

GWR 2022 Inter-Regional Qualifiers Rules

Entry

1. Currently there are no plans to limit entries to the qualifying tournament but a limit may be set by the GWR Committee at its sole discretion based upon venue capacity as determined by any PE Safe Play rules currently in force. All players must be members of Pétanque England and **registered with** the GWR region.
2. Entry fee is set at **£45 per team**. Where entry numbers are restricted, team entries will be made only on a 'first come, first served' basis through the www.gwrpetanque.com website or as advised by GWR from time to time and each online team entry made by this process shall only be completed by payment therefor being made, in the following manner, within 24 hours of such online entry having been made.
3. All payments must be made by Faster Payments Transfer to the credit of the bank account of Great Western Pétanque EPA: Sort Code **30-94-80** Account Number **02616303**. or as advised by GWR from time to time, quoting the team captain's name.
4. The closing date for entries will be **Sunday, 14 March 2022**, subject to any maximum number of teams having been reached before that date
5. Teams may register a 4th player at no additional cost. A maximum of four players may be registered per team for the qualifiers and for the Inter-Regional Championships, except that a fifth player may be registered for one of the three qualifying competitions. This is primarily but not exclusively intended to cover emergency circumstances such as injury or illness.
6. It is the responsibility of each team captain to ensure that any / all additional players are registered with GWR Committee before any such player plays in the competition
7. A player is tied to a team from the point where they throw their first boule for that team. From that point, they may not play competition games for any other team. They may change teams at any point before this by informing the competition organisers.
8. The Committee reserves the right to refuse entries any GWR Competition.

Match Day Registration and Procedure

1. A register of players will be kept at each venue by a GWR Committee member, or delegated appointee, who will be the de facto organiser of the series or competition at that venue for the day. Names will be checked against entries and players may be required to 'sign in'.
2. The event will start with registration at the advertised time with the start of the day's play 30 minutes later. Before play the venue host will deliver a safety briefing highlighting general health & safety risks and any additional risks specific to the venue and prevailing conditions.
3. The format of each competition (e.g., number of rounds, method of scoring and ranking teams) will be advertised on the GWR website and reiterated on the day.
4. Games will be untimed. Any venue-specific rules will be announced before play on the day.
5. In the event of non-appearance and registration of a team by the advertised start-of-play time, a 13-7 win will be recorded in favour of that team's opponents (and so on in respect of its other fixtures that day if it doesn't turn up at all).

6. Events held at venues that are commercial, such as public houses and sports clubs, may only allow food and drink purchased at the venue to be consumed. All players are to respect this and comply with venue regulations or may be subject to an immediate disqualification from the event
7. The GWR Committee reserves the right to alter or amend these rules in the light of any prevailing H.M. Government COVID regulations, or other at its discretion.

Inter-Regional Championships

1. Teams selected to play at the Inter-Regional Championships are expected to attend these. The penalty for non-attendance, unless a team is unable to do so on medical grounds or for any other reason which the committee in its absolute discretion considers to equate to force majeure, will be automatic disqualification from entry the next year in any such qualifying competitions
2. As representatives of GWR, all players at Inter-Regional Championships must wear GWR shirts and be dressed in accordance with the Standards section of PE Competition Rules (see <https://www.petanque-england.uk/rules/>).
3. Any failure of dress or decorum by players at a PE event may result in a fine being levied upon GWR that the offending players will be required to pay. GWR may at its absolute discretion retain all or part of players' winnings from GWR competition(s) until completion of the Inter-Regional Championships and may deduct fines from these winnings before paying any remaining balance to players.
4. If a team decides not to go to the PE Inter-Regional Championships the next team in the ranking will automatically be promoted.
5. At least two players from those originally registered in each team must attend the Championships for the team's position in the squad to be maintained. Any replacement players who join the team will be accepted at the decision of the committee.
6. If sufficient teams enter, of the twelve teams which qualify for the Inter-Regional competitions and will be entered in, either the Championship (eight teams) or the Challenge Division (four teams). If fewer teams enter, the Committee may enter eight teams for the Championship only, or in extremis none at all. The Committee may also, at its absolute discretion, attempt to assemble additional teams to 'make up the numbers' to allow GWR to enter the Championships.
7. The Committee may vary the ranking of teams for play at the Championships with the agreement of the affected teams. If PE revises the composition of Divisions at the Championships, the Committee at its sole discretion may revise the rules for allocation of teams to Divisions.
8. The GWR Committee at its sole discretion may appoint squad managers for the Championship and Challenge squads. GWR will pay reasonable expenses incurred by these managers in attending the Championships.
9. The Committee reserves the right to refuse entries to the IRQs and hence the Championships.

COVID-19 Safety Rules

1. All teams must read and comply with the latest in-force rules issued by the UK Government and Safe Play Guidelines issued by Pétanque England. These may be supplemented by venue-specific rules notified to teams at the initial safety briefing on match days. As part of registering his / her team for any GWR competition, every team captain will be required to sign on behalf of each team member that such team members have understood and will abide by current safe play guidance.

2. **Player safety is of paramount importance. Any breach of the Safe Play Rules and or Local Risk Assessment will be reported to the Officer in Charge and the GWR Safeguarding Officer (or appointee) and an appropriate warning will be issued. A second or subsequent breach will lead to the disqualification of the whole team from the competition**
3. Venue hosts, appointed by GWR, will have full delegated authority to make decisions and apply immediate sanctions relating to safe play.

Playing dates and venues

1. The following dates are allocated for playing Inter-Regional Qualifier games:
 - Sunday, 20 March
 - Sunday, 3 April
 - Sunday, 10 April
2. Venues will be announced beforehand on the GWR web site but the intention is to choose venues that negate home advantage and, ideally, mirror as closely as possible the playing conditions to be expected at the Inter-Regional Championships. The Committee may revise the assignment of venues to take account of new opportunities, or other at its discretion.
3. Teams participating in the Inter-Regional Qualifiers will be offered opportunities to attend tailored coaching sessions intended to assist their performance in the Inter-Regional Championships. Details of these will be communicated to team captains as and when appropriate.

