The IPA is required to provide 4 Triples teams when the Challenge is in Scotland or Wales, and 8 Triples teams (4 each in Ireland A and Ireland B) when the Challenge is in Ireland.

9.3 At the IPA 2008 AGM, it was agreed that a Selection Panel, comprising 2 Selectors and a Secretary (with a 'casting vote') would be established. It is tasked with selecting the requisite number of teams from persons who are required to apply as singletons ie. no pre-determined 'teams'. Applicants are entitled to suggest their preferences as to their team role (pointer, shooter, milieu) and their other team members, but there is no guarantee that these preferences will be met. The Selection Panel has the final say on team composition. Applications will only be accepted from individuals who are prepared to accept the outcome of the Selection Panel's considerations.

9.4 In the event that only 12 persons apply for the qualifying competition, when only 4 Triples are required, the Selection Panel will decide the composition of the 4 teams and their team number, and no competition will be necessary. Otherwise, when teams have been selected, a competition will determine the placings in the overall team (ie. Ireland 1,2,3 and 4) In the event that a player or players withdraw from the team following the 'qualifier', the Selection Panel will determine their replacements, initially from those who competed but were not successful in the 'qualifier'. Where this does not provide the full complement of players, the Council will agree a procedure for doing so.

9.5 When 8 Triples are required, the terms of Para 9.3 above apply and a competition will determine the overall placings (Ireland A1- A4, B1-B4) unless teams can agree a 'placing' without competition.

9.6 The effectiveness of the Selection Panel, whether or not it should be retained as a selection medium and, if so, it's composition, will be discussed and determined at each AGM.

10. EUROPEAN AND WORLD C'SHIPS

10.1 The IPA Calendar includes both the date of the European and World C'ships (every 2 years) and the agreed date for a 'qualifying' competition. History suggests that there is limited interest in such events and there is, therefore, no minimum entry requirement for the qualifiers. While the Euro and World organising bodies may require entries of teams of 4, invitations to the IPA qualifying competition will ask for entries as teams of 3 (ie. no fourth member at the qualification entry stage) and individuals. In the unlikely event that between 4 and 8 entries are received from actual teams, the relevant competition formats at Para.8.3 above will apply. Outside of

those actual teams which may enter, if sufficient 'singletons' enter to compose another full team or teams, they will be notified of that situation and invited to compose a team or teams from amongst themselves.

10.2 Teams/individuals enter in their own right ie. the Selection Panel at Para 9.3 above does not apply.

10.3 In a situation where less than 4 teams enter for the qualifier, including any teams composed of 'singletons' (see Para 10.1 above) the Council will agree a competition format. This can vary year on year, depending on circumstances and experience.

10.4 Where insufficient entries are received, such that a competition cannot be formulated and agreed, then the Council will consider any case made to it by a properly entered team, or individuals who propose to form a team, as to why they should represent the IPA.

10.5 Where the entry criteria require that a fourth person accompanies the Triple team and can play, the team that qualifies through competition can nominate the fourth member, initially from among other competitors, if there are same. Where Para 10.4 applies, the case put forward must include the name of the 'fourth' member and confirmation that he/she is prepared to attend/participate.

10.6 The Council is the final authority in the decision as to whether or not an IPA representative team attends the European or World C'ships.

11. HOME NATIONS

While the IPA has provided teams to this competition in the past, it does not currently do so. In the event that an invitation is received, the Council will agree a structure for determining 'selection'.

12. GENERAL ORGANISATION

The preparation of competition paperwork and arrangements on the day, fall to the Hon.Sec, however, the availability of 'paperwork' through the website medium, allows others to take responsibility for these elements, particularly in the absence of the Hon.Sec.