



**13, rue Trigance – 13002 MARSEILLE – France**

## **REQUIREMENTS FOR THE HOMOLOGATION OF COMPETITION PETANQUE BOULES**

### ***PREAMBLE: Principles which led to the elaboration of these regulations:***

Beyond the purely technical characteristics of the provisions of the specifications for the manufacture of competition pétanque boules, the standards and obligations set out below meet the needs and wishes of the FIPJP, in particular

- To ensure that Pétanque players play competitively using playing instruments that comply with precise regulations and that are not "improved" by using processes that distort the practice of Pétanque
- To ensure that manufacturers wishing to produce approved competition boules do so in conditions that comply with International Labour Organisation standards. This will be subject to an on-site check which may or may not lead to the issue of a manufacturer's approval. Only manufacturers who have received this approval will be able to submit boules for approval for the competition.
- To ensure the safety of players and spectators by giving imperative standards to the materials and manufacturing processes in order to avoid any risk, in particular linked to a possible projection of pieces of metal.

## **I - GENERAL PROVISIONS**

**Article 1:** Only the Fédération Internationale de Pétanque et Jeu Provençal has the authority to approve manufacturers and homologate the various boules that may be admitted to official competitions under the control of the FIPJP member federations.

Any approved manufacturer will have to send back to the FIPJP a copy of this document duly signed. The approval will be officially granted only after reception of this document at the FIPJP headquarters.

**Article 2:** To obtain the approval, the boules must comply with the standards set by the articles constituting the FIPJP specifications and the manufacturers must undertake to respect these standards during the manufacturing process.

They must obviously also comply with the provisions of the Rules of the Game relating to boules, in particular in its article 1. In particular, those indicating that they must be made of metal and hollow are considered as essential.

**Article 3:** The homologation of any new boule will be granted by the Executive Committee of F.I.P.J.P. which will have first approved the manufacturer of the boules and, secondly, taken note of the expert's report which it will have requested from a specialised body.

In case of urgency for the manufacturer, the President of the FIPJP will be able to announce the positive results given by the testing laboratory and to allow the beginning of the marketing of the ball in question, the manufacturer being informed that this provisional approval will be likely to be withdrawn by the Executive Committee

**Article 4:** The costs of the expertise will be charged to the manufacturer.

**Article 5:** In view of the deadlines for approving the manufacturer and having the boules inspected, applications must be received five months before the desired date for these approvals.

In support of any request for approval, the following must be attached

1°) a form giving the identity and contact details of the manufacturer

2°) a technical data sheet giving all desirable details :

- the label chosen for this category of boules,
- on the material used for the manufacture (AFNOR category-norm),
- on the hardness and the way it is obtained, and the way it is checked,
- the method of protection against corrosion.

3°) a set of two boules for expertise, which will be sent directly to the specialised laboratory or to F.I.P.J.P.

4°) two half-shells before assembly by welding, or, in the case of bronze boules (cupro-aluminium), a ball cut in two along a diametral plane.

5°) a provision of 1,600 euros for the payment of the expert's fees (art.4).

## **II - SPECIFICATIONS**

The present specifications set out the administrative, material and statutory conditions necessary for the approval of boules admitted to the official competitions and championships of F.I.P.J.P. and its member Federations.

**Article 1:** Approval will be given for each "label" of boules and not for all the products of the same manufacturer, provided that the said boules meet the standards of the present specifications and that the manufacturer undertakes to comply with these standards during manufacture. Any modification made without

the Federation's agreement will automatically lead to the withdrawal of the approval or even of the approval with all the legal consequences that may result.

The Federation, in agreement with the manufacturer, reserves the right to carry out all checks, particularly on the boules sold, to ensure that the standards being manufactured are respected.

## **A - TECHNICAL CHARACTERISTICS OF BOULES -**

### **Article 2: Nature of the materials**

The boules shall be made of a metallic material or alloy that is homogeneous in chemical composition: carbon steels, alloy steels, stainless steels, bronze (copper-aluminium), etc. A slight variation in composition at the weld seam will be allowed.

### **Article 3: Hardness characteristics**

#### **a) Steel boules**

The boules must be hardened by heat treatment and have a hardness equal to or greater than 35 HRC (i.e. 110 daN/mm<sup>2</sup>). A tolerance may be allowed on the weld bead, the hardness of which must not be less than 27 HRC (i.e.

90 daN/mm<sup>2</sup>).

The hardness control method used is the ROCKWELL C method under a load of 150 kg.

For safety reasons, the upper limit of hardness is set at 55 HRC.

A variation in hardness over the whole ball of 5 HRC will be allowed, without allowing it to go below or above the standards defined above.

Treatments that would only provide a superficial hardness are prohibited.

The hardness test will be carried out on boules without any coating. b) Bronze boules (copper-aluminium)

They must have a hardness equal to or greater than 280 HV 30 (VICKERS method under a load of 30 kg). Isolated points at 250 HB minimum will be allowed, in particular on the caps.

#### **Article 4: Internal quality**

The interior of the boules must not contain any metallic particles or scale detectable by the ear, nor any foreign body. On the other hand, the interior may have reliefs or asperities made of the same metal or alloy as the ball.

#### **Article 5: Sphericity**

The balls must be spherical and balanced.

The authorised imbalance may not exceed 1.3% of the weight of the boule.

#### **Article 6: Presentation**

In the same game (2, 3 or 4 boules), the balls must be of identical presentation, smooth, striated or with hollows.

They must respect the tolerances specified in these specifications.

The depth of the striations or hollows must not exceed 1 mm.

The sum of the bearing surfaces shall be greater than half the surface of the theoretical envelope (the nominal diameter of the boule is equal to the diameter of the envelope).

#### **Article 7: Coating**

The boules may be protected against corrosion by deposits or other treatments, excluding plastification, painting and enamelling. A protective varnish is allowed.

These coatings must be impact resistant and the manufacturer must have carried out tests to prove that the products used do not generate splinters that could be dangerous for users.

NOTE: Steel or bronze boules must not be heat treated after sale to the user.  
after sale to the user.

## **B - WEIGHT AND DIAMETER OF THE BOULES-**

**Article 8:** The weight of the boules must be between 650 grams minimum and 800 grams maximum. The following tolerances are allowed:

a) Manufacturing tolerance on each boule:

The maximum difference between the engraved weight and the actual weight may not exceed + or - 5 grams.

or - 5 grams.

b) Tolerance for wear due to play:

The loss of weight must not exceed 15 grams below the marked weight. Article 9:  
Diameter

The diameter of the boules must be between 70.5 mm and 80 mm.

**Article 10:** Manufacturers may, if they wish, limit the range of their products in terms of both diameter and weight.

## **C - LABEL and MARKING OF BOULES -**

**Article 11:** Regulatory marking

Each set of boules must be identified by :

a) The manufacturer's mark and the label declared at the time of the application for homologation. This label is made up of a group of numbers, letters or signs chosen by the manufacturer, identifying a specific production.

(b) the three digits of their weight in grams.

c) their identification reference made up of several figures or letters allowing

c) their identification reference made up of several numbers or letters allowing the game to be recognised in the games.

In no case may this regulatory marking be altered after the sale to the user.  
the user.

#### **Article 12:** Possible additional markings

First name, last name, initials of the player or any other symbol.

#### **Article 13:** Guarantee slips

All the elements indicated in article 11 above must appear on the guarantee form accompanying the boules, as well as their diameter, the reference of their striation, if any, and the number of boules making up the set.

### **III - MARKETING OF APPROVED BOULES**

#### **Article 1:** Time limit for approval

The outcome of any request for approval will be notified to the applicant manufacturer within two weeks of receipt of the expert report by F.I.P.J.P.

If the notification is not made within the time limit, the approval may be considered to have been

as being granted.

**Article 2:** As soon as the approval of a new ball is notified, the manufacturer may mention on the packaging :

"Competition boules approved by the FIPJP".

The same mention will be reproduced on the guarantee form.

(NB: Given the change in vocabulary, the words "approved by the FIPJP" will also be allowed.

FIPJP" will also be accepted.

**Article 3:** In the event that approval is refused, no mention of compliance with federal standards should appear on the packaging.

However, the sale will not be forbidden, but the packaging of these boules will not have to

the inscription "Boules de compétition homologuée par la FIPJP".

**V - SPECIAL PROVISIONS**

**Article 1:** The fact of requesting the homologation of a type of boules implies, for the manufacturer, the obligation to respect the federal standards (see specifications), for all his types of competition boules. Any provisions contrary to these standards, any defects, after approval, will automatically lead to the withdrawal of the approval of the boules found.

the approval of the defective boules, or even the approval given to the manufacturer, regardless of any legal proceedings that may be taken against him.

**Article 2:** Any fraud or rigging found against a manufacturer will result in the withdrawal of all approvals and homologations granted.

The same would apply in the case of repeated malfunctions or failure to comply with the specifications on numerous occasions.

**GOOD FOR ACCEPTANCE THE MANUFACTURER**

At ..... on ..... M.  
..... TITLE .....  
COMPANY .....  
.....

SIGNATURE & STAMP